



THE
LUTHERAN
WORLD
FEDERATION

A Communion
of Churches



EVANGELISCHE
AKADEMIE
ZU BERLIN



Churches as Agents for Justice and against Populism

Public Theology in Global Intercontextual
Dialogue

May 2nd – May 4th, 2018

Dietrich-Bonhoeffer-Haus, Berlin

Brot
für die Welt

Church of Sweden 
member of
actalliance

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 conference is jointly organized by
The Lutheran World Federation,
Bread for the World,
the Church of Sweden
and the Evangelische Akademie zu Berlin.

The Berlin Institute of Public Theology
is a local academic partner of the conference.

Program

Wednesday, May 2nd

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 –

Public Evening Panel

20:00

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)

Thursday, May 3rd

Theological conference (continued)

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 4nd

- 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 – **The responsibility of the church(es) in the face**
15.30 **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
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Weitere Informationen unter www.eaberlin.de oder rufen Sie uns an: (030) 20 355 – 0.

Churches as Agents for Justice and against Populism

conference steering committee

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Rev. Prof. Dr Dietrich Werner

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conference venue and accommodation

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Allgemeine Geschäftsbedingungen (AGB) unter <http://www.eaberlin.de/service/agb>

There will be photographic and/or sound recording during parts of this event. With your participation you agree that pictures and sound material may be used for documentation purposes of the event both online and offline.

We print our flyers carbon neutrally with vegetable oil based inks on recycled paper.

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.

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/agnb. 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.