

Christian Theology and the Dialogue with Islam

3 November 2023 in Bern



This symposium, in a hybrid format, will comprise an ecumenical, intra-Christian conversation. It will address questions and challenges raised for Christian theology and practice by dialogue with Muslims and examine issues about how Christian-Muslim dialogue is theorized and practised. Although primarily an intra-Christian conversation, the symposium will also include reflections by Muslim scholars about their experience of Christian-Muslim dialogue.

The symposium will offer an opportunity to learn from reflections and questions both from those who have organized and/or participated in two significant and long-running Christian-Muslim dialogue processes, namely *Building Bridges* and *Theologisches Forum Christentum – Islam*, and from Christian scholars with expertise in different theological disciplines.

This event also marks the end of Professor Douglas Pratt's formal connection, since November 2011, as adjunct research professor with the Institut für Christkatholische Theologie at the University of Bern. His most recent book, *Contemporary Christian-Muslim Dialogue: Two Twenty-First Century Initiatives* (London: Routledge, 2021) is germane to the focus of the symposium. In his closing remarks he will address the question of the future of the dialogue and what it means for theological reflection: the prospect of theology after dialogue.



Programme

09.00 Arrivals and coffee

09.30 **Welcome & Introduction:** Prof. Dr. Angela Berlis | Prof. Dr. Dr. Douglas Pratt
Greeting: The Dean of the Faculty of Theology, Prof. Dr. Rainer Hirsch-Luipold

09.50 **Two Dialogues: Overviews, Methodologies, and Observations**

Chair: Dr. David Marshall

Prof. em. Dr. Daniel A. Madigan SJ, Melbourne (by Zoom) – Building Bridges
Prof. Dr. Anja Middelbeck-Varwick, Frankfurt a. M. – Theologisches Forum

10.45 Break

11.15 **What Did We Experience? Reflections of Muslim and Christian Participants in *Building Bridges* and *Theologisches Forum Christentum-Islam***

Chair: Prof. Dr. Hansjörg Schmid, Fribourg

Prof. Dr. Ahmet Alibasic, Sarajevo (by Zoom) – Building Bridges
Prof. Dr. Muna Tatari, Paderborn (by Zoom) – Theologisches Forum
The Rev. Lucy Gardner, Oxford (by Zoom) – Building Bridges
Prof. Dr. Tobias Specker SJ, Frankfurt a. M. (by Zoom) – Theologisches Forum

12.15 Lunch

13.30 **Christian Theologians Reflect on Christian-Muslim Dialogue**

Chair: Dr. David Marshall

Prof. Dr. Reinhold Bernhardt, Basel
Dr. Clarissa Breu, Göttingen
Dr. Friedmann Eissler, Stuttgart
Prof. Dr. Katharina Heyden, Bern

15.00 **Conference Participant Reflection in Small Groups**

16.15 **Panel Discussion**

Chair: Prof. Dr. Hansjörg Schmid

Prof. Dr. Reinhold Bernhardt
Dr. Clarissa Breu
Dr. Friedmann Eissler
Prof. Dr. Katharina Heyden
Dr. David Marshall
Dr. Christian Ströbele, Stuttgart

17.30 **Conclusion**

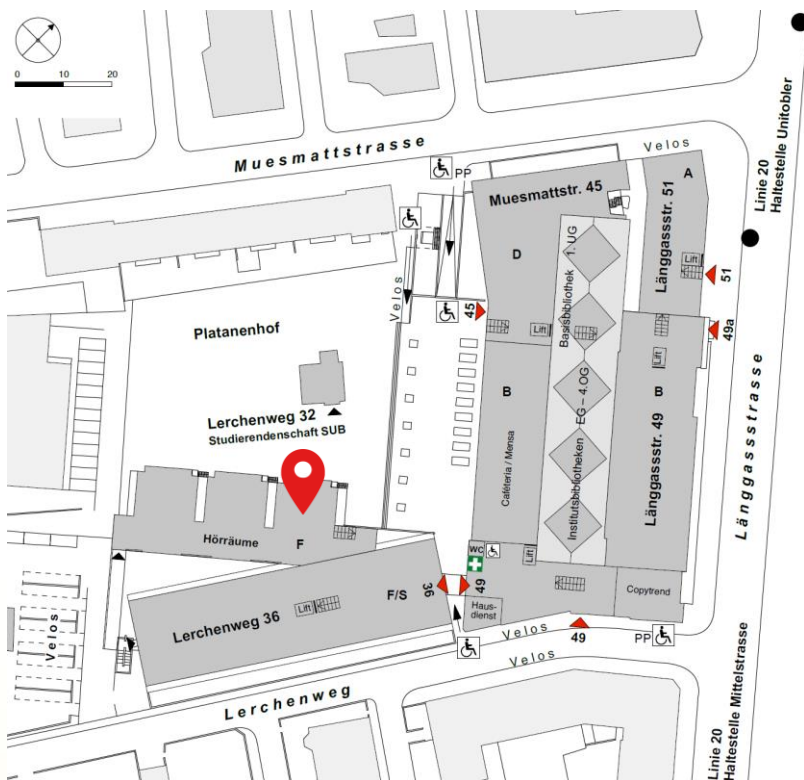
Prof. Dr. Angela Berlis

18.15 **Public Lecture *Whence and Whither: Theology after Dialogue?***

Prof. Dr. Dr. Douglas Pratt

19.00 **Apéro**

Venue 3012 Bern, Lerchenweg 36, F -121



We hope you will be able to join us, whether in person or by Zoom link, indicating clearly the mode of your participation. For registration, and Zoom participation link, please contact:

Register by 20 Oktober 2023:
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