



**PADERBORN  
UNIVERSITY**



**AUGUST 9 - 13, 2021**

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

# **SUMMER SCHOOL JUSTICE AND MERCY**

**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 | 08

Arrival: 7 pm: Getting together

### MONDAY | 09

9-9.30 am: Welcome Addresses

9.30-10.30 am: Lecture by Muna Tatari:  
*Justice and Mercy in Classical Islamic Thought and Today's Relevance: The Dispute between Abd al-Jabbar ibn Ahmad and Abu Hamid Muhammad al-Ghazali*

10.30-11 am: Discussion  
Coffee break

11.15-12.15 am: Lecture by Jochen Schmidt:  
*Sin and Mercy in Luther's Theology*  
Lunch break

2.30-4 pm: Seminar 1 and 2  
Coffee break

4.30-6 pm: Seminar 3 and 4  
Dinner

#### Seminar 1:

Jochen Schmidt and Muna Tatari:  
*God's Justice and Mercy and the Life of the Religious Believer. Sunni and Lutheran Perspectives on the Ethical Dimensions of Divine Attributes*

#### Seminar 2:

Georg Gasser and Seyed Hassan Eslami Ardakani:  
*Justice and Mercy for Animals?! Perspectives from Islamic and Christian Philosophical and Systematic Theology*

#### Seminar 3:

Maureen Junker-Kenny and Farid Esack:  
*God's Justice and Mercy from the Perspective of the Victims of History and Liberation Ethics*

#### Seminar 4:

Klaus von Stosch and Jerusha Tanner Rhodes:  
*Mary and Muhammad as Exemplars of Mercy*

## Tuesday | 10

9-10 am: Lecture by Georg Gasser:  
*Human Suffering and Divine Justice? Philosophical Interpretations of the Book of Job*

10-10.30 am: Discussion  
Coffee break

11-12 am: Lecture by Seyed Hassan Eslami Ardakani:  
*Treating Animals Justly and Mercifully: An Islamic Perspective*

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:  
*Maria als Zeichen der Barmherzigkeit in Christentum und Islam*

## Wednesday | 11

9-10 am: Lecture by Jerusha Tanner Rhodes:  
*Muslima Theology as Comparative Feminist Theology*

10-10.30 am: Discussion  
Coffee break

11-12 am: Lecture by Klaus von Stosch:  
*A Christian Encounter with Mary as Sign of Mercy in the Qur'an*

12-12.30 am: Discussion  
Lunch break

Leisure Program and Free Time

## Thursday | 12

9-10 am: Lecture by Farid Esack:  
*Perspectives on God's Justice and Mercy by a Muslim Liberation Theologian*

10-10.30 am: Discussion  
Coffee break

11-12 am: Lecture by Maureen Junker-Kenny:  
*Justice and Mercy as a Paradoxical Task? The Perspectives of F. Schleiermacher and P. Ricoeur on Evil, Accountability and the Question of Reconciliation*

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:  
*Justice and Mercy. Discussing the Divine Attributes in Muslim-Christian Dialogue*

## Friday | 13

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 second Summer School, “Discussing the Divine Attributes in Muslim-Christian Dialogue 2021: Justice and Mercy”, will take place from August 9 to 13, 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 8 to 13 in four-bed rooms (single rooms for surcharge can be requested).

## LECTURERS

Farid Esack  
*University of Johannesburg*

Seyed Hassan Eslami Ardakani  
*University of Religions and Denominations, Qom*

Georg Gasser  
*University of Augsburg*

Maureen Junker-Kenny  
*Trinity College Dublin*

Jerusha Tanner Rhodes  
*Union Theological Seminary, New York*

Jochen Schmidt  
*Paderborn University*

Klaus von Stosch  
*Paderborn University*

Muna Tatari  
*Paderborn University*



Download of application form and more information at  
[go.upb.de/justiceandmercy](https://go.upb.de/justiceandmercy)

## CONTACT

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