



International Conference

EUROPE AND ISLAM

Olomouc, Czech Republic
3rd and 4th of March 2015

Organiser

Institute for intercultural, interreligious
and ecumenical research and dialog

Sts Cyril and Methodius Faculty of Theology
Palacký University in Olomouc



Conference venues

3rd of March

*Corpus Christi Chapel, in Arts Centre of Palacký University,
former Jesuit College, Univerzitní Street 3*

4th of March

Centrum Aletti, Křížkovského Street 2

Guarantor of the project and conference:

Prof. **Pavel Ambros**, Th.D. (pavel.ambros@upol.cz)

Coordination of the conference:

Jaroslav Franc, Th.D. (jaroslav.franc@upol.cz)

Manager of the conference:

Robert Svatoň, Th.D. (robert.svaton@upol.cz)

Patronage over the conference:

The Most Reverend **Jan Bosco Graubner**, archbishop of Olomouc
Prof. **Jaroslav Miller**, rector of Palacký University in Olomouc

Conference program

3rd of March

Opening the Conference

9:00

Prof. Pavel Ambros, S.J., Director of the Institute for intercultural, interreligious and ecumenical research and dialog

Mons. Jan Bosco Graubner, Archbishop of Olomouc, Great Chancellor of Sts Cyril and Methodius Faculty of Theology

Prof. Peter Tavel, O.P., Dean of the Sts Cyril and Methodius Faculty of Theology

Plenary session I

9:30

Prof. Luboš Kropáček, Charles University: *Muslims in Czechia, a heterogeneous minority in a deeply secularized society*

Dr. Michaela Moravčíková, Institute for Legal Aspects of Religious Freedom, Slovakia: *Religiosity in Contemporary Slovakia and Challenges of Islam*

Café break

Prof. Stanisław Grodź, SVD, John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin: *Muslim presence in Poland - a marginal issue in contemporary Europe?*

Prof. Francesco Zannini, Pontifical Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies: *Islam in Italy: a galaxy of Muslim presence*

Prof. Laurent Basanese, S.J., Pontifical Gregorian University, Italy: *The Question of "True Islam": Europe faces Salafism*

Plenary session II

14:00

Special guest: Cornelis Hulsman, Centre for Intercultural Dialogue and Translation, Egypt: *Interfaith relationship in Egypt misunderstood by European media and activists*

Prof. **Damian Howard**, S.J., Heythrop College of London University, England: *Islam in England: a survey of communities, issues and engagement with Christians*

Prof. **Nico Landman**, Leiden University, The Netherlands: *Islam in the Netherlands: religious communities in a changing secular environment*

Café break

Prof. **Bert Broeckaert**, Catholic University in Leuven, Belgium: *European Muslims and End of Life Ethics: A Belgian Perspective*

Dr. **Timo Aytac Güzelmansur**, Centre for Encounter and Documentation of Christian-Muslim relations, Germany: *Muslimische Präsenz in Deutschland und Antwort der katholischen Kirche – eine Zusammenstellung*

Closing the plenary sessions

18:00

4th of March

Panel discussion

Christian roots of Europe and challenges for 21st century

9:30

Key note speaker: Mons. **Michael Weninger**, Pontifical council for interreligious dialogue, Vatican: *To remain Muslim and become a European: A specific challenge for interreligious dialogue*

“Contemporary Europe is a continent deeply rooted and largely developed by Christianity. When talking about Islam, this term must be used carefully, because Islam as such does not exist. We are dealing with a wide range of Islamic traditions, with Islam of Sunni, Shi’a, Wahhabi, and Salafi traditions and so on. And all Islamic schools and concepts that exist are also present in Europe.”

Closing remarks

11:45

Prof. **Pavel Ambros**, SJ, Director of the Institute for intercultural, interreligious and ecumenical research and dialog

List of the participants

Doc. Laurent Basanese, SJ

Pontifical Gregorian University, Italy

Laurent Basanese, Jesuit priest, teaches Arabic Christian theology and Islamology at the Pontifical Gregorian University (Rome). He specialises in fundamentalist Muslim thought and collaborated with the Jesuit Refugee Service in Syria in 2011. Amongst his publications are the following, in French *Ibn Taymiyya- Réponse raisonnable aux chrétiens?*, Damas- Beirut, Institut Français du Proche Orient, 2012, and in Italian “Le correnti salafite dell’islàm”, *Civiltà Cattolica*, n.3899, 01/12/2012, p.425-438. He also teaches at the Pontifical Oriental Institute (Rome) and at the Jesuit Faculty in Paris (Centre Sèvres).

Prof. Bert Broeckaert

Catholic University in Leuven, Belgium

Bert Broeckaert is a specialist in comparative religion and ethics and teaches comparative religion at the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies, KU Leuven. He is a member of the Research Unit of Theological and Comparative Ethics and of the Interdisciplinary Centre for the Study of Religion and Worldview (of which he was the first director from 2001 to 2008). In recent years his research focuses on the way world religions deal with death and dying and more particularly on the way they influence treatment decisions near the end of life.

