PADERBORN UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITÄT BONN

Comparative Theology & Social Work

International Meeting on Comparative Theology

September 16 | 17

Paderborn University

ZeKK
Center for Comparative Theology and Cultural Studies

PIIT
PADERBORN INSTITUTE OF ISLAMIC THEOLOGY

CTSI

ACADEMIA · PADERBORNENSIS · 1614

THEOLOGISCHE FAKULTÄT PADERBORN

With funding from the:

Federal Ministry of Research, Technology and Space

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Akademie für Islam in Wissenschaft und Gesellschaft

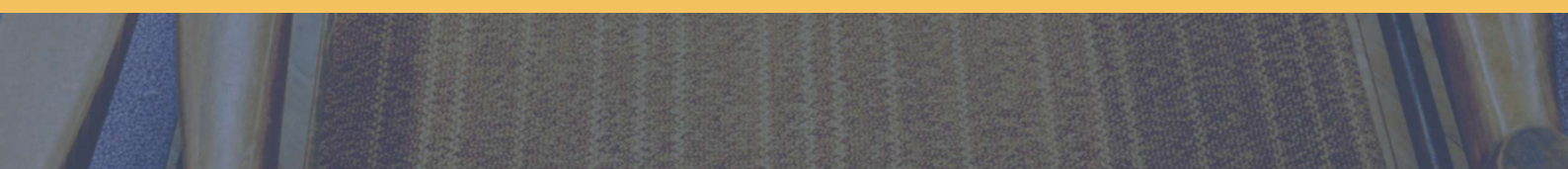
GOETHE UNIVERSITÄT FRANKFURT AM MAIN

Comparative Theology & Social Work

International Meeting on Comparative Theology 2025

Paderborn University, September 16 & 17

Conference venue: O-Building, Rooms: O 2, O 1.252 & O 1.258



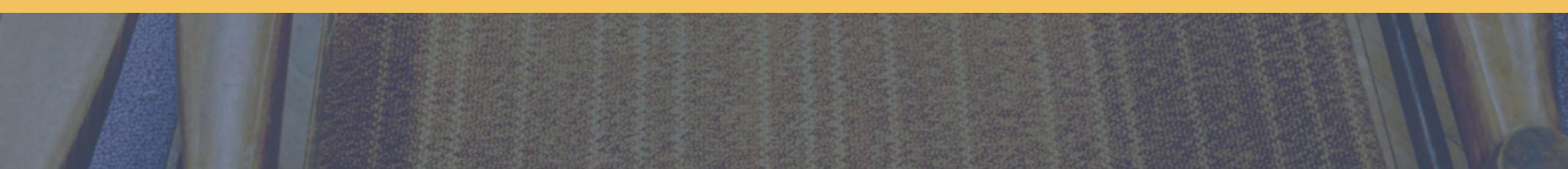
About the International Meeting on Comparative Theology (IMoC)

The IMoC is an annual conference aimed at connecting PhD students and young researchers working in the field of Comparative Theology. Since 2016, it provides an interdisciplinary space for the exchange of ideas between researchers in theologies and other disciplines. It is convened by the Center for Comparative Theology and Cultural Studies (ZeKK) at Paderborn University and the Center for Comparative Theology and Social Issues (CTSI) at the University of Bonn in a joint venture with the Faculty of Theology in Paderborn (THF) and this year also with the Paderborn Institute for Islamic Theology (PIIT).

The conference is part of the 'Islamic Theological Colloquia' format of the Academy for Islam in Research and Society (AIWG) at Goethe University Frankfurt.

Annual Theme: Comparative Theology and Social Work

Our upcoming IMoC Conference explores the intersection of religion, social work, social justice, and social inequality, fostering interdisciplinary dialogue among scholars. Social workers and educators support individuals in existential crises from a bio-psycho-social perspective, often engaging with religious dimensions through pastoral care, spiritual care, and theology. Their work extends to community organizing, education, and creating inclusive spaces, contributing to social justice and welfare. They play a crucial role in interfaith collaboration, conflict mediation, and fostering cultural sensitivity. Additionally, comparative theology promotes interfaith dialogue by addressing societal challenges and enhancing peaceful coexistence.



