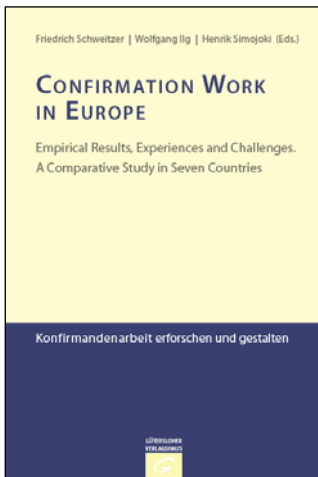


## Annotated Bibliography



This bibliography is a supplement to the book:

Schweitzer, Friedrich / Ilg, Wolfgang / Simojoki, Henrik (eds.) (2010): *Confirmation Work in Europe: Empirical Results, Experiences and Challenges. A Comparative Study from Seven Countries*. Gütersloh. (Order form)

The following survey of research publications about confirmation work was put together by Wolfgang Ilg with support of Elisabeth Hartmann-Gaiser in October 2008. The comments are written by the following members of the International Network for Research and Development of Confirmation and Christian Youth Work: <sup>1</sup> Leise Christensen (Denmark), Colin Cramer (Germany), Wolfgang Ilg (Germany), Bernd Krupka (Norway), Dagmar Lagger (Austria), Kati Niemelä (Finland), Per Pettersson (Sweden), Thomas Schlag (Switzerland), Friedrich Schweitzer (Germany). The focus lies on empirical investigations. Additionally, some more publications related to this field and some smaller unpublished studies were considered.

Further references to individual studies can also be found in the present book in the contributions of the respective countries and in the articles *Cramer/Ilg/Schweitzer 2009* and *Ilg/Schweitzer 2009*.

### 1. German-speaking countries

#### 1.1 Germany

*Böhme-Lischewski, T./Lübking, H.-M.* (eds.) (1995), *Engagement und Ratlosigkeit. Konfirmandenarbeit heute*, Bielefeld: Luther Verlag.

*N=670 priests in the Westphalian regional Church were questioned about confirmation time with the help of questionnaires (i.e. motivation of the workers, aims/experiences, formal structure, methods and material, topics and learning texts by heart, difficulties and motivation). The study allows detailed insights into the reality of confirmation work – but only from the perspective of the priests.*

Comenius-Institut in Verbindung mit dem Verein KU-Praxis (ed.) (1998), *Handbuch für die Arbeit mit Konfirmandinnen und Konfirmanden*, Gütersloh: Gütersloher Verlagshaus.

*Qualified authors discuss all major topics of confirmation work in Germany in a compact form. One Chapter (p. 473-490) presents confirmation work in another eight European countries. Empirical results are rare though. In some places, the descriptions are out-dated.*

Feige, A. (1982), *Erfahrungen mit Kirche. Daten und Analysen einer empirischen Untersuchung über Beziehungen und Einstellungen junger Erwachsener zur Kirche. Ein Beitrag zur Soziologie und Theologie der Volkskirchenmitgliedschaft in der BRD*, Hannover: Lutherisches Verlagshaus.

*In this study, whose validity must be partially questioned because of the composition of the sample, N=1725 people between 15 and 23 years were questioned about their attitudes and experiences with the Church. Besides written interviews, transcribed group discussions are available. The interviewees also remember their confirmation training during the 70s.*

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<sup>1</sup> Further information about this network can be found on the website: [www.confirmation-youthwork.eu](http://www.confirmation-youthwork.eu).

Flemmig, W./Lukatis, I. (1978), *Zwischenbilanz: Konfirmandenunterricht. Eine Untersuchung aus der Evangelisch-lutherischen Landeskirche Hannovers*, Hannover: Pastoralsoziologische Arbeitsstelle.

*N=503 workers from 324 parishes were questioned in this regional study. Against the background of an upcoming revision of the canon law about preparation for confirmation, empirical data about forms of organization, aims, contents, but also about the problems of the workers with confirmation work was collected. The solid presentation offers early empirical insights in the confirmation work.*

Gerstner, T. (2006), *Wie religiös sind Konfirmandinnen und Konfirmanden? Eine empirische Untersuchung mit 958 Fragebögen*, Norderstedt: Books on Demand

*An analysis of 958 short questionnaires with some open questions tries to find out what young people in the confirmation work of Wurttemberg think about Christian faith, what associations they have with God and what it makes hard if applicable to believe in him.*

Großer, A./Schlenker-Gutbrod, K. (2006), *Verknüpfen. Jugend- und Konfirmandenarbeit. Freizeit und Gruppenarbeit. Aktivgruppen gründen*, Stuttgart: buch+musik.

