



THE
LUTHERAN
WORLD
FEDERATION

A Communion
of Churches



EVANGELISCHE
AKADEMIE
ZU BERLIN



Churches as Agents for Justice and against Populism

Public Theology in Global Intercontextual
Dialogue

May 2nd – May 4th, 2018

Dietrich-Bonhoeffer-Haus, Berlin

Brot
für die Welt

Church of Sweden 
member of
actalliance

Nationalist populist movements endorse exclusionary strategies that fragment societies and marginalize people. Churches should respond by strengthening respect and equal participation, and by widening the civil society discourse through exchange between different global contexts and social locations.

The conference has several aims: examining the mechanics of exclusionary populist movements, clarifying theological arguments against divisive politics, and – thereby – encouraging participatory processes that strengthen people’s agency in church and society.

The Evangelical Academy in Berlin, Bread for the World, the Church of Sweden, and The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) bring together theologians, church leaders and political scientists from different parts of the world to further initiatives for inclusion, justice and religious pluralism. The speakers and participants of the conference come from over 25 countries, and will introduce perspectives from church leadership, political science and theology.

We kindly invite you to join us at this conference!

PD Dr Eva Harasta
Evangelical Academy in Berlin

Rev. Dr Simone Sinn and Rev. Dr Chad Rimmer
The Lutheran World Federation (LWF)

Prof. Dr Dietrich Werner
Bread for the World

Rev. Almut Bretschneider-Felzmann
Church of Sweden

The conference is jointly organized by
The Lutheran World Federation,
Bread for the World,
the Church of Sweden
and the Evangelische Akademie zu Berlin.

The Berlin Institute of Public Theology
is a local academic partner of the conference.

Program

Wednesday, May 2nd

Theological conference (first part)

13.00

Lunch at the conference venue

14.00

Introduction: The aims of the conference

PD Dr Eva Harasta

Pröpstin Astrid Kleist, *Hamburg,*
LWF Vice-President Central Western Europe

14.30

Global Perspectives for Public Theology and Advocacy

three approaches:

- **Global Communion: The Lutheran World Federation**
Rev. Dr Simone Sinn, *LWF Communion Office, Geneva*
- **National church: Church of Sweden**
Rev. Almut Bretschneider-Felzmann
- **Civil society and global cooperation: Bread for the World**
Prof. Dr Dietrich Werner

mutual introductions and theological dialogue

16.30

coffee break

Churches as Agents for Justice and against Populism

Public evening panel at the
Franzoesische Friedrichstadtkirche

17.30

admission for the general public

18.00

Words of Welcome

PD Dr Eva Harasta, *Evangelical Academy in Berlin*

18.15 –

Public Evening Panel

20:00

Prof. Dr Heinrich Bedford-Strohm, *Bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria and Chairman of the Council of the Evangelical Church in Germany*
Dr Antje Jackelén, *Archbishop of Uppsala and Primate of the Church of Sweden, LWF Vice-President Nordic Countries*

The public evening panel will be held in German, simultaneous translation into English will be provided.

20.30

dinner for the participants of the conference
(at the conference venue)

Thursday, May 3rd

Theological conference (continued)

9.00

morning devotion

9.30

The Rise of Populism

Hungary (political science)

Religion and Populist Politics:

Lessons from East Central Europe

Prof. Dr András Bozóki, *Professor of Political Science, Central European University, Budapest*

India (contextual, religious, and ecclesial)

Rev. Dr Roger Gaikwad, *General Secretary, National Council of Churches in India*

11.00

coffee break

11.30

Public Theology and Populism

Germany (theological ethics)

Resources and challenges

from a theological perspective

Prof. Dr Torsten Meireis, *Professor of Systematic Theology (Ethics and Hermeneutics), Humboldt University, Berlin*

South Africa (theological ethics)

Prof. Dr Puleng LenkaBula, *Professor of Ethics, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg*

13.00

Lunch

14.00

short paper session – part I

16 voices from global church contexts on...

- populism and racism
- populism and the media
- populism and sexism
- religious motives in populism

16.00

coffee break

16.30

short paper session – part II

9 voices from global church contexts on...

