Churches as Agents for Justice and against Populism

Public Theology in Global Intercontextual Dialogue

May 2nd – May 4th, 2018
Dietrich-Bonhoeffer-Haus, Berlin
Nationalist populist movements endorse exclusionary strategies that fragment societies and marginalize people. Churches should respond by strengthening respect and equal participation, and by widening the civil society discourse through exchange between different global contexts and social locations.

The conference has several aims: examining the mechanics of exclusionary populist movements, clarifying theological arguments against divisive politics, and – thereby – encouraging participatory processes that strengthen people’s agency in church and society.

The Evangelical Academy in Berlin, Bread for the World, the Church of Sweden, and The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) bring together theologians, church leaders and political scientists from different parts of the world to further initiatives for inclusion, justice and religious pluralism. The speakers and participants of the conference come from over 25 countries, and will introduce perspectives from church leadership, political science and theology.

We kindly invite you to join us at this conference!

PD Dr Eva Harasta
*Evangelical Academy in Berlin*

Rev. Dr Simone Sinn and Rev. Dr Chad Rimmer
*The Lutheran World Federation (LWF)*

Prof. Dr Dietrich Werner
*Bread for the World*

Rev. Almut Bretschneider-Felzmann
*Church of Sweden*
The Berlin Institute of Public Theology and the Evangelical Academy in Berlin.

The Church of Sweden

Bread for the World,

The Lutheran World Federation,

Rev. Almut Bretschneider-Felzmann

Prof. Dr Dietrich Werner

The Lutheran World Federation (LWF)

Rev. Dr Simone Sinn and Rev. Dr Chad Rimmer

Evangelical Academy in Berlin

PD Dr Eva Harasta

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against divisive politics, and – thereby – encouraging participatory exclusionary populist movements, clarifying theological arguments contexts and social locations.

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The Evangelical Academy in Berlin, Bread for the World, the Church of Sweden

Theological conference (first part)

13.00 Lunch at the conference venue
14.00 Introduction: The aims of the conference
   PD Dr Eva Harasta
   Pröpstin Astrid Kleist, Hamburg,
   LWF Vice-President Central Western Europe
14.30 Global Perspectives for Public Theology and Advocacy
   three approaches:
   • Global Communion: The Lutheran World Federation
     Rev. Dr Simone Sinn, LWF Communion Office, Geneva
   • National church: Church of Sweden
     Rev. Almut Bretschneider-Felzmann
   • Civil society and global cooperation:
     Bread for the World
     Prof. Dr Dietrich Werner
     mutual introductions and theological dialogue
16.30 coffee break
   Churches as Agents for Justice and against Populism
   Public evening panel at the
   Franzoesische Friedrichstadtkirche
17.30 admission for the general public
18.00 Words of Welcome
   PD Dr Eva Harasta, Evangelical Academy in Berlin

18.15 – 20:00 Public Evening Panel

Prof. Dr Heinrich Bedford-Strohm, Bishop of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria and Chairman
of the Council of the Evangelical Church in Germany
Dr Antje Jackelén, Archbishop of Uppsala and Primate
of the Church of Sweden, LWF Vice-President Nordic
Countries

The public evening panel will be held in German, simultaneous translation into English will be provided.

20.30 dinner for the participants of the conference
   (at the conference venue)

Rev. Almut Bretschneider-Felzmann (Bread for the World), Rev. Dr Simone Sinn and Rev. Dr Chad Rimmer (The Lutheran World Federation), Dr Antje Jackelén (The Church of Sweden), PD Dr Eva Harasta (Evangelical Academy in Berlin).

The conference has several aims: examining the mechanics of processes that strengthen people’s agency in church and society. Against divisive politics, and thereby encouraging participatory contexts and social locations. We kindly invite you to join us at this conference!

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Thursday, May 3rd

9.00 morning devotion
9.30 The Rise of Populism

Hungary (political science)
Religion and Populist Politics: Lessons from East Central Europe
Prof. Dr András Bozóki, Professor of Political Science, Central European University, Budapest

India (contextual, religious, and ecclesial)
Rev. Dr Roger Gaikwad, General Secretary, National Council of Churches in India

11.00 coffee break
11.30 Public Theology and Populism

Germany (theological ethics)
Resources and challenges from a theological perspective
Prof. Dr Torsten Meireis, Professor of Systematic Theology (Ethics and Hermeneutics), Humboldt University, Berlin

South Africa (theological ethics)
Prof. Dr Puleng LenkaBula, Professor of Ethics, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg

13.00 Lunch
14.00 short paper session – part I
16 voices from global church contexts on…
• populism and racism
• populism and the media
• populism and sexism
• religious motives in populism