This year's speakers

Fatma Aydınlı (Erlangen-Nürnberg)
Gülbahar Erdem (Paderborn)
Tarik Eroğlu (Paderborn)
Hend Grine (Bonn)
Abdullah Günel (Amsterdam)
Sarah Lebock (Paderborn)
Serkan Mustafa Özaltan (Münster)
Consuelo Panichi (Rome)
Samuel Ramapuram (Frankfurt)
Ihtsham Ravi (Utrecht)
Marie Luise Schlierkamp (Paderborn)

Contact Us

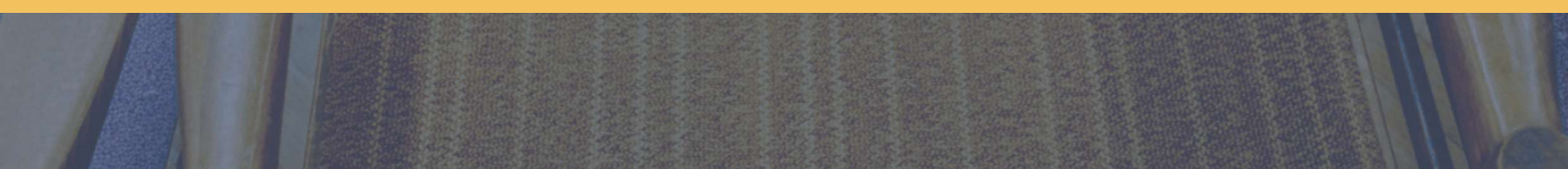
We look forward to seeing you! If you have any questions, please contact us.

Guests who are not part of the program are very welcome. If you are interested in attending our conference as a guest, please register with us so that we can arrange the catering.

Please register by the first of September by sending an email to Tarik Eroğlu (imoc2025@kw.uni-paderborn.de).

Conference organizers:

Sarah Lebock (ZeKK, Paderborn University)
Gülbahar Erdem (PIIT, Paderborn University)
Tarik Eroğlu (PIIT, Paderborn University)

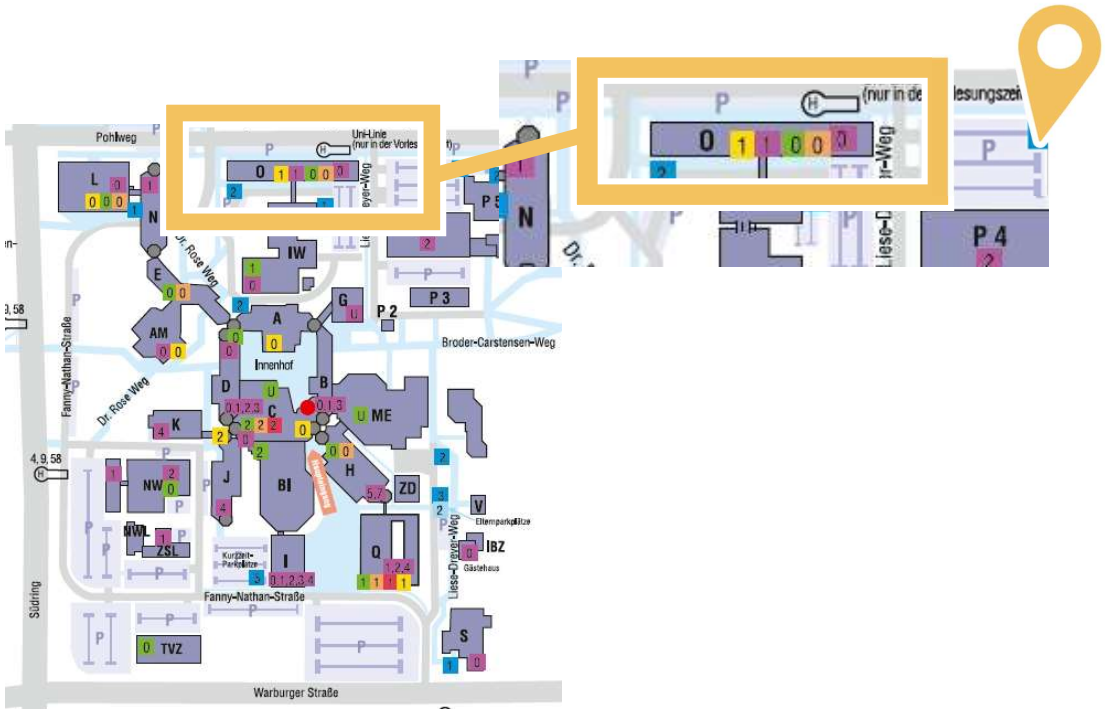


Further information about your stay in Paderborn

Getting to the university:

Paderborn University
Pohlweg 51, O-Building
D-33098 Paderborn

The lectures take place in the O-building in rooms O 2/ O 1.252/ O 1.258.