- the theological hermeneutics of public discourse
- the church and social justice
- the political role(s) of the church

18.00

dinner

19.00 –

Public Theology, Populism and Racism

20.30

Brazil (theology)

Prof. Dr Rudolf von Sinner, *Professor of Systematic Theology, Ecumenism and Inter-religious Dialogue, Escola Superior de Teologia, São Leopoldo*

USA (theology)

Constructive Theology: Womanist Perspective

Prof. Dr Linda Thomas, *Professor of Theology and Anthropology, Lutheran School of Theology, Chicago*

Friday, May 4nd

- 9.00 morning devotion
- 9.30 **Public Theology, Populism and Sexism**
UK (theological ethics)
Prof. Dr Esther McIntosh, *Subject Director for Theology and Religious Studies, York St John's University, York*
USA (reformation theology)
Prof. Dr Kirsi I. Stjerna, *Professor of Lutheran History and Theology, California Lutheran University, Thousand Oaks*
- 11.00 coffee break
- 11.30 **Churches as Agents for Justice and against Division**
Hungary
Bishop Dr Tamás Fabiny,
The Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Hungary, Budapest
Rwanda
Président Dr Pascal Bataringaya,
Eglise Presbytérienne au Rwanda, Kigali
- 13.00 Lunch
- 14.00 – **The responsibility of the church(es) in the face**
15.30 **of populism – locally, nationally and globally**
concluding panel
- 16.00 end of conference

(Slight changes to the program may occur.)



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Churches as Agents for Justice and against Populism

conference steering committee

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conference venue and accommodation

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Public Transport

S-Bahn / U-Bahn Please take the S-Bahn to S-Bahnhof Friedrichstraße. The conference venue is within walking distance from the station.



From Tegel Airport

Take the bus TXL and get out at Hauptbahnhof (main station); the bus trip takes about 20 – 25 minutes, depending on traffic. From there, take S-Bahn 5, 7 or 9 in Eastern direction and get out at the next stop: Friedrichstrasse. (“Friedrichstrasse” is written below the general direction on the overhead sign announcing the correct S-Bahn trains at Hauptbahnhof.) From **Friedrichstrasse station**, it is a short walk of ca. 5 minutes to the hotel (see map on this page).

From DB main station (“Hauptbahnhof”)

Take S-Bahn 5, 7 or 9 to Friedrichstrasse. From there it is a short walk of ca. 5 minutes (see map above).

From Schönefeld Airport

Take regional train RE7 (direction: Dessau) and get out at Friedrichstrasse station (the train trip takes about 25 minutes). From Friedrichstrasse station it is a short walk of ca. 5 minutes to the hotel (see map on this page). Alternatively, take the bus SXF 1 from Schönefeld Airport and get out at Südkreuz. At Südkreuz change to S-Bahn 2 (direction: Buch) to Friedrichstrasse.

The terms and conditions (AGB) of the Evangelical Academy in Berlin apply to this event as well as the code of conduct for LWF events. The AGB can be viewed here (German): www.eaberlin.de/service/agb. The code of conduct for LWF events can be viewed here (English): www.lutheranworld.org/content/resource-code-conduct-lwf-events. The Evangelical Academy in Berlin is a member of the network organisation “Protestant Academies in Germany” (Berlin).

Participation only by invitation.

registration deadline

March 21, 2018

Please send the complete registration form to huschke@eaberlin.de until March 21, 2018. We will confirm participation depending on the availability of free spots. Please note that it is expected of participants to be present for the entire conference. We cannot register participants for part-time participation.

accommodation

Participants need to organize their accommodation themselves. A number of rooms have been pre-reserved at the conference venue (Hotel Dietrich Bonhoeffer Haus). The hotel will hold these rooms until March 21, 2018. When contacting the hotel, mention the reference "Protestant Academy Berlin" to release a pre-reserved room.

conference fee

There is no conference fee for participants. The meals and coffee breaks that are mentioned in the above program will be provided for participants without extra charge.



Short Paper Program

Churches as Agents for Justice and against Populism

Short paper sessions on Thursday, May 3rd

(2 pages!)

last updated April 09, 2018 (changes of the program are possible)

