

BRIEF DESCRIPTION

There is hardly any need to justify the fact that Jerusalem is a special place of intra- and interreligious encounter of the so-called Abrahamic religions. The variety of confessions, denominations and religions in such a density at the narrowest of spaces is second to none. Adding the historical dimension, which potentiates the diversity of perspectives, the power of Jerusalem has a unique characteristic regarding the interreligious dialog compared to all other religious melting pots of modernity. The multi-religious lived space is characterized by cohabitation and snippets of shared religious experience. Thus the historical and actual Jerusalem is a promising place for the academic reflection of mutual contact and religious encounter.

The colloquium will take the Psalms and the Psalter as a case study. Throughout history the Psalms represent an important part of the Christian-Jewish spirituality in practice. Alongside the character of David, the prophet, the Psalms are also appreciated in the Quran and the Muslim tradition. There is plenty of shared experience through the history although the Psalms are not part of the explicitly shared tradition. However, academic exchange on the interpretation of the Psalms took place in antiquity as well as in the Middle Ages until Modern times. Addressing the present and coming Jerusalem as a lived and believed space, the Psalms are an outstanding study object to explore the prospects and limits of an interreligious dialog starting from the treatment of religious traditions and their reception. Hence, it is time to explore the capability of the Psalms and Psalms studies in the interreligious dialog. The role of the Psalter with its hymns and laments, its longing for peace, and its hope for the blessing of the world of nations will be explored in this colloquium which brings Jewish, Christian, and Muslim academics in a fruitful exchange. The city of Jerusalem is as well subject matter as the place of venue. „In the Psalms, there sounds an idea [...] that the city grants its inhabitants something which is not simply the product of its inhabitants.“ (Erich Zenger)

THE COLLOQUIUM DEALS WITH FOUR TOPICS:

- I. Interreligious Horizons in Psalms and Psalms Studies
- II. Psalms in the Muslim-Christian-Jewish Dialog
- III. Psalms in Jerusalem - Jerusalem in the Psalms
- IV. Contextualizing Psalms in an Interfaith Dialog

VENUE

The colloquium is organised by the Dormition Abbey on Mount Zion in Jerusalem in cooperation with the DAAD and the Department of Catholic Theology of the Ruhr-University Bochum. The abbey is a place of ecumenism and outstanding German cultural work in the city. The Benedictine monastery stands for commitment and openness of the ecumenical and interreligious dialog as well as for high-quality in academical educational work with international participation.

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“By my God I can leap over a wall“

Interreligious Horizons in Psalms
and Psalms Studies



July 29-31, 2019

International Colloquium
in Memory of Erich Zenger
(* July 5, 1939 - † April 4, 2010)

PROGRAM

MONDAY, 29.07.2019

- 15.30-16.15** Welcome Addresses
Abbot Bernhard Maria Alter OSB, Jerusalem
Her Excellency Ambassador Dr. Susanne Wasum-Rainer, Tel Aviv
DAAD Representative N.N.
- 16.00-16.15** Christian Frevel, Bochum
Brief introduction
- 16.15-17.00** Ludger Schwienhorst-Schönberger, Wien
Abraham's God. Religions and inter-religious understanding in Erich Zenger's approach to the Psalms
- 17.00-17.45** Mustafa Abu Sway, Jerusalem
A Muslim's reading of Psalms
- 18.15** Vespers in the Dormition Church
- 20.15-21.15** Bernd Janowski, Tübingen
Public lecture "JHWH knows the way of the righteous" (Psalm 1:6). The Psalter and the ethos of recognition

TUESDAY, 30.07.2019

- 9.00-9.45** Dorothea Erbele-Küster, Mainz
Reception aesthetics of the Psalms. A source for intercultural and interreligious dialogue
- 9.45-10.30** Till Magnus Steiner, Jerusalem
City of God. Jerusalem as a place of encounter with God and the other
- 11.00-11.45** Ronny Vollandt, München
The Arabic Psalms fragment found in the Umayyad mosque in Damascus
- 12.15** Sext in the Dormition Church
- 14.00-15.30** Florian Lippke, Tübingen
Guided tour "Standing within your gates." Locating Psalms in the history of Jerusalem
- 16.15-17.00** Sivan Nir, Tel Aviv
The true order of the Psalms. The impact of Muslim prophetic biography on medieval Jewish exegesis of the Psalms
- 17.00-17.45** N.N.
Orthodox liturgical uses and the spirituality of Psalms. A comparative perspective
- 18.15** Vespers in the Dormition Church
- 20.15-21.15** Angelika Neuwirth, Jerusalem
Public lecture The emergence of the Qur'anic proclamation out of liturgy

WEDNESDAY, 31.07.2019

- 9.00-9.45** N.N.
- 9.45-10.30** Meira Polliack, Tel Aviv
Witnesses of exchange. The textual history of the Psalter in a comparative perspective
- 11.00-11.45** Nancy Rahn, Bern
Kingdom of all nations and kingdom of all times. Explorations into a main topic of the Psalter and its potential for interreligious encounters
- 12.15** Sext in the Dormition Church
- 14.00-14.45** Yael Sela, Ra'anna
Moses Mendelson's Psalms. A gate way of an interreligious dialogue?
- 14.45-15.30** Carl S. Ehrlich, Toronto
Judaism and the Psalms. Life and liturgy
- 16.00-16.45** Dalit Rom-Shiloni, Tel Aviv
Theodical discourse in the Psalms. Is there an interreligious potential in facing destruction?
- 16.45-17.30** N.N.
The impact of antiquity. How to employ the legacy of Psalms as interreligious potential in Jerusalem
- 17.30-18.15** "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem!"
Round Table The interreligious potential of Psalms
- 18.30** Prayer for peace in the Dormition Church