



Religious Pluralisation – A Challenge for Modern Societies

October 4-6, 2016, Hanover, Germany
Herrenhausen Conference

The long-held belief in the secularization thesis and the subsequent expectation that religion would gradually lose its societal relevance in public and scientific discourse led to religion being treated rather as a side issue. This has changed fundamentally in the wake of growing religious pluralization. In this respect, both the destructive potential of religion as well as initiatives designed to promote understanding between people of different religions and world-views play a significant role. In view of these ambivalences, a need has arisen for clarification in the area of societal as well as scientific discourse. The planned conference will debate the challenges of religious pluralization and the contribution to be made by interreligious dialogue in five thematic areas – theology, politics/civil society, education, Communication/ media and contexts. The aim of the conference is to describe innovative scientific approaches and broad political and social scopes of action for addressing religious plurality.

We invite all researchers and experts working in this field. There is no fee for the attendance, but registration is essential. www.volkswagenstiftung.de/pluralisation

PROGRAM (as of January 2016, all academic titles have been omitted)

Tuesday, October 4th, 2015

- 12:30 P.M. REGISTRATION
- 1:30 P.M. WORDS OF WELCOME
Wilhelm Krull, Secretary General, Volkswagen Foundation (Germany)
Wolfram Weiße, Academy of World Religions, University Hamburg (Germany)
- 1:45 P.M. INTRODUCTORY SPEECH
CHAIR: **Wolfram Weiße**, Academy of World Religions, University Hamburg (Germany)
- The Role of Religion for Living Together in a Diverse Society*
Aydan Özoğuz, Minister of State to the Federal Chancellor and Federal Government Commissioner for Migrants, Refugees and Integration (Germany)
- 2:15 P.M. RELIGION AND DIALOGUE IN DIFFERENT CONTEXTS
CHAIR: **Wolfram Weiße**, Academy of World Religions, University Hamburg (Germany)
- Global Migration, Religious Diversity and Dialogue*
Peter Beyer, University of Ottawa (Canada)
- 3:00 P.M. LIGHTNING TALKS OF YOUNG SCHOLARS ON THEIR RESEARCH 1
CHAIRS: **Anorthe Kremers**, VolkswagenStiftung (Germany) and
Anna Körs, Academy of World Religions, University of Hamburg (Germany)

- 3:30 P.M. COFFEE BREAK
- 4:00 P.M. RELIGION AND DIALOGUE IN DIFFERENT CONTEXTS (CONT.)
 CHAIR: **Katajun Amirpur**, Academy of World Religions, University of Hamburg (Germany)
- Integration, Laïcité and Religion in France*
Jean Paul Willaime, Sorbonne, École pratique des hautes études (France)
- Religious Diversity, Social Integration and Dialogue in Switzerland*
Jörg Stolz, University of Lausanne (Switzerland)
- 5:45 P.M. COFFEE BREAK AND POSTER SESSION
- 6:15 PUBLIC LECTURE WITH PLENARY DISCUSSION
 CHAIR: **Wilhelm Krull**, Secretary General, Volkswagen Foundation (Germany)
- Toward a New Paradigm for Religion in a Pluralist Age*
Peter Berger, Boston University (USA)
- 8:00 P.M. DINNER

Wednesday, October 5th, 2015

- 9:00 A.M. COMMUNITY BUILDING AND POLICYMAKING IN EUROPEAN PERSPECTIVES
 CHAIR: **Nikola Tietze**, Stiftung zur Förderung von Wissenschaft und Kultur (Germany)
- Governance of Religious Diversity – Socio-Legal Dynamics in Europe*
Matthias Koenig, University of Göttingen and Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity (Germany)
- Interreligious Initiatives and the Governance of Religious Diversity*
Alexander-Kenneth Nagel, University of Göttingen (Germany)
- 10:30 A.M. COFFEE BREAK AND POSTER SESSION
- 11:00 A.M. COMMUNITY BUILDING AND POLICYMAKING IN EUROPEAN PERSPECTIVES (CONT.)
 CHAIR: **Silke Steets**, Technische Universität Darmstadt (Germany)
- Governance of Religious Diversity in Spain*
Mar Griera, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (Spain)
- Governance of Religious Diversity in Local Context – the Case Study of Hamburg*
Anna Körs, Academy of World Religions, University of Hamburg (Germany)
- 12:00 A.M. LIGHTNING TALKS OF YOUNG SCHOLARS ON THEIR RESEARCH 2
- 12:30 P.M. LUNCH



