



[Max-Planck-Forschungsgruppe III](#)

„Die Regierung der Universalkirche nach dem Konzil von Trient“

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Seminar and Training Session on the *Positiones* of the Congregation of the Council

Prof. Dr. David d'Avray (University College, London)

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Abstract

The training session will deal with the application of concepts from Social Anthropology to materials from the *Positiones fondo* of the *Congregazione del Concilio*. Special attention will be given to the ideas of Louis Dumont and Mary Douglas, and to the concepts of 'hierarchy', defined in a semi-technical sense, and condensed symbolism. As a case study, these concepts will be applied to a document from the *fondo* dealing with minor orders and 'bigamy'. It is an apparently trivial case on which, nonetheless, a lot of cardinals voted, and which went right up to the pope. Examined in the light of concepts from anthropology it reveals some deep structures shared by the medieval and post-Tridentine Catholicism. The document is also an opportunity to reflect on the *Congregazione del Concilio* as a quasi judicial body and on its relation to the *Ius Commune*.