	Hermeneutics of public discourse	Populism and sexism	Church and social justice	Theology in a plural society
14:00	<p>Dr Daniel C. Beros, ISEDET, Buenos Aires, Argentina Cultural apparatuses, hegemonic conscience and prophetic testimony in today's Latin America - A theological Approach</p>	<p>Dr Mutale M. Kaunda, University of KwaZuluNatal, South Africa Zambian Pentecostalism, Female Politicians and Populism: An African Feminist perspective on religio-political use of power</p>	<p>Rev. Dr Sung Kim, Lutheran Theological Seminary, Hong Kong Power. Media. Church. Hermeneutical reflections on the mission of Protestant institutions in present Hong Kong</p>	<p>Rev. Dr Ayalew T. Mengesha, Mekane Yesus Seminary, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia Religious Pluralism: Challenges and Possibilities – Ethiopian Evangelical Insights</p>
14:30	<p>Prof. Dr Nico Koopman, Beyers Naudé Centre for Public Theology, Stellenbosch, South Africa Appreciating and managing complexity amidst populism. Some insights from Public Theology</p>	<p>Prof. Dr Marcia Blasi, Escola Superior de Teologia, São Leopoldo, Brazil “Beautiful, modest, and housewife”</p>	<p>Rev. Jeevaraj Anthony, Gurukul Lutheran Theological College, Chennai, India Enduring Theological Perspectives of the Ecclesia: Challenges and Response to the Contextual Issues</p>	<p>Dr Olga Navrátilová, Evangelická teologická fakulta Univerzita Karlova, Prague, Czech Republic Chances and limits of the multi-religious society</p>
15:00	<p>Prof. Dr Marcia Pally, New York University, New York Populism in America: The duress-prodded perversion of the covenant</p>	<p>Rev. Dr. Gunilla Hallonsten, Policy Director, Church of Sweden <i>(a paper on populism and sexism)</i></p>	<p>Dr Samuel Ngun Ling, Myanmar Institute of Theology, Yangon, Myanmar The Peaceful Struggles of Minority Christian Churches under the De facto State of Myanmar</p>	<p>Luping Huang, pastor-in-training, Berlin, Germany Religious education as a chance against right- wing populism</p>
15:30	<p>Dr Guillermo Hansen, Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota The Political and Religious Mind: The Contribution of Cognitive Science to the Hermeneutic of our Populist Times</p>	<p>Arnold Swai, Theological Faculty at Tumaini University, Makumira, Tanzania Beyond the Church Walls. The Church's Social Justice Work in Tanzania</p>	<p>Birthe Juel Christensen, Senior Consultant, Popular and Church Relations, DanChurchAid, Copenhagen, Denmark Framing the struggle for social justice in Denmark</p>	<p>Branko Sekulić, University of Munich, Germany/Croatia The church and ethno-national mythology</p>

(16:00 - 16:30 coffee break)

	Religious motives and populism	Populism and the media	The political role(s) of the church
16:30	<p>Dr Munther Isaac, Priest at Evangelical Lutheran Christmas Church in Bethlehem</p> <p>Territory and Control. On the use of religion by right wing Israeli and Christian groups</p>	<p>Dr Frederike van Oorschot, University of Hannover, Institute for Theology, Hannover, Germany</p> <p>Public theology – digitally understood.</p> <p>Challenges of digital public spheres for theology and the church</p>	<p>Dr Dion Forster, Beyers Naudé Centre for Public Theology, Stellenbosch, South Africa</p> <p>State Theology and Political Populism? A consideration of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa in the light of the Kairos document and Dietrich Bonhoeffer's 'Theological position paper on state and church'</p>
17:00	<p>Dr Michael Nausner, Researcher at Church of Sweden Research Unit, Uppsala, Sweden</p> <p>Cannot Siblings Choose How to Relate? A Christian Re-reading of Texts in the Light of Jewish and Muslim Perspectives</p>	<p>Dr Florian Höhne, Berlin Institute for Public Theology, Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany</p> <p>Christian nudges: out of – or into the digital filter bubble? Reflections on imaginations from theological ethics to transform user's communication in social media</p>	<p>Elisabetta Ribet, Faculté de Théologie Protestante, Université de Strasbourg, France</p> <p>"and the truth will set you free". Propaganda, witnessing and the challenge of a Christian political engagement.</p>
17:30	<p>Ulrich Nitschke, Head of Sector Programme Values, Religion and Development, German Corporation for International Cooperation GmbH</p> <p>[title forthcoming]</p>	<p>- <i>Theological hermeneutics of public discourse</i> -</p> <p>Rev. Joona Toivanen, ThD candidate and pastor in Tartu, Estonia</p> <p>A Post Soviet Eclipse of Religious Consciousness</p>	<p>Rev. Dr Maria Katharina Moser, Lutheran Church in Austria, Vienna, Austria</p> <p>Religious motives in populist discourses in Austria and how the Church and Diaconia respond to them</p>