

# Transformation of Traditions through Interreligious Encounters

Inaugural Conference of the Center for  
Interreligious Theology and Religious Studies

## June 23–25, 2024

### Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

In today's interconnected global society, religions continually develop, transform, and define themselves in relation to one another, leading to both conflict and constructive interactions. As a result, interreligious entanglements have become a growing area of focus in theology and religious studies. This conference will examine a key aspect that adds complexity to interfaith relations: the role of the past as a resource for self-understanding and practice. With a focus on Judaism, Islam, and Christianity, this conference will explore the interplay between the formation and transformation of traditions and the growth of interreligious connectivity and awareness, both in the past and in the present. This event also serves as the launch of the Berlin Center for Interreligious Theology and Religious Studies.

### Sunday, June 23

**16:00**            **German-Jewish History Tour in Berlin**

**18:30**            **Welcome**

**Opening lecture: Thinking religion sociologically:  
Contemporary and Historical perspectives**  
*Karen Barkey, Bard College, USA*

**Location: Unter den Linden 6, Senatssaal**  
*(Chair: Ufuk Topkara)*

**20:30**            **Reception and Drinks**

### Monday, June 24

#### **Morning Session: Reconstructing Religious Traditions in Interfaith Discourse**

*(Chair: Henrik Simojoki)*

**9:30**    **The Varieties of Religious Transformation: How Race  
Shapes the Religious Contours of Interfaith Activism**

*Grace Yukich, Quinnipiac University, USA*

**Islamic and Christian Theologies in Interaction: A Hermeneutic  
of Transformation for the German-Speaking Constellation**

*Felix Körner, Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany*

**11:00**            **Coffee break**

**11:30**   **Developing Trinitarian Thought in Dialogue with the  
Qur'an – an Exercise in Comparative Theology**

*Klaus von Stosch, University of Bonn, Germany*

**Developing Thoughts on Gender in Dialogue with the Jewish  
and Christian Tradition – an Exercise in Intertheology**

*Mira Sievers, University of Hamburg, Germany*

**13:00**            **Lunch**

## Afternoon Session: Jewish, Islamic, and Christian Exegesis of Scripture

(Chair: Idan Dershowitz)

### 14:30 The Materiality of Scripture and Cultural Exchange

*David Stern, Harvard University, USA*

### Abrahamic Textual Traditions and Qur'anic Mary

*Nimet Şeker, Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany*

### 16:00 Coffee break

### 16:30 The Exegesis of the Pentateuch between Judaism and Christianity: From Julius Wellhausen to Baruch Schwartz

*Konrad Schmid, University of Zurich, Switzerland*

### 'Reciprocal Illumination' as a Methodology for Exegetical Scholarship and Beyond

*Marcia Pally, New York University, USA*

### 19:00 Dinner

Tuesday, June 25

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## Morning Session: Social Sciences and Theology

(Chair: Ufuk Topkara)

### 9:00 The social production of theological preferences. A case study of the 'Islam of the Middle Way' in France

*Margot Dazey, Institute for Advanced Study in Toulouse, France*

### Sociology of morality: religious insights and intersections

*Saskia Schäfer, Humboldt University of Berlin, Germany*

### The communicative construction of space, transcendence and religious events

*Hubert Knoblauch, Technical University of Berlin, Germany*

### 11:00 Coffee break

## Noon Session: Religious Transformation through Inclusive Education?

(Chair: Henrik Simojoki)

### 11:30 What Happens to Children When Adults Find Solutions to Problems They Don't Have? Religion in Inclusive Palestinian-Arab and Jewish Schools

*Zvi Bekerman, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel*

### Constructions of Equality: how interfaith communication changes the multi-religious future of urban topographies

*Silke Radosh-Hinder, University of Basel/EKBO Berlin,  
Switzerland & Germany*

**13:00**            **Lunch**

**Afternoon Session: Transforming Rituals through  
Interreligious Contacts**

*(Chair: Teresa Schweighofer)*

**14:30**    **Perpetual Flames in the Ancient Mediterranean:  
Eternity, Exemplarity, and Location**

*Moshe Blidstein, University of Haifa, Israel*

**Speaking to God and the World: Comparative Research on  
Sermons**

*Ruth Conrad & Hannah Miethner, Humboldt University of Berlin,  
Germany*

**“From the rich treasure of one's own tradition”: subliminal  
patterns and creative new creations in interfaith celebrations**

*Ann-Katrin Gässlein, Universität Luzern, Switzerland*

**16:30**            **Coffee break**

**17:00**            **Closing discussion**

**19:00**            **Dinner**

**Location**

**Main Conference Site (June 24-25):**

Auditorium im Jakob-und-Wilhelm-Grimm-Zentrum  
Geschwister-Scholl-Straße 1-3, 10117 Berlin

**Opening Lecture (June 23):**

Senatssaal, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Main Building,  
Unter den Linden 6, 10117 Berlin

**Organized by:**

**Center for Interreligious Theology and Religious Studies  
Humboldt University of Berlin**

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