*More than 30 authors compile experiences from the protestant regional church of Wurttemberg, which are connected to the linking of confirmation work and offers for young people and camps. In basic articles, empirical studies and reports of the practice the chances of such links become evident.*

Keßler, H/Döhnert, A. (2002), *Konfirmandenarbeit zwischen Tradition und Herausforderung. Ergebnisse einer empirischen Untersuchung*, in: G. Doyé / E. Schwerin (eds.) (2002), *Konfessionslos und religiös: gemeindepädagogische Perspektiven*. Eckart Schwerin zum 65. Geburtstag, Leipzig, 33-53

*N=526 young people were questioned in 33 German parishes (not representative). The results concerning motivation of the confirmands, didactics of confirmation work or meaning of the confirmation strengthen the perspective of the young people.*

Quade, A. (2004), *Fragebogen zur Konfirmandenarbeit in der bremischen evangelischen Kirche*, Bremen.

*Considering a research by R. Kunstmann in 1993, Quade asks the responsible people in confirmation work in the parishes for forms of organization of confirmation work, involved people, material, aims and conditions of integrative confirmation work. 57 questionnaires from 55 parishes (out of 69 parishes in Bremen) were gathered.*

Traupe, G. (1985), *Beteiligungserfahrungen und Beteiligungsmotivation am Konfirmandenunterricht – Ergebnisse einer empirischen Untersuchung*, in: G. Fährdrich/G. Traupe, *Bedingungen des Lernens im Konfirmandenunterricht*, Hannover: Lutherisches Verlagshaus, 27-69.

*N=505 confirmands in eleven parishes of the regional church of Hannover were questioned with standardized questionnaires. Vicars conducted these group interviews and were also involved in the construction of the questionnaires. One of the first empirical investigations which questions the perspective of the confirmands.*

Wölber, H.-O. (1960), *Religion ohne Entscheidung. Volkskirche am Beispiel der jungen Generation*, Göttingen: Vandenhoeck + Ruprecht.

*On behalf of the working group of the Protestant Youth of Germany, Wölber questioned young people of different age groups. Confirmation classes are associated with pressure, learning or school by the young people.*

## 1.2 Switzerland

- Burri, H.-U. (2005), *Den Glauben weitergeben? Die pädagogische Arbeit in den Reformierten Kirchen Bern-Jura-Solothurn*, Zürich: Theologischer Verlag.
- Discussion of different religious pedagogical concepts for an ecclesiastically open pedagogical work and detailed presentation of the project of the ecclesial instruction and its aims, range of topics and structures. Furthermore, impulses for the practical work and nine stories for teachers are contained.*
- Schlag, T. /Neuberth, R. / Kunz, R. (eds.) (2008), *Konfirmandenarbeit in der pluralistischen Gesellschaft*, Zürich: Theologischer Verlag.
- Publication about an expert conference in Zurich in November 2007. Basic questions about confirmation work regarding social and ecclesial conditions in the context of the pluralistic society and practical examples for an attractive confirmation work are in the focus of this volume.*
- Voirol-Sturzenegger, R. (2005), *Wie sagen wirs unsern Kindern. Religionspädagogische Konzepte dreier Kantonalkirchen im Vergleich*. Lizentiatsarbeit, Frauenfeld.
- A presentation of different concepts of ecclesial religious education (Thurgau/Bern/Zurich), connected with a religious pedagogical reflection of the concept referring especially to aspects of developmental psychology and religious development.*
- Kirchenrat der Evangelisch-reformierten Landeskirche des Kantons Zürich (ed.) (2004), *Aufwachsen – aufbrechen. Religionspädagogisches Gesamtkonzept*, Zürich.
- Description of the aim, the approach and the realization of the concept. Online source: <http://www.rpg-zh.ch/pdf-doks/rpggesamtkonzept-1.pdf>*
- Evangelisch-reformierte Landeskirche des Kantons Zürich (ed.) (2005), *Das Angebot für Kinder der 4. Klasse in Gemeinden der Reformierten Kirche Zürich*, Zürich.
- Introduction of the realization of the religious pedagogical master plan, respectively the offer for the fourth grade in 17 pilot parishes with the aim to provide idea and assistance how the offer can be realized for the fourth grade in other parishes. Online source: <http://www.rpg-zh.ch/pdf-doks/dok-051213-4-klass-broschuere-ssst.pdf>*
- Candrian, M. (2006), *Theologie begegnet Kindern – Kinder begegnen Theologie. Eine exemplarische religionspädagogische Untersuchung des 4.-Klass-Unterrichts im Rahmen des Religionspädagogischen Gesamtkonzepts der Zürcher reformierten Landeskirche*, Zürich.
- Examination paper with a questioning of responsible people, parents and children concerning the conduct of the religious pedagogical master plan in the canton of Zurich and a religious pedagogical reflection and theses for the development of the concept. Online source: <http://www.rpg-zh.ch/pdf-doks/club4-1.pdf>*
- ## 1.3 Austria
- ARGE der Evangelischen Religionslehrer/innen (ed.) (1997), *Schulfach Religion. Sondernummer*, Wien.
- All the results of the education synod 1996, including a comment on confirmation work, are presented in this special edition of a series which otherwise concentrates on topics concerning religious education.*
- Hohenberger, H. (1989), *Konfirmandenunterricht – Konfirmiertenarbeit. Evangelisches Jugendwerk in Österreich*. Jugendpfarramt, Graz.
- N=2358 students between 13 and 16 were questioned about proceeding, content and personal impression of confirmation work and confirmation. The study was conducted on behalf of the Protestant Youth.*

