Projekt Team

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Recht und Normen in Predigten

Using Computational Methods to Explore Law in Christian Sermons



Research project

RUB

The RUNIP project examines how normative arguments are made in sermons and how the law is used for this purpose. To this end, RUNIP uses a historical sermon corpus and contemporary Protestant sermons. Based on qualitative results, a machine learning algorithm will be developed to analyze a large corpus of sermons.

Research questions

Theological

How and in what way do preachers argue normatively in sermons and draw on the law in doing so?

Data science

How can computer-assisted quantitative methods augment qualitative research findings and what insights can be gained independently of this through the quantitative research approach?





3rd Research Phase Quantitative Approach

The algorithm trained on the historical sermon corpus

1st Research Phase

Qualitative Approach

1) Manual coding with MaxQDA, based on grounded theory (B. Glaser/A. Strauss 1967/2017)

2) Theory building for practical theology with a focus on how religious communication about law and norms works in sermons

3) Data preparation: separation of content and annotations, OCR, collection of metadata and database creation for further analysis

Data Basis

1067 sermons by Friedrich D.E. Schleiermacher (1768-1834), the "church father of the 19th century", which have been fully edited in Series III of the Critical Complete Edition (KGA) since 2017



2nd Research Phase

Qualitative and Quantitative Approach

Application of quantitative computer-assisted text

analysis with the following objectives:

1) Develop machine learning methods to identify research-relevant text passages based on ongoing results.

2) Apply the machine learning algorithm to the entire historical sermon corpus.

3) Select quantitative evaluation criteria for the relevance of legal references in the historical sermon corpus.

4) Continue and expand manual coding using insights from the quantitative analysis.

serves as a "comparison framework" for analyzing legal references in contemporary Protestant sermons.

Data Basis

Contemporary evangelical sermons from online sermon databases.

GEFÖRDERT VOM

Bundesministeriur für Bildung und Forschung





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