16.00 coffee break
16.30 short paper session – part II
9 voices from global church contexts on…
• the theological hermeneutics of public discourse
• the church and social justice
• the political role(s) of the church

18.00 dinner
19.00 – Public Theology, Populism and Racism
20.30 Brazil (theology)

Prof. Dr Rudolf von Sinner, Professor of Systematic Theology, Ecumenism and Inter-religious Dialogue, Escola Superior de Teologia, São Leopoldo

USA (theology)
Constructive Theology: Womanist Perspective
Prof. Dr Linda Thomas, Professor of Theology and Anthropology, Lutheran School of Theology, Chicago
Friday, May 4th

9.00  morning devotion

9.30  Public Theology, Populism and Sexism  
UK (theological ethics)  
Prof. Dr Esther McIntosh, Subject Director for Theology and Religious Studies, York St John’s University, York

USA (reformation theology)  
Prof. Dr Kirsi I. Stjerna, Professor of Lutheran History and Theology, California Lutheran University, Thousand Oaks

11.00  coffee break

11.30  Churches as Agents for Justice and against Division  
Hungary  
Bishop Dr Tamás Fabiny,  
The Evangelical-Lutheran Church in Hungary, Budapest

Rwanda  
Président Dr Pascal Bataringaya,  
Eglise Presbytérienne au Rwanda, Kigali

13.00  Lunch

14.00 – 15.30  The responsibility of the church(es) in the face of populism – locally, nationally and globally  
concluding panel

16.00  end of conference

(Slight changes to the program may occur.)

Die Evangelische Akademie zu Berlin unterstützen mit Spenden und Zustiftungen an die Stiftung zur Förderung der Evangelischen Akademie zu Berlin

Einfluss nehmen – Mitgestalten – Fördern als Mitglied im Freundeskreis der Evangelischen Akademie zu Berlin

Weitere Informationen unter www.eaberlin.de oder rufen Sie uns an: (030) 20 355 – 0.
Churches as Agents for Justice and against Populism

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conference venue and accommodation
Hotel Dietrich Bonhoeffer Haus
Ziegelstrasse 30
10117 Berlin
www.hotel-dietrich-bonhoeffer.de
phone +49 30 284 67 – 0

May 2nd – May 4th, 2018
Dietrich-Bonhoeffer-Haus, Berlin

Public Theology in Global Intercontextual Dialogue

Formatmarke

Public Transport
S-Bahn / U-Bahn
Please take the S-Bahn to S-Bahnhof Friedrichstraße. The conference venue is within walking distance from the station.

From Tegel Airport
Take the bus TXL and get out at Hauptbahnhof (main station); the bus trip takes about 20 – 25 minutes, depending on traffic. From there, take S-Bahn 5, 7 or 9 in Eastern direction and get out at the next stop: Friedrichstrasse. (“Friedrichstrasse” is written below the general direction on the overhead sign announcing the correct S-Bahn trains at Hauptbahnhof.) From Friedrichstrasse station, it is a short walk of ca. 5 minutes to the hotel (see map on this page).

From DB main station (“Hauptbahnhof”) Take S-Bahn 5, 7 or 9 to Friedrichstrasse. From there it is a short walk of ca. 5 minutes (see map above).

From Schönefeld Airport
Take regional train RE7 (direction: Dessau) and get out at Friedrichstrasse station (the train trip takes about 25 minutes). From Friedrichstrasse station it is a short walk of ca. 5 minutes to the hotel (see map on this page). Alternatively, take the bus SXF 1 from Schönefeld Airport and get out at Südkreuz. At Südkreuz change to S-Bahn 2 (direction: Buch) to Friedrichstrasse.

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Public Transport

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The terms and conditions (AGB) of the Evangelical Academy in Berlin apply to this event as well as the code of conduct for LWF events. The AGB can be viewed here (German): www.eaberlin.de/service/agb. The code of conduct for LWF events can be viewed here (English): www.lutheranworld.org/content/resource-code-conduct-lwf-events. The Evangelical Academy in Berlin is a member of the network organisation “Protestant Academies in Germany” (Berlin).
Participation only by invitation.

registration deadline
March 21, 2018
Please send the complete registration form to huschke@eaberlin.de until March 21, 2018. We will confirm participation depending on the availability of free spots. Please note that it is expected of participants to be present for the entire conference. We cannot register participants for part-time participation.

accommodation
Participants need to organize their accommodation themselves. A number of rooms have been pre-reserved at the conference venue (Hotel Dietrich Bonhoeffer Haus). The hotel will hold these rooms until March 21, 2018. When contacting the hotel, mention the reference “Protestant Academy Berlin” to release a pre-reserved room.

conference fee
There is no conference fee for participants. The meals and coffee breaks that are mentioned in the above program will be provided for participants without extra charge.