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## The Tabernacle and the Body in 18th Century Radical German Pietism.

**Tuesday 21 August 2012** 11.00am – 12.30pm

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**Dr Christina Petterson**, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Humboldt University, Berlin.

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**ANU Centre for European Studies**, 1 Liversidge St Canberra



This paper examines the intersection between biology and theology in three choir-speeches by the founder of the Moravian Brethren in Germany, Count Zinzendorf, in 1751. The Moravians were a radical pietist group, that arranged their communities in choir systems, a system which divided the congregation according to gender, sexual maturity and marital status. These choirs dealt with not only matters of faith but also issues pertaining to the tabernacle (body), such as physical changes to the pubescent youth, unusual blood-flows and irregular bowel-movement. The paper argues that this focus on the body relates to organizational shifts in the community and may be seen as

a response to wider economic changes of the time.

Dr Christina Petterson is a postdoctoral research fellow in the postgraduate research group, 'Gender as a Category of Knowledge' at Humboldt University, Berlin. She obtained a PhD from Macquarie University in 2011. Her research focuses on the role of Protestant Christianity in the formation of modern Europe and its colonial enterprises with special focus on gender, race and class. She is the author of *Acts of Empire: Acts of the Apostles and Imperial Ideology* (CCLM Press, Taiwan, 2012) and has published articles in the areas of cultural studies, postcolonial studies and biblical studies. Dr Petterson has taught at universities in Denmark, Norway and Greenland.

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