

PhD-topic Heiner Fandrich

Carl Stange and the Luther Renaissance: Constructing a Nordic-German Confessional Space

Was there a Nordic-German confessional space beyond national borders in the B.S.R.? The elaborate correspondence of the German theologian and strategist Carl Stange suggests a community of shared thought by Lutheran theologians who acted also as initiators of the Luther renaissance in the first decades of the 20th century. The aim of this PhD-projects is the reconstruction of a confessional space in the B.S.R. that transcends national borders. Based on personal contacts, this space follows a network structure which will be reconstructed by analyzing the correspondence of Carl Stange, the head of the influential Luther-Akademie in Sondershausen to important actors as Erling Eidem (1880-1972), archbishop of Lund, Anders Nygren (1890-1978), founder of Lundensian Theology, or Bernhard Rahamägi (1886-1941), bishop of Tartu. Before this background, this PhD-project will contribute important insights in the construction of confessional borderlands beyond official dogmatic statements but in identifying an active network of debating Lutheran theology from its centres in Southeastern Germany to Sweden and Estonia in the 20th century.