

International conference

## NEW PHILOSOPHICAL AND THEOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS FOR CHRISTIAN-MUSLIM DIALOGUE

Hotels Bernardin,  
Portorož, Slovenia,  
May 27-29, 2019

Today, few would disagree that interreligious dialogue is an indispensable tool (or medium) for mutual coexistence, acceptance and peace. In recent times, the importance of such dialogue has been highlighted by the revival and the resurgence of religion (de-secularisation), relevant in variety of contexts – e.g. in the context of democratic politics, the context of political extremism and terrorism, or that of integration or non-integration of immigrants who are often of different faith and/or culture than that of the host communities.

At the same time, we should also ask critically whether interreligious dialogue has indeed been as beneficial and useful as the dialogue activists claim it has and as they want it to be. While dialogue between the religions can be understood as a pressing step in the modern development of intercultural relations, it can only work when it is founded on careful investigation of their foundations.

At this conference, we want to reconceptualize the question of the importance of an active and well informed interreligious dialogue. The focus will be on in-depth, philosophical-theological conversation between Christians and Muslims. We will explore new ways in which philosophical theories can foster Christian-Muslim understanding.

Examples of the questions to be addressed are:

- Can Christian and Muslim theologies as equal partners in conversation, and as comparative theologies, help us foster better intercultural understanding?
- What are best philosophical models and theories of dialogue for framing the theological conversation between European Christians on one hand and Iranian and other Middle Eastern Muslims on the other?
- Is it the Aristotelian, Platonist, one of the modern philosophical foundations (Continental,

Analytical, Wittgensteinian, Phenomenological, Deconstructivist, Pragmatist, or other), or a combination of these?

- How can the experiences and perspectives of the relevant “in-house” minorities (Muslim minorities in Europe, Christian minorities in the Middle East), as well as those of Christians and Muslims in special social and political circumstances (refugees, migrants, displaced persons), inform contemporary philosophical-theological dialogue between Christianity and Islam?

- And, how should philosophical and comparative theologies address the contemporary criticisms of interreligious dialogue, which brand it as a failed tool for better understanding between cultures, or as a Western invention and tool for cultural domination, or as a cover-up for power-relations between groups in power, as opposed to empowering those who are often voiceless and excluded from interreligious dialogue (“heretical” sects, secularists, women, sexual and other minorities, migrants)?

At the conference, we will address these and related questions in carefully prepared lectures, delivered in pairs during thematically ordered 1,5 hour sessions of two speakers, with ample time for responses and discussions.

### CONFERENCE CO-ORGANIZED BY:

Science and Research Centre Koper (Slovenia)  
Iranian Association for Philosophy of Religion (Iran)  
Centre for Comparative Theology and Cultural Studies, University of Paderborn (Germany)  
European Academy of Sciences and Arts (EASA) –  
World Religions Class (Austria)

## CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

### MONDAY, 27 MAY

**14:00-15:00** **Welcome buffet** (Hotel Bernardin)

**15:00-15:50** **Protocols Speeches and Conference Opening**

#### Protocols speeches:

**Prof Dr Rado Pišot**, Director of the Science and Research Centre Koper

**Prof Dr Nadja Furlan Štante**, Science and Research Centre Koper, Leader of Research Project on Interreligious Dialogue (Slovenian Research Agency)

**Msgr Dr Jurij Bizjak**, Bishop of Koper

**Prof Dr Nedžad Grabus**, Mufti of the Islamic Community in Slovenia

#### Conference Opening:

**Prof Dr Lenart Škof**, Head of the Institute for Philosophical Studies, ZRS Koper and the Chair of the Conference Organizing Committee

**Prof Dr Elmar Kuhn**, European Academy of Sciences and Arts - Dean of Class World Religions

**Prof Dr Hamidreza Ayatollahy**, Head of Iranian Association for Philosophy of Religion, Emeritus professor of Allameh Tabataba'i University, Tehran, Iran

**Assoc Prof Dr Gorazd Andrejč**, ZRS Koper, Faculty of Arts, University of Maribor and Woolf Institute, Cambridge, Chair of the Conference Programme Committee

**16:00-17:30** **Panel 1**

**Klaus von Stosch**: Comparative Theology and Christian-Muslim dialogue. A relationship of mutual foundation

**Hamidreza Ayatollahy**: The Purpose of Interreligious Dialogue: Coexistence or Cooperation?

**17:45-19:15** **Discussion Panel / Round table**

On the Futures of Islam and Muslims in Europe's Democracies (moderators: **Gorazd Andrejč** and **Carool Kersten**)

**Participants:** **Elmar Kuhn** (EASA Dean of Class World Religions), **Rasoul Rasoulipour** (Kharazmi University, Tehran, Iran), **Mari Osredkar** (Univ. of Ljubljana, Faculty of Theology), **Anja Zalta** (Univ. of Ljubljana, Faculty of Arts), **Maurits Berger** (University of Leiden)

**19:30** **Dinner**

### TUESDAY, 28 MAY

**9:00-10:30** **Panel 2**

**Seyyed Hassan Hosseini**: The Islamic Foundations of Religious Pluralism

**Nadja Furlan Štante**: Women's Voices in Christian-Muslim Interreligious Dialogue - A Venue for Religious Peace-Building

**9:00-10:30** **Parallel panel 2A: Postdoc & PhD students**

**Maja Bjelica**: The Turkish Alevi and Their Interreligious Dialogical Inclination

**Javad Taheri**: Possibility of a Comparative Theology According to Allamah Sayyed Muhammad Hossein Tabataba'i's Philosophy

