

## **Altruism in Biblical Texts and Philosophical-Religious Texts of China**

### **Keywords**

Altruism, Old Testament, New Testament, Christianity, agape, social teaching of the church, secularism, atheism, sociobiology, Confucianism.

The topic of this thesis is altruism as it is manifested in the texts of the Old and New Testaments, in the social doctrine of the Church and in Confucianism. Altruism is described as a very abstract concept that originated and came into use in a certain polemic against religious concepts, and attention is given to how further usage has blurred this polemical edge and how Christians themselves use it. The thesis compares the concept of altruism with the specific concepts of amor, eros, caritas and agape in the Christian tradition. The concept of altruism in the Western tradition of thought from Auguste Comte to contemporary sociobiologists is discussed. An excursus into Chinese culture shows an ethical system with different starting points. The social doctrine of the Church as a response to current problems and new currents of thought is presented from the late 19th century to the present.