Campus map of Paderborn University

From Paderborn main station you can reach the university (destination stop is "Uni/Südring") within a few minutes. To find a bus to the university, please use this page of Padersprinter.

For visitors owning the „Deutschland-Ticket“, we recommend avoiding the IC/E, as you can also get to Paderborn for free - choose a connection with the REs.

Refreshments

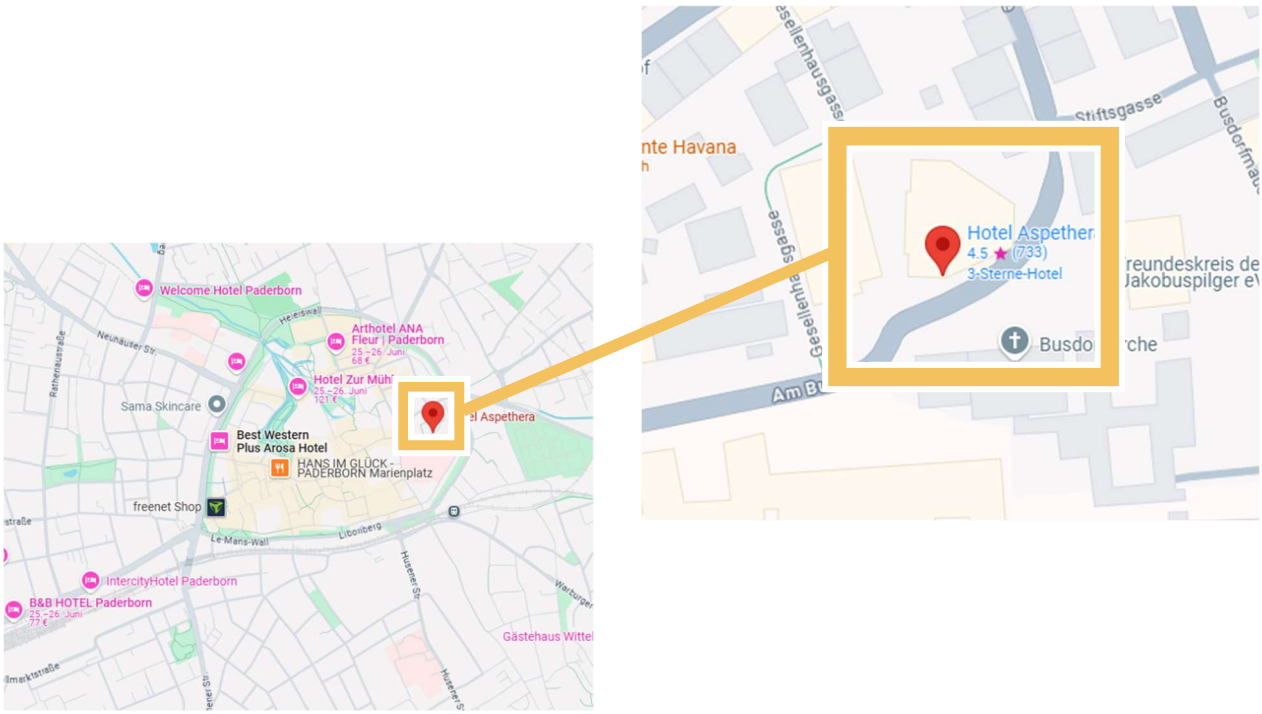
For refreshments during the lunch break, there are various university canteens (main canteen: Mensa Academica) and the gastronomic offer of the Südring Center, which is within walking distance.

Participation in the dinner is optional. If you would like to attend the conference as a guest and join us for dinner, please let us know soon enough.

Accommodation

A hotel room has been booked for all speakers and moderators at the Hotel Aspethera from September 16-17.

Hotel Aspethera, Am Busdorf 7, 33098 Paderborn
Contact: +49 5251 / 28 88 100, info@hotel-aspethera.de



IMoC Conference Schedule

Tuesday, September 16

10:30-11:00 am

Arrival - Time for Coffee & Getting to Know each other

11:00-11:15 am

Conference Introduction

1st Panel: Comparative Theology and Social Work?!

Moderation: Kemal Kikanovic (Bonn)

11:15 am - 12:00 pm

Hend Grine (Bonn): Hermeneutics of Hospitality: Ricoeur, Moyaert, and the Ethics of Interreligious Social Work

12:00-12:45 pm

Ihtsham Ravi (Utrecht): Comparative Theology: A Western Response to Religious Diversity

12:45-14:15 pm

Lunch (Mensa, optional) & Conference Photography at the Entrance of the O-Building (14.00 pm)

2nd Panel: (Comparative-)Theological Key Concepts and Social Work

Moderation: Laura Hennecke (Paderborn)

14:15-15:00 pm

Tarik Eroğlu (Paderborn): Responsibility in Islamic Theology and Social Work Practice: Comparative Perspectives

15:00-15:45 pm

Gülbahar Erdem (Paderborn): Homo Socialis: Anthropological and Theological Foundations of the Islamic Concept of the Social Nature of Human Beings and their Implications for a Muslim Chaplaincy

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15:45-16:15 pm

Coffee Break

16:15-17:00 pm

Consuelo Panichi (Rome): The Concepts of Peace and Church as Universal Sacrament of Salvation: Pathways for Islamic-Cristian Dialogue – The Path Outlined from the Second Vatican Council to the Magisterium of Pope Francis

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17:00-17:15 pm

Short Break

Moderation: Sarah Lebock

17:15-18:30 pm

Keynote: Serkan Özaltan (Münster): Islam and Social Work in a Pluralistic Society – Welfare- and Social Care Needs in Practice

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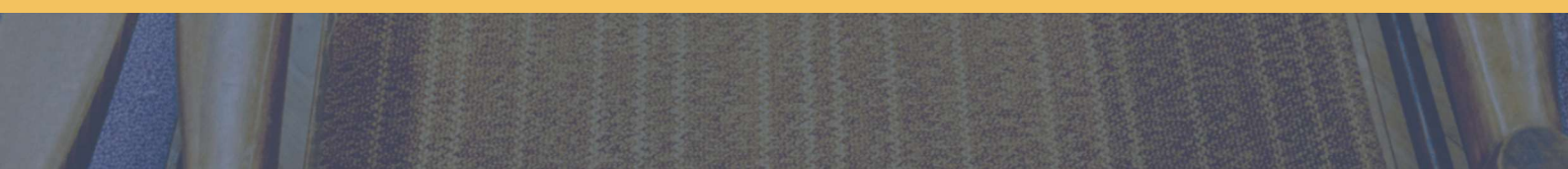
19:15 pm Dinner (optional):

Restaurant “Hans im Glück” (Marienplatz 18, 33098 Paderborn



Wednesday, September 17

3rd Panel: (Comparative) Theology, Pastoral Care & Psychosocial Support

Moderation: Ahmed Husic

9:15-10:00 am

Sarah Lebock (Paderborn): (Inter-)Religious Impulses in Psychosocial Counseling – Opportunities and Challenges

10:00-10:45 am

Fatma Aydınlı (Erlangen-Nürnberg): Suicidal Behavior in Adolescents: Challenges of Culturally Sensitive Health Care and Psychosocial Interventions in Practice. The Role of Muslim Chaplains and Social Workers in Acute Crisis

10:45-11:15 am

Coffee Break

11:15 am -12:00 pm

Abdullah Günel (Amsterdam): Islamic Military Chaplaincy in the German Armed Forces: Interreligious, Social and Pastoral Perspectives on an Innovative Model of Religious Integration

12:00-13:30 pm

Lunch (get-together with Pizza)

4th Panel: Comparative Studies on Social Spaces

Moderation: Leo Banowski

13:30-14:15 pm

Samuel Ramapuram (Frankfurt): A Comparative Theological Dialogue on Interreligious Discussion and Social Inclusion via Cuisine in India

14:15-15:00 pm

Marie Luise Schlierkamp (Paderborn): What Role Does Denominational-Cooperative Religious Education Play in Connecting Comparative Religions and Social Work?

15:00-15:15 pm

Short Coffee Break

15:15-16:00 pm

Final Discussion

Moderation: Sarah Lