

How can we conceptualize the relationship between the cosmos, the experience of transcendence, and the human individual? Do standard models like monism or theism, and standard alternatives like personalism and impersonalism provide us with an appropriate understanding of this relationship? From a Christian perspective it is already possible to understand the concepts of personality and impersonality as extreme demarcations within an analogical way of thinking. The Semitic, European and Asian traditions provide us with concepts and imaginative models for characterizing religions and their respective concepts of transcendence. Many of opposing classifications and many of these systematic concepts (e.g. all-encompassing unity, monism, pan-en-theism, theism) emerged out of a European context from the point of view of the European scientific tradition. The relations between God/divine, world and human are being more differentiated, plural and complex than the statements of the European discussion seems to suggest if they assume simple oppositions of theistic duality and monistic identification or personality and impersonality. Thus, the main question of the conference is how religious transcendence is exposed in different modes, and how these plurality of modes can be compared between different religious systems/galaxies of meaning? Is Hindu thinking about *brahman* expressed in monistic traditions necessarily apersonal? In which sense do *nir-vāṇa* or *śūnyatā* denote an ultimate reality? Which concepts of relationality of transcendence in Indian theistic traditions (Kāśmīr Śaivism and different theistic traditions of Vedānta) are developed?

Sie sind freundlich eingeladen.

Prälat Dr. Peter Klasvogt *Prof. Dr. Dr. Bernhard Nitsche*
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Twin-Conference I

Sunday, 26.06.2016

17:00 Lecturer meet-and-greet

18:00 Dinner

I. Opening

19:00 *Marcus Schmücker*: Welcome to the conference: Concerns in dialogue and research interests

19:30 *Bernhard Nitsche*: Anthropological approaches to transcendence: Awareness for divine transcendence and its different modes of presence

20:00 *Joseph O'Leary*: The tetralemma and the difference between impersonal or personal

21:00 Discussion

21:30 Open meeting

Monday, 27.06.2016

08:00 Breakfast

II. All-Unity

09:00 *Daniel Rumel*: Moderation

09:10 *Michael von Brück*: Oneness in Buddhist Traditions?

09:50 Requests

10:05 *Klaus-Dieter Mathes*: *Pratītyasamutpāda* and the problem of continuity: Does the concept lead to an idea of All-unity?

10:45 Requests

11:00 Coffee Break

11:20 *Jörg Plassen*: »All-unity« – a possibility in Mahāyāna thought? Some musings based on early Huayan/Hwaŏm literature from Tang and Silla

12:00 Requests

12:15 Fish bowl discussion in plenary

13:00 Lunch

III. Can Mahāyāna-Tradition speak of a great, divine transcendence?

14:30 *Marcus Schmücker*: Moderation

14:40 *Jowita Kramer*: The relation between the constituents of the person and true reality according to Yogācāra sources

15:20 Requests

15:30 Coffee & Cake

15:50 *Florian Baab*: Transcendence in difference to creation as a Christian essential

16:15 *Hermann-Josef Röllicke*: Considerations on the inappropriateness of the »transcendence« paradigm to the hermeneutics of Buddhist scriptures

16:45 Requests

17:00 *Dennis Hirota*: Who is Amida? Where is the Pure Land? On the Locus of Transcendence in the Thought of Shinran

17:40 Requests

17:50 *Robert Gimello*: *Dharmakāya* and *Dharmatā*, Deus and Deitas: Reluctant Intimations of Divine Presence in the Religion of Emptiness

18:00 Requests

18:45 Panel-Discussion

19:45 Buddhist recitation

20:15 Chinese-Japanese-Bufferet

Tuesday, 28.06.2016

08:00 Breakfast

IV. Personal or impersonal ultimate?

09:00 *Jörg Plassen*: Moderation

09:10 *Klaus von Stosch*: Opening question: Personhood as a Christian essential

09:30 *Dorji Wangchuk*: The One-Truth/Reality (*ekam satyam: bden pa gcig*) Concept in Indo-Tibetan Buddhism

10:10 Requests

10:20 Coffee Break

- 10:40 *James Fredericks: The working of grace: De Lubac and his critics in dialogue with Pure Land Buddhism*
- 11:20 Requests
- 11:35 *Noel Sheth: Effort and Grace in Relationship with the Transcendent in Buddhism*
- 12:05 Requests
- 12:20 Panel-discussion in plenary, starting with a statement from *Perry Schmidt-Leukel: Overview, fruitful insights, remaining conflicts, further challenges*
- 13:10 *Marcus Schmücker, Bernhard Nitsche: Thanks and leave-taking*
- 13:15 Lunch / End of Twin-Conference I

June 29, 9:00: Culture and Seightseeing Cologne-Aachen

June 29, 9:00: Culture and Seightseeing Paderborn with a colloquium on Comparative Theology

June 30, 9:00 Uhr-16:00: Culture and Seightseeing Münster

Tagungsleitung:

Prof. Dr. Dr. Bernhard Nitsche, Universität Münster
Dr. Marcus Schmücker, IKGA, Wien
Dr. Ulrich Dickmann, Katholische Akademie Schwerte

Tagungssekretariat für diese Tagung:

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Mo-Do, 08:00-12:00 Uhr; Fr, 08:00-11:30 Uhr

TG.-NR.: U05SCRR011

Ihre Anmeldung erbitten wir auf elektronischem Wege unter
www.akademie-schwerte.de (»Programm«).

Anmeldeschluss: 16. Mai 2016

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Teilleistungen, die nicht in Anspruch genommen werden, können nicht abgezogen werden, weil die Berechnungen auf einer Pauschalkalkulation beruhen.

Ausfallkosten:

- bei Rücktritt bis zum 16.05.2016: keine
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Stornierungen sind ausschließlich an das zuständige Tagungssekretariat zu richten und bedürfen der Schriftform.

Zahlungsweise:

Die Begleichung des Teilnahmebeitrags erfolgt durch Lastschriftverfahren. Der Beitrag wird erst nach Tagungsbeginn eingezogen.

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Kooperationspartner und Förderer:



INTERNATIONAL TWIN-CONFERENCE I

God or the Divine

Religious Transcendence beyond Monism and Theism,
between Personality and Impersonality

June 26-28, 2016

In cooperation with

*Seminar für Fundamentaltheologie und Religionsphilosophie,
Katholisch Theologische Fakultät, Universität Münster
and
Institut für Kultur- und Geistesgeschichte Asiens (IKGA),
Österreichische Akademie der Wissenschaften*