Dr. Stanisław Grodź, SVD

John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Poland

An assistant professor at the Chair of the Study of Religion, Department of the Study of Religion and Missiology, John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Poland. He concentrates on issues of interreligious contacts between adherents of various religions in Africa, especially in West Africa with a focus on Ghana. He is interested in the history and contemporary situation of contacts between Christians and Muslims.

Dr. Timo Aytaç Güzelmansur

Centre for Encounter and Documentation of Christian-Muslim relations, German Bishops' Conference, Germany

Born in Antakya, in Turkey, he studied catholic theology in Germany, Augsburg, and in Rome at the Pontifical Gregorian University. He received a doctorate from the Hochschule Sankt Georgen of Frankfurt. Since 2012 he is managing director of the Working group of the German Bishops' Conferenceton, Centre for Encounter and Documentation of Christian-Muslim relations (CIBEDO). He is married, has two children.

Prof. Damian Howard, SJ

Heythrop College of London University, England

He is an English Jesuit priest, lecturer at Heythrop College, and Vice-Director of the Bellarmine Institute. He gained his doctorate in contemporary Islamic thought from the University of Birmingham. Beside the academic work he has served in a variety of Jesuit pastoral works. He is superior of a Jesuit house of formation in Wapping and a member of the Hurtado Jesuit Centre. His main interest is in the complex and multi-disciplinary study of relations between Christians and Muslims. And he is involved in a number of dialogue initiatives at both national and international levels, including work on behalf of the Holy See.

Cornelis Hulsman

Centre for Intercultural Dialogue and Translation, Egypt

He is a director of the Centre for Intercultural Dialogue and Translation, co-founder and editor in chief of Arab-West Report, and co-founder of the Center for Arab-West Understanding. He studied development sociology at the University of Leiden, specializing in Eastern Christianity, Islam and development. He has a permanent resident in Egypt since 1994. In his professional work it is important to him to use one standard in dealing with people of all religions and convictions. He has been reporting for Western media including Protestant, Catholic as well as Islamic.

Prof. Luboš Kropáček

Charles University Prague, Czech Republic

He is Czech orientalist and leading scholar in Arabic studies. He studied Arabic language and English language at Faculty of philosophy, Charles University in Prague. In 1968 was a member of the Lambaréné expedition. Field of his research is wide and among them are culture of the Arabic countries, contemporary Islamic thought in Europe, and also the relationship between Christianity and Islam. He is professor at Hussite Theological Faculty, Charles University in Prague.

Prof. Nico Landman

Leiden University, The Netherlands

Nico Landman is an associate professor in Islamic Studies at Utrecht University, Faculty of Humanities, Department of Theology. He is director of education in the school of Theology which offers BA and MA-programs in Theology, Religious Studies, Arabic Language and Culture, and Islamic Studies. He did research on the institutionalization of Islam in Europe. He participates in the European network Eurislam. A recently finished project in which he participated concerned Diyanet, the Turkish Directorate for

Religious Affairs. Two current research focuses are the transnational Turkish-islamic field, and the genre of the “Stories of the prophets (Qisas al-Anbiya’) in the European context.

Dr. Michaela Moravčíková

Institute for Legal Aspects of Religious Freedom, Trnava University in Trnava, Slovakia

She is director of the Institute for Legal Aspects of Religious Freedom, Slovakia. She gained her doctorate in pastoral theology from the Palacky University in Olomouc. Thesis was focused on the multicultural situation in the society and role of Christianity.

Mons. Michael Weninger

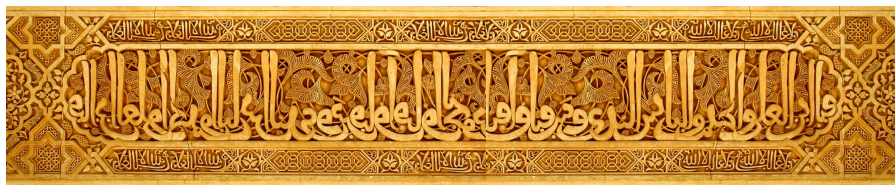
Pontifical council for interreligious dialogue, Vatican

Mons. Michael Heinrich Weninger, former Austrian diplomat and nowadays Roman Catholic priest in the Roman Curia. He studied Catholic theology and philosophy at the universities of Innsbruck and Vienna, and Diplomatic Academy of Vienna. After diplomatic carrier he was ordained to the priesthood by Cardinal Christoph Schönborn in 2011. Pope Benedict XVI. appointed him in 2012 a member of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue. He is responsible for dialogue with Islam in Europe, Central Asia and Central and South America.

Prof. Francesco Zannini

Pontifical Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, Italy:

He is professor of Contemporary Islam and Islamic Law at the Pontifical Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies in Rome. He is Former Member of the Scientific Committee of the Italian Ministry of Home, was also Professor of Islamic Studies at National Major Seminary in Dhaka, Bangladesh, American University in Cairo and Yale University. He is author of numerous paper on the history of Islam and interfaith dialogue.



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