

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 Qur'an and the Muslim tradition. There is plenty of shared experience through 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 organized 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 academic educational work with international participation.

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If you wish to participate in this conference please feel free to register by e-mail to pforte@dormitio.net

“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

- 14.00-14.30** Welcome Addresses
- Abbot Bernhard Maria Alter OSB,
Dormition Abbey Jerusalem
- H. E. Dr. Susanne Wasum-Rainer,
Ambassador,
German Embassy Tel Aviv (t.b.c.)
- Verena Shifferman, Director,
DAAD Information Centre Tel Aviv
- 14.30-15.00** Christian Frevel, Bochum
Brief introduction
- 15.00-15.45** Ludger Schwienhorst-Schönberger,
Vienna
Abraham's God. Religions and interre-
ligious understanding in Erich Zenger's
approach to the Psalms
- 16.15-17.00** Dorothea Erbele-Küster, Mainz
Reception aesthetics of the Psalms.
A source for intercultural and interreli-
gious dialog
- 17.00-17.45** Till Magnus Steiner, Jerusalem
City of God. Jerusalem as a place of
encounter with God and the other
- 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** Meira Polliack, Tel Aviv
Witnesses of exchange. David's image
in the Psalter in a comparative exe-
getical perspective
- 9.45-10.30** Mustafa Abu Sway, Jerusalem
A Muslim's reading of Psalms
- 11.00-11.45** Sivan Nir, Tel Aviv
The true order of the Psalms.
The impact of Muslim prophetic biog-
raphy on medieval Jewish exegesis
of the Psalms
- 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** Ronny Vollandt, Munich
The Arabic Psalms fragment found in
the Umayyad mosque in Damascus
- 17.00-17.45** Carl S. Ehrlich, Toronto
Judaism and the Psalms.
Life and liturgy
- 18.15** Vespers in the Dormition Church
- 20.15-21.15** Angelika Neuwirth, Jerusalem
Public lecture The emergence of the Qur'anic proc-
lamation out of liturgy

WEDNESDAY, 31.07.2019

- 8.00-10.45** Angelika Neuwirth, Jerusalem
Guided tour The Temple Mount and the Qur'an.
New and old insights
- 11.15-12.00** Dalit Rom-Shiloni, Tel Aviv
Praise and protest in a theodical
discourse in Psalms
- 12.15** Sext in the Dormition Church
- 14.00-14.45** Nancy Rahn, Berne
Kingdom of all nations and king-
dom of all times. Explorations into a
main topic of the Psalter and its po-
tential for interreligious encounters
- 14.45-15.30** Shani Tzoref, New York
Prayer and prophecy. Psalms as
liturgy and scripture in Qumranic
and medieval Jewish exegesis
- 16.00-16.45** Martin Wallraff, Munich
Framing the text. Early Christian
prologues to the Psalter
- 16.45-17.30** Yael Sela, Jerusalem
Between Jerusalem and Athens.
Moses Mendelssohn's Psalms trans-
lation
- 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