## 2. Scandinavia

### 2.1 Denmark

Harbsmeier, E. / Tange, N. (1995), Evaluering af projektet „Konfirmand 2000“. Løgumkloster.

*In this book, the project „Confirmand 2000“ is evaluated. The empirical study, in which N=380 confirmands took part, investigates the preparation of the Danish confirmands for their confirmation with the help of questionnaires. Special attention is paid to the attitudes and feelings of the confirmands regarding their preparation time.*

Harbsmeier, E. (1997), Religiöse Sozialisation und Konfirmandenarbeit – Theologische Überlegungen zu einer empirischen Untersuchung über die Religiosität Jugendlicher in Dänemark. In: A. K. Szagun (ed.): *Die religiöse Dimension (in) der Gesellschaft und die Aufgabe der Theologischen Fakultäten. Rostocker Forum I. Annäherungen*, Rostock, 131-136.

*A short article on theological aspects of the study mentioned above.*

Harbsmeier, E. (2008), Erneuerung des Konfirmandenunterrichts in Dänemark: Religion in Dänemark. In: *Wiener Jahrbuch für Theologie*, 127-138

*This article once again looks back carefully and from a new perspective on the study mentioned above, which was conducted in Denmark in 1995. What were the most important results and to which conclusions do they lead? Additionally, the “Miniconfirmands”, a project of the Danish church, are introduced: Children between nine and eleven are made familiar with Christianity and church over a period of about 10 weeks (with two hours per week).*

Kaiser, B. (1992),...ind i de voksnes rækker. En bog om konfirmationen, København.

*This book (“... becoming a grown up. A book on confirmation”) gives an overview of the history of confirmation in Denmark regarding laws and regulations, piety, instruction, the clothes of the confirmands through history, the role of the church etc.*

Rosenberg, F. / Tange, N. / Nymark Heilesen, L / Harbsmeier, E. (2006), Konfirmationsforberedelse. Formål – fagbeskrivelse – vejledning. Løgumkloster.

*This small book (“Confirmation work. Aims – Subject – Guideline”) deals with the aims of confirmation work in the Danish Church. It mentions what the instructions of the confirmands should contain and guidance with regard to how to do it.*

Adam, G. / Harbsmeier, E. (2007), Konfirmandenarbeit in der dänischen Volkskirche, in: *Amt und Gemeinde* 58, 150-158.

*This article summarizes concerns and contents of the book „Konfirmationsforberedelse“.*

Skårhøj, R. F. / Østergaard, S. (2005), „Generation happy?“. et studie i danske teenagers hverdagsliv. værdier og livstolkning, Frederiksberg.

*In this study (“A study about the everyday life of Danish teenagers, their values and interpretation of life”) N=1100 Danish teenagers between 14 and 16 from all over Denmark were questioned about their attitudes towards friends, values, hobbies, internet, sex, body and about other topics that are important for teenagers with the help of questionnaires.*

## 2.2 Finland

Niemelä, K. (2002), *Hyvä rippikoulu – Rippikoulun laatu ja vaikuttavuus*, Tampere: Church Research Institute.

*In this book ("Successful confirmation work - quality and effects of confirmation work") Finnish confirmands (N=1322), their parents (N=158), young confirmed volunteers (N=272) and the leaders of the confirmand groups (N=102) are questioned with the help of questionnaires at the beginning and at the end of their confirmation time. At the same time, separate data was also collected from those who did not attend confirmation training.*

*The confirmands have very strong social and teleological expectations of the confirmation. Nevertheless they judge confirmation work as important for their religious development. The workers consider the religious contents particularly important. Parents hope to get mainly ethical impulses from confirmation time for their children.*

Niemelä, K. (2006), The Quality and Effectiveness of Confirmation training in Finland, in: *Journal of Belief and Values* 27, 177-190.

