



The Samurai & the Cross

Jesuit Missionaries & Education in Early Modern Japan

6.15 - 7.30 pm
2 September 2022

GRASSI Museum für Völkerkunde zu Leipzig
Main Lecture Hall • Entrance via Täubchenweg



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After the arrival of Francis Xavier in 1549, a new era of European Christian encounters with Japanese culture began. Xavier's successors found themselves, however, in the midst of "Warring States Japan", where samurai warlords were vying with each other for dominance. The Jesuits soon established a college to train both European and Japanese missionaries in the liberal arts and theology. This presentation will highlight how a unique textbook preserved in three manuscripts in the Vatican, Oxford, and Wolfenbüttel played a key role in communicating Christianity to the Japanese in the early seventeenth century.

Festive reception & book launch after the lecture
Free admission, registration required (juan.castillo@uni-leipzig.de)