**Saida Mirsadri**: Process Islam - Towards a Metaphysical Foundation for Interreligious Dialogue

**10:30-11:00** **Coffee Break**

**11:00-12:30** **Panel 3**

**Nedžad Grabus**: Ethical Monotheism and the Concept of Justice

**Mohsen Javadi**: The Priority of Justice over Generosity in Islamic Social Ethics

**12:30-14:30** **Lunch Break**

**14:30-16:00** **Panel 4**

**Carool Kersten**: Of Double Genealogies and East-West Investigations: Resetting the Muslim-Christian Encounter

**Lenart Škof**: The Right of Belonging: On The Future of Political Theology of Cohabitation

**16:00-16:30** **Coffee Break**

**16:30-18:00** **Panel 5**

**Maurits Berger**: What Do We Mean by 'Radical Islam': A Dutch Case Study

**Janez Juhant**: Religion, Society and Mystics: The Spiritual Ground(s) of the Societal Life

**18:30-19:30** **Christian-Muslim prayer (Church of St. Bernardine)**

Hosted by **Elmar Kuhn**, with the cooperation of **Janez Juhant** and **Reza Akbari**

**19:30** **Dinner**

This conference is financially supported by Slovenian Research Agency (ARRS projects J6-8265 and J6-9393) and The Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

## WEDNESDAY 29 MAY

### 9:00-10:30 Panel 6

**Mohammad Saeedimehr:** Islamic Mysticism and Muslim-Christian Dialogue

**Joshua Ralston:** Bearing Witness: Contestation After Polemics

### 10:30-11:00 Coffee Break

### 11:00-12:30 Panel 7

**Gorazd Andrejč:** Religious Freedom and the Epistemic Limitations of Religious Belief

**Jafar Morvarid:** Language Games Philosophy as a philosophical foundation for interreligious dialogue

### 12:30-14:30 Lunch Break

### 14:30-16:00 Panel 8

**Elmar Kuhn:** Is the Clash of Religions the Future of Our World?

**Reza Akbari:** The Role of Conceptual Metaphors for the Fruitfulness of Interreligious Dialogues: Interreligious Dialogue as Friendly Co-Travelling

### 16:00-16:30 Coffee Break

### 16:30-18:00 Panel 9

**Bojan Žalec:** Religious Exclusivism, Dialogue and Coexistence

**Rasoul Rasoulipour:** Interfaith Dialogue; an Existential Approach

### 18:15-19:00 Concluding Remarks

### 19:30 Dinner

### 21:00 Musicking sound-dialogue performed by A Muzofil collaboration

The sound event will offer a musicking experience, exploring the dialogue between music and religion. The intent of this experience is to dissolve through a sound dialogue the borders that separate the performers and the audience.

### THE LIST OF SPEAKERS

Slovenian group

**Prof Dr Lenart Škof,** Head of the Institute for Philosophical Studies, ZRS Koper and Alma Mater Europaea ECM/ISH

**Prof Dr Klaus von Stosch,** Head of the Centre for Comparative Theology and Cultural Studies of the University of Paderborn

**Prof Dr Nadja Furlan Štante,** ZRS Koper, Institute for Philosophical Studies

**Assoc Prof Dr Gorazd Andrejč,** ZRS Koper, Faculty of Arts, University of Maribor and Woolf Institute, Cambridge

**Dr Maja Bjelica,** Institute for Philosophical Studies, SRC Koper

**Prof Dr Bojan Žalec,** EASA and University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Theology

**Prof Dr Anja Zalta,** University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Arts

**Prof Dr Mari Jože Osredkar,** University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Theology

**Emer Prof Dr Janez Juhant,** EASA and University of Ljubljana, Faculty of Theology

Iranian group

**Prof Dr Hamidreza Ayatollahy,** Head of Iranian Association for Philosophy of Religion, Emeritus professor of Allameh Tabataba'i University, Tehran, Iran

**Prof Dr Mohammad Saeedimehr,** Professor at Tarbiat Modares University, Tehran, Iran

**Prof Dr Mohsen Javadi,** Professor at University of Qom, Iran

**Prof Dr Reza Akbari,** Professor at Imam Sadiq University, Tehran, Iran

**Prof Dr Seyyed Hassan Hosseini,** Professor at Sharif University of Technology Tehran, Iran

**Prof Dr Rasoul Rasoulipour,** Professor at Kharazmi University, Tehran, Iran

**Prof Dr Jafar Morvarid,** Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Faculty of Theology, Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, Iran

**Ms. Saida Mirsadri,** Ph.D. Candidate in Philosophy of Religion at Tehran University, Farabi College

**Mr. Javad Taheri,** Director of Iranian Association for Philosophy of Religion, Ph.D. Candidate in Philosophy of Religion at Faculty of Theology, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia

Other speakers

**Prof Dr Elmar Kuhn,** European Academy of Sciences and Arts – Dean of Class World Religions

**Prof Dr Maurits Berger,** University of Leiden

**Prof Dr Nedžad Grabus,** Faculty of Islamic Sciences, Sarajevo

**Prof Dr Carol Kersten,** Department of Theology and Religious Studies, King's College London

**Prof Dr Joshua Ralston,** Faculty of Divinity, University of Edinburgh



انجمن علمی فلسفه دین ایران  
Iranian Association for Philosophy of Religion



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