

Summer School

Omnipotence and Omniscience

Discussing the Divine Attributes in Muslim-Christian Dialogue

12-16 August 2019, Universität Paderborn

Project: “Building bridges between traditional thought and analytical philosophy – Rethinking Divine Attributes in Islam and Christianity” (Templeton Foundation)

From August 12-16, the Center for Comparative Theology and Cultural Studies (ZeKK), with Prof. Dr. Klaus von Stosch as host, welcomed six professors and 40 students from various countries to the University of Paderborn to discuss the questions of God's omnipotence and omniscience in a Christian-Islamic dialogue.

In lectures and interreligiously taught seminars, these traditional divine attributes in Christianity and Islam were discussed with the latest approaches of analytical philosophy. It became clear that analytical philosophy, which has so far focused on Christianity, can be very helpful in interreligious dialogue, because it can function as a common language in the conversation of both religions and can serve to open up the respective classical discourses. In addition, two panel discussions on August 13 and 15 enabled the topic to be brought to the wider public in the city of Paderborn. This week, discourses were linked and scientists were brought into dialogue who had previously been strangers to each other, and the basis for an international and inter-religious research network was laid.

Guests were Prof. Dr. Rahim Acar (Marmara University, Istanbul), Prof. Dr. Ebrahim Azadegan, (Sharif University of Technology, Tehran), Prof. Dr. Aicha Lahdhiri (Al-Zeiouna University, Tunis), Dr Brian Leftow (Rutgers University, New Jersey), Prof Dr Muhammad Legenhausen (Imam Khomeini Education and Research Institute, Qom), Prof Dr Gesche Linde (University of Rostock). Prof. Dr. Thomas Schärtl-Trendel (University of Regensburg) was unfortunately ill.

The project, sponsored by the Templeton Foundation, will enable the ZeKK to hold two more summer schools, which will deal with the justice and mercy of God (2020) and the unity of God and His action (2021).