- 1:30 P.M. CONTRIBUTION OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION TO DIALOGUE AND INTEGRATION
CHAIR: **Wolfram Weiße**, Academy of World Religions, University of Hamburg (Germany)
- Contribution of Religious Education to a Better Living Together in Europe*
Robert Jackson, University of Warwick (UK), Stockholm University (Sweden)
- Intercultural Education as Part of Interreligious Education*
Gunther Dietz, Universidad Veracruzana (Mexico)
- Religious Education in Contextual Perspective*
Thorsten Knauth, University of Duisburg-Essen (Germany)
Dörthe Vieregge, Academy of World Religions, University of Hamburg (Germany)
- 3:30 P.M. LIGHTNING TALKS OF YOUNG SCHOLARS ON THEIR RESEARCH 3
- 4:00 P.M. COFFEE BREAK AND POSTER SESSION
- 4:30 P.M. THE RELEVANCE OF INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE IN THE PUBLIC SPHERE
CHAIR: **Reinhold Bernhardt**, University of Basel (Germany), *tbc*
Handan Aksünger, Academy of World Religions, University of Hamburg (Germany)
Anantanand Rambachan, Saint Olaf College, Minnesota (USA)
Markus Weingardt, Stiftung Weltethos (Tübingen, Germany)
Perry Schmidt-Leukel, University of Münster (Germany)
- 6:00 P.M. FORUM ON DIALOGICAL THEOLOGY
STATEMENTS AND PANEL DISCUSSION
CHAIR: **Michael von Brück**, Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich (Germany)
Carola Roloff, Academy of World Religions, University of Hamburg (Germany)
Ephraim Meir, Bar-Ilan-University Ramat Gan (Israel)
Sallie King, Madison University (USA)
Abdulkarim Soroush (USA)
Paul Knitter, Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York (USA)
- 7:30 P.M. DINNER

Thursday, October 6th, 2015

- 9:00 A.M. INTERRELIGIOUS COMMUNICATION AND THE ROLE OF MEDIA
CHAIR: **Katajun Amirpur**, Academy of World Religions, University of Hamburg (Germany)
- Perception and Political Meaning of Religious Plurality and the Role of Media*
Gert Pickel, University of Leipzig (Germany)

The Role of Media for Interreligious Dialogue in Modern Society
Sabine Schiffer, Media Responsibility Institute (Germany) (*tbc*)

STATEMENTS

Elisabeth von Thadden, DIE ZEIT (Germany)

Uwe Justus Wenzel, Neue Züricher Zeitung (Switzerland)

10:30 A.M. COFFEE BREAK

11:00 P.M. INTERRELIGIOUS COMMUNICATION AND THE ROLE OF MEDIA (CONT.)

Multimedia, Multiple Religious Identity and Interreligious Dialogue

Manuela Kalsky, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (Netherlands)

Interreligious Communication and Identity Formation in Times of Religious Plurality

Gritt Klinkhammer, University of Bremen (Germany)

12:30 P.M. PERSPECTIVES OF FURTHER RESEARCH IN THE FIELD OF INTERRELIGIOUS DYNAMICS

CHAIR: **Wilhelm Krull**

Volkhard Krech, Bochum University and Hamburger Kolleg “Dynamics in the History of Religions” (Germany)

Ratna Omidvar, Global Diversity Exchange (Canada)

Kimon H. Sargeant, John Templeton Foundation (USA), *tbc*

Edith Franke, University of Marburg and German Research Foundation (DFG) Fachkollegium 106 (Germany)

1:15 P.M. FINAL REMARKS

1:30 P.M. LUNCH AND END OF CONFERENCE

2:30 P.M. AFTERNOON SESSION WITH SOME OF THE SPEAKERS AND THE GROUP OF YOUNG ACADEMICS
THEME: THE CONFERENCE AND PRIORITIES OF RESEARCH IN UNIVERSITIES OF DIFFERENT COUNTRIES

5:00 P.M. END OF AFTERNOON SESSION