

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE – SALZBURG 2024

BILINGUAL ENGLISH – GERMAN

June 23 – 26, 2024

"Be Holy, because I, the Lord, Your God, am Holy." (Wajikra / Leviticus 19:2)
Holiness: A Religious Imperative and Moral Obligation?

IN COLLABORATION WITH



Koordinierungsausschuss für christlich-jüdische Zusammenarbeit, Österreich
Paris Lodron Universität Salzburg

PROGRAM

Sunday, June 23, 2024

2:00 pm – 3:30 pm	On-Site Registration of Participants (Konferenzzentrum St. Virgil)
4:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Opening Event (+ Seelisberg Prize 2024)
6:00 pm – 7:00 pm	Reception
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Dinner (for registered conference participants)
9:00 pm	Shuttle Service: St. Virgil – Hotel Salzburg City

8:30 am	Shuttle Service: Hotel Salzburg City – St. Virgil				
8:30 am – 9:00 am	On-Site Registration of Day-Guests				
9:00 am – 9:30 am	Meditative Moment				
9:30 am – 1:00 pm	Plenary Session I: Holiness in Post-Modernity				
9:30 – 10:45	<p><u>Keynote:</u> Regina Polak</p> <p><u>Respondents:</u> Mohammed Gamal Abdelnour / Elisabeth Höftberger / David Morselli</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> Pavol Bargár</p> <p>The concept of holiness has a long history of interpretation. At different levels, it is an ambivalent notion. Challengingly and at times even controversially, it brings together the ontological aspect (e.g., divine presence) and the ethical aspect (e.g., a commitment to act morally). As such, holiness can be regarded as a marker to construe the identity of individuals and/or groups.</p> <p>In the context of postmodernity, this insight acquires new and thought-provoking layers of meaning. While being increasingly secular in various ways, postmodern societies are at the same time very multireligious and multicultural. At times, the term “post-secular” is used in sociological discourse.</p> <p>This plenary session will be designed around the guiding question of whether holiness can (still) be regarded as a significant identity marker in the context of postmodernity. The opening keynote will explore the plenary session theme from a sociological and philosophical perspective, shedding light on important terms, topics, challenges, and trends. It will be followed by three responses from Jewish, Christian, and Muslim perspectives, respectively.</p> <p>The session will then provide ample space for active participation of the conference attendees in the framework of small group discussion. The discussion will then be brought back to the plenary for a final wrap up, including questions to the panelists from the small discussion groups and final reflections by the keynote speakers.</p>				
10:45 am – 11:15 am	Coffee Break				
11:15 – 12:00	Small Group Activity				
12:00 – 1:00	Wrap-Up Round				
1:00 pm – 2:30 pm	Lunch				
2:30 pm – 4:00 pm	Plenary Session II: The Moral Dimension of Holiness: A Traditional Framing of this Topic in our Three Religions				
	<p><u>Speakers:</u> Isabella Guanzini / Zekirija Sejdini / Josh Weiner</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> Gregor Maria Hoff</p> <p>In Judaism, Christianity and Islam, holiness is not just a theological attribute of God. It is also morally determined. Being holy because and as God is holy calls on us to sanctify life itself: our own as well as that of other people. Ultimately, life itself proves to be holy because it is created by God.</p> <p>But how can we justify and think about the connection between God's holiness and moral obligation? What does holiness mean in the face of ethical conflicts that revolve around the beginning and end of life? What does it mean in practical terms to give space to the sacred? The panel will focus on the codings and experiences of holiness in the three Abrahamic religions in order to convey them to the challenges of our time. It will also address the question of what they have to offer for interreligious dialog.</p>				
4:00 pm – 4:30 pm	Coffee Break				
4:30 pm – 6:00 pm	Workshop A1	Workshop A2	Workshop A3	Workshop A4	Workshop A5
6:00 pm – 7:30 pm	Dinner				

7:30 pm – 9:30 pm	Evening Event
9:30 pm	Shuttle Service: St. Virgil – Hotel Salzburg City

Tuesday, June 25, 2024

8:30 am	Shuttle Service: Hotel Salzburg City – St. Virgil				
8:30 am – 9:00 am	On-Site Registration of Day-Guests				
9:00 am – 9:30 am	Meditative Moment				
9:30 am – 11:00 am	Plenary Session III: <i>Encountering Holiness: Times, Places, Objects</i> <u>Speakers:</u> Hannan M. Hassan / Martin Rötting / Susanne Talabardon <u>Moderator:</u> Katharina von Kellenbach The panel explores ideas and practices of holiness that are shared by our religious traditions, such as sacred scripture (Torah, Holy Scripture, Qu’ran) or holy time (e.g. Shabbat, Ramadan, Christian holidays). But we will also discuss differences as well as conflicts, for instance, when a particular place is claimed as sacred, such as Jerusalem, by different religious communities.				
11:00 am – 11:30 am	Coffee Break				
11:30 am – 1:00 pm	Workshop B1	Workshop B2	Workshop B3	Workshop B4	Workshop B5
1:00 pm – 1:30 pm	Distribution of Lunch Boxes				
1:30 pm – 7:00 pm	Trip to Bad Ischl				
	Activity 1	Activity 2	Activity 3	Activity 4	Activity 5
7:00 pm	Free Evening				

