



In the first year of the ITN, we have focused on recruitment to and organization of the project, establishing our homepage, database and social media profiles on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#). Moreover, we have had our first seminars and have arranged for ITN participation in international conferences.



The 14 ESRs who started their projects in 2016

PHD FELLOWS

We have managed to recruit 14 erudite PhD fellows to help us illuminate our project's research topic - the history and reception of Origen's ideas of human freedom and dignity in the western civilization - via their specific subprojects, each focused on different periods and themes. Find more information on the background and projects of the ESRs on our website, [here](#) and in the [News section](#).

SEMINARS AND COURSES

The first network-wide seminar was held in Canterbury in August and focused on methodologies, theories and the background of our overall research on Origen, Augustin, and the values of human freedom and dignity. Read a report about the seminar, written by one of the PhD fellows, Karen Felter, [here](#).

In January, we hosted a course on Academic writing and publication in Aarhus for the project ESRs as well as other PhD fellows. Scholars from AU and CUDIM taught the participants about academic English, style, how to write an abstract, etc. and Dr. Dirk Passmann and Dr. Albrecht Döhnert from our partner organizations Aschendorff and De Gruyter had kindly accepted our invitation to come and teach the PhD fellows about different aspects of the publication process.

From February 25 to March 1, the University of Reading hosted a course and a conference on Origen and Augustine on human freedom and dignity in the middle ages and in a later, global perspective. The course



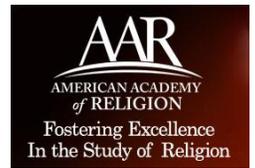
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participants also learned how to handle manuscripts and rare books professionally.

GRANTS AND OTHER RESEARCH NEWS

The ITN coordinator, Prof. Anders-Christian Jacobsen, has received a grant from The Danish Agency for Science, Technology and Innovation. The new research network starts in March 2017 and will investigate the idea of the human in the theology and philosophy of Augustine of Hippo, especially how he views human freedom and dignity. Read more about the project [here](#).

Michael Raubach, one of the ITN ESRs, and Prof. Anders-Christian Jacobsen has been successful with an application to the American Academy of Religion about a seminar that they, together with an ITN steering group, will host at the next five AAR annual meetings. The seminars will be conducted within the framework of the ITN and focus on Origen and the Roots of Human Freedom and Human Dignity in the West. Everybody, especially the ITN ESRs, are encouraged to participate. To propose an abstract, [follow this link](#) to see the call for papers.



Finally, two of the senior researchers, Professors Anders-Christian Jacobsen and Alfons Fürst have been granted a panel (on Origen on Body and Mind) within the ITN framework at the [Origeniana](#) conference in Jerusalem ultimo June 2017.

PUBLICATIONS IN 2016



One of the ITN supervisors, Prof., Dr. Dr. Alfons Fürst has published three new books in 2016, two of which are on [Origen](#). Moreover, [two books on human rights](#) have recently been published by one of our partner organizations, Mohr Siebeck Verlag.

HOMEPAGE AND DATABASE

The homepage www.itn-humanfreedom.eu was ready in October 2015. It has been and will be continuously updated with news, researcher profiles, upcoming events, etc. Among other things, the ESRs take turns in sending reports and/or videos every month about their experiences as a Marie Curie fellow. The homepage also contains a link to our database. Originally, this was meant to contain only source references to Origen's texts. However, the ITN participants have agreed that the database should also include bibliographic references on all subjects related to the project research. The database is currently being made ready for this (target date for the new version is April 2017) and will result in being the most comprehensive database for references to Origen and the ideas of human freedom and dignity so far established.



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UPCOMING EVENTS

In April (19th-21st), Aarhus university will host a course in web presentation of research results – how to make blogs and websites, how to produce video, audio, text, and graphics for the web, and how to use the social media and other networking websites. The course is open to PhD students outside the project as well.

In June, Aarhus University will host a network-wide seminar for all the ITN participants and invited guests. It will focus on the concept of Western civilization used in our project and the use of reception theories and methodology and include a workshop during which the ESRs' projects will be discussed. We will also have a session on career development focusing on CVs and cover letters. The seminar will be followed by a Supervisory Board meeting and a 2-day course in sociology open for all PhD students.

Find all project news and more details on the events [here](#).

Remember to keep us updated. We post news, events and other matters related to our research theme on the project's website www.itn-humanfreedom.eu and on our social media profiles. This includes anything related to the project's research, to the theme of human freedom and dignity as well as matters related to Origen, the church father whose ideas on these themes are foundational for the project. We invite all our collaborators to contribute with news that could be of interest to the ITN participants and other visitors to the website. This includes conferences, exhibitions, book publications, newsletters, lectures, visits, newspaper articles, radio interviews, school visits, meetings, promotions, etc. Such posts will promote interest in and attention to your events, the project, and our collaborators.



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