*Some parts of this article are printed in the present volume. It describes one aspect of the study introduced above. During confirmation time, the attitude towards religion often changes in a positive direction. However, one out of ten confirmands has negative experiences and also his or her religious attitude changes negatively. Growth of religiosity is closely linked with overall positive experiences during confirmation time and the other way round.*

Niemelä, K. (2008), *Does confirmation training really matter? A longitudinal study of the quality and effectiveness of confirmation training in Finland*, Tampere: Church Research Institute 2008.

*The book summarizes the results of the study mentioned above and combines them with the data of a follow-up questioning of the young people (N=273) five years after their confirmation. The results make clear that in the long term the quality of confirmation work is of great significance. In this study, the sustainability of confirmation work is empirically investigated for the first time.*

Porkka, J. (2004), *On kunnia olla isonen. Suomen evankelis-luterilaisen kirkon isostoiminta 2000-luvun alussa*, Helsinki: Kirkkohallitus.

*The book ("It is an honor to be a confirmed volunteer. The work with confirmed volunteers in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland at the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century") deals with the YCV (Young Confirmed Volunteers) program, the core of youth work in the Finnish Church. Each year, a large number of confirmed young people take part in the YCV education. The number has doubled since the middle of the 90s. The tasks of the volunteers have become more varied and their training has become longer. There are volunteers in almost all parishes and besides the classical engagement at camps, they also start working in other projects.*

## 2.3 Norway

Haraldsø, B. (ed.) (1986), *Konfirmasjonen i går og i dag. Festtidsskrift til 250-års jubileet den 13. januar 1986*, Oslo.

*This collection of essays on the history and contemporary practice of confirmation in Norway ("yesterday and today...") is one of the few easily accessible publications about the history of confirmation and it also contains an empirical article by Hauge.*

Hareide, B. (1966), *Konfirmasjonen i reformasjonstiden. En undersøkelse av den lutherske konfirmasjon i Tyskland 1520-1585*, Oslo/Lund. German edition of this book: Hareide, B. (1971), *Die Konfirmation in der Reformationszeit. Eine Untersuchung der lutherischen Konfirmation in Deutschland 1520–1585*. Übersetzung aus dem Norwegischen von Karin Kvideland (Arbeiten zur Pastoraltheologie 8), Göttingen.

*This theological research played a founding role for the confirmation work in post-war Norway.*

Hauge, T.E. (1983), Ungdom, religion og identitet. En undersøkelse blant 15-åringer i ulike oppvekstmiljø, Oslo.

*This study ("Youth, Religion and Identity") investigates the religious attitudes and practice of 15-year-old, who come from very different socio-economical strata in a handful of parishes.*

Johnsen, E.T. (ed.) (2007), Barneteologi og kirkens ritualer. Perspektiver på trosopplæring, barn og konfirmanter. Det praktisk-teologiske seminars skriftserie 14, Oslo.

*With the help of the articles of this volume ("Children's theology and Christian rituals") on children's theology, baptismal education, faith education, confirmation and confirmation work, the reader receives an impression of the latest Norwegian discussions about these topics. In addition, a comparison of three confirmands' textbooks and two small studies about the linking of confirmation and youth work can be found here.*

Lorentzen, K. (2005), Dåpsopplæring i den norske kirke 2003. Rapport fra kartlegging av arbeidet i menighetene, Oslo.

*This study ("Baptismal education in the Norwegian Church") contains important figures about children's and youth work of the Norwegian Church in 2003.*

## 2.4 Sweden

Dalevi, S. (ed.), *Konfirmandhandbok 1-3*, Stockholm 2003, 2004, 2005

*These three handbooks are designed for the training of workers in confirmation work. They offer a wide range of theoretical, theological, pedagogical and sociological topics which can be helpful for confirmation training. Each book is a miscellany, to which several authors contributed one chapter each.*

Grahn, N. / Eek, J / Pettersson, P (2008), *Vägar framåt i Svenska kyrkans konfirmandarbete*, Karlstad.

*A report on a major quality improvement research and development project focused on confirmation education in the Church of Sweden. Results are presented from surveys among 6959 confirmands and 843 confirmation teachers. The present situation for confirmation training in Sweden is discussed as well as suggested actions for its future development.*

Straarup, J. / Winqvist Hollman, G. (Hg.) (1998), *Med livet som läsebok, konfirmandarbetet i Svenska kyrkan*. Tro & Tanke 1998:3, Uppsala.

*The final report ("Life as a reading book") of the research project "Confirmation in the Church of Sweden" 1995-1998 combines several minor studies which investigate different questions.*