Wednesday, June 26, 2024

8:30 am	Shuttle Service: Hotel Salzburg City – St. Virgil				
8:30 am – 9:00 am	On-Site Registration of Day-Guests				
9:00 am – 9:30 am	Meditative Moment				
9:30 am – 11:00 am	Plenary Session IV: <i>The Inherent Dangerous Dimension of Holiness</i> <u>Speakers:</u> Karma Ben-Johanan / Azza Karram / Ioan Sauca <u>Moderator:</u> David Sandmel The concept of holiness contains within it the notion of its opposite: unholy, ungodly, profane, evil. When holiness becomes exclusivist, it has the potential to be dangerous. When we think of ourselves as embodying the holy, there is the risk that we will view those who have diverse				

concepts of holiness, who think or believe otherwise, as unholy, the enemies of God. This kind of binary thinking can lead to the dehumanization of the other and the justification of violence, both rhetorical and physical. It is often associated with extremist perspectives (whether from the right or the left), but it is certainly not limited to those on the fringes. How might we conceive of holiness in ways that are inclusive and expansive, that allow for variance, and that affirm diversity and human dignity?

11:00 am – 11:30 am	Coffee Break				
11:30 am – 1:00 pm	Workshop C1	Workshop C2	Workshop C3	Workshop C4	Workshop C5
1:00 pm – 2:30 pm	Lunch				
2:30 pm – 4:00 pm	Workshop D1	Workshop D2	Workshop D3	Workshop D4	Workshop D5
4:00 pm – 4:30 pm	Coffee Break				
4:30 pm – 6:00 pm	Plenary Session V – Closing Session: <i>The Boundary Breaking Dimension of Holiness</i> <u>Speakers:</u> Ben Kamine / Morteza Rezazadeh / Julia Verbeek <u>Moderator:</u> Michael Trainor				
6:30 pm	Shuttle Service: St. Virgil – Venue of the Closing Dinner				
7:00 pm – 9:30 pm	Closing Dinner				
9:30 pm	Shuttle Services to St. Virgil + Hotel Salzburg City				

WORKSHOP LIST

WORKSHOP SESSION A (Monday afternoon)

- **Psalms in Dialogue. Encountering the Hebrew Bible Tradition as a Dialogical Space**
Susanne Lechner-Masser, Susanne Plietzsch
- **Paths to Holiness: Exploring Interreligious Perspectives**
Elena Dini, Reuven Firestone, Heidi Hadsell, Hannan M. Hassan, Morteza Rezazadeh
- **"Couragiert!" – United Against Antisemitism and Islamophobia**
Mustafa Cimsit, Andrew Steiman
- **War and Peace / Just War and Just Peace as Topic in Jewish-Christian Dialogue**
Wolfgang Hüllstrung, Ophir Yarden
- **The Challenge of Authentically Jewish Egalitarian Weddings**
Josh Weiner

WORKSHOP SESSION B (Tuesday morning)

- **Receiving Shabbat: Receiving Holiness**
Michael Shire
- **Orthodox Christian – Jewish Relations: Updates on a Different Dialogue - Panel Presentation and Discussion**
Michael G. Azar, Shoshana Gelfand, Geoffrey Ready, David Fox Sandmel
- **Holiness in Time: Understanding the Seasons of Jewish and Christian Worship**
Mary C. Boys, Dalia Marx
- **Storying/ed Dialogue: How can we use Successful Stories of Jewish-Christian Encounters as a Tool to Facilitate Difficult Conversations Across Boundaries of Difference?**
Héctor Acero Ferrer, Lucy Thorson
- **Exploring Holiness: Scriptural Reasoning Across Abrahamic Traditions**
Fariza Bisaeva, Bianca Plattner

Workshop Session C (Wednesday morning)

- **Holiness in Dialogue: Exploring (Sacred) Spaces and Interreligious Engagement**
Julia Feldbauer, Tyson Herberger, Elisabeth Höftberger, Sonia Wiedemann
- **Catholic-Jewish Collaboration in Combatting Antisemitism through Education, Clergy Formation Opportunities, and Young Leadership Development**
Rebecca Cohen, Noam Marans
- **#Jewish-and-Christian: Closer than you Think?**
Alexander Grodensky, Ursula Rudnick, Katarzyna Kowalska, Evelyne Will-Mueller
- **Holy Friendships in Unholy Days: Interreligious Relationships as Source & Method**
Heather Miller Rubens, Ellen Procaro-Foley
- **Be "Pharisees" as I am a "Pharisee"? Reflections on Leviticus 19:2 Starting from Rabbinic Interpretations**
David Fox Sandmel, Joseph Sievers

Workshop Session D (Wednesday afternoon)

- **Holiness: Gift and Task for Today's Troubled World?**
Pavol Bargár, Celia Deutsch, Patrick Morrow, Michael Trainor
- **Enhancing the Holy Work of Jewish-Christian Relations Amid the Wounds of the Israel-Hamas War**
Phil Cunningham, Adam Gregerman
- **Kedoshim ti'hiyu—You Shall be Holy (Lev 19:2): The Jewish Search for Holiness Within**
Marcia Plumb
- **Practical Holiness and the Messianic Possibility**
Erik Ross, Elisheva Salamo
- **Holy Language and a 'War of Words': Can a Listening and Learning Model Bridge Community Divisions over Language?**
James Roberts, Mirella Yandoli