



**PADERBORN
UNIVERSITY**



AUGUST 16 - 20, 2021

**DISCUSSING THE DIVINE ATTRIBUTES
IN MUSLIM-CHRISTIAN DIALOGUE**

**SUMMER SCHOOL
DIVINE SIMPLICITY
AND DIVINE ACTION**

Project:
“Building bridges between traditional
thought and analytical philosophy –
Rethinking Divine Attributes in Islam and
Christianity”



ZeKK

Zentrum für Komparative Theologie
und Kulturwissenschaften



**JOHN
TEMPLETON
FOUNDATION**

PROGRAMME

SUNDAY | 15

Arrival: 7 pm: Getting together

MONDAY | 16

9-9.30 am: Welcome Addresses

9.30-10.30 am: Lecture by Thomas Schärntl-Trendel:
*Divine Simplicity versus Divine Action?
The Agency of a Simple and Eternal God*

10.30-11 am: Discussion
Coffee break

11.15-12.15 am: Lecture by Zishan Ghaffar:
*Divine Simplicity and Divine Actions: Unlocking the
Qur'anic discourse about Prophetology, Christology and
Covenant Theology*
Lunch break

2.30-4 pm: Seminar 1 and 2
Coffee break

4.30-6 pm: Seminar 3 and 4
Dinner

Seminar 1:

Naeme Poormohammadi and Thomas Schärntl-Trendel:
*Is theodicy a moral problem? The Criticism of Main
Christian and Islamic Responses to the Problem of Evil
on Ethical Grounds*

Seminar 2:

Aaron Langenfeld and Mira Sievers:
Is God a Moral Being?

Seminar 3:

Zishan Ghaffar and Christoph Schwöbel:
*Exegetical and Systematic Perspectives on God's
Simplicity*

Seminar 4:

Mehmet Sait Reçber and Alan Torrance:
How does God act in the World?

Tuesday | 17

9-10 am: Lecture by Naeme Poormohammadi:
Divine Evil Actions - Toward Islamic Narrative Theology to Respond to the Problem of Evil

10-10.30 am: Discussion
Coffee break

11-12 am: Lecture by Alan Torrance:
God's Self-Disclosure and the Challenge of Divine Simplicity: are Christian thinkers mixed up over mixed relations?

12-12.30 am: Discussion
Lunch break

2.30-4 pm: Seminar 1 and 2
Coffee break

4.30-6 pm: Seminar 3 and 4
Dinner

7.30-9 pm: Public Panel Debate:
Reagiert Gott auf meine Gebete?

Wednesday | 18

9-10 am: Lecture by Christoph Schwöbel:
The Simplicity of the Triune God. On the Complexities of Relating Divine Trinity, Divine Unity and Divine Simplicity in Christian Faith

10-10.30 am: Discussion
Coffee break

11-12 am: Lecture by Mira Sievers:
Are God's actions just?

12-12.30 am: Discussion
Lunch break

Leisure Program and Free Time

Thursday | 19

9-10 am: Lecture by Mehmet Sait Reçber:
Al-Ghazali against al-Falasifa (the Philosophers) on Divine Simplicity

10-10.30 am: Discussion
Coffee break

11-12 am: Lecture by Aaron Langenfeld:
Beyond Otherness. Divine Simplicity and God's Presence in an Autonomous World

12-12.30 am: Discussion
Lunch break

2.30-4 pm: Seminar 1 and 2
Coffee break

4.30-6 pm: Seminar 3 and 4
Dinner

7.30-9 pm: Public Panel Debate:
Divine Simplicity and Divine Action - Discussing the Divine Attributes in Muslim-Christian Dialogue

Friday | 20

9-10 am: Seminar 1 and 2
Coffee break

10.15-11.15 am: Seminar 3 and 4

11.30 am-1 pm: Poster and Presentation Session for Research Projects by PhD/ Graduate Students
Lunch break

2-3 pm: Evaluation of the Programme

End of Programme

ABOUT

It has been a major question in traditional theological thinking how the Divine Attributes are to be understood. Recent debates in analytical philosophy have allowed new approaches that, however, are often not linked to those traditional debates. The project “Building bridges between traditional thought and analytical philosophy - Rethinking Divine Attributes in Islam and Christianity” aims at bringing the traditional theological discussions in touch with the modern analytical debate. Moreover, analytical philosophy has mostly focussed on Christian Theism, while we intend to explore the possibility of using analytical philosophy as a tool in inter-religious dialogue. Thus, the project focuses on the following questions:

- How can we perceive the attributes of Omnipotence and Omniscience, Justice and Mercy, Simplicity and Divine Action?
- What can analytical philosophy contribute to an understanding of those attributes?
- Is analytical philosophy an appropriate method to find a „common ground“ between Muslim and Christian theologians who are dealing with similar questions?

Those questions will be explored in three consecutive Summer Schools. This format aims at connecting people and discourses that would otherwise remain separated. The third Summer School, “Discussing the Divine Attributes in Muslim-Christian Dialogue 2021: Divine Simplicity and Divine Action” will take place from August 15 to 20, 2021.

SERVICES

Students from Iran:

financial support for travel 500 € (round trip)

Students from Turkey and Tunisia:

financial support for travel 250 € (round trip)

Accommodation will be covered for all students except for students from Paderborn, it will be provided from August 15 to 20 in four-bed rooms (single rooms for surcharge can be requested).

LECTURERS

Zishan Ghaffar
Paderborn University

Aaron Langenfeld
University of Vechta

Naeme Poormohammadi
University of Religions and Denominations, Qom

Mehmet Sait Reçber
University of Ankara

Thomas Schärtl-Trendel
Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München

Christoph Schwöbel
University of St. Andrews

Mira Sievers
Humboldt University of Berlin

Alan Torrance
University of St. Andrews



Download of application form and more information at
go.upb.de/DivineSimplicity

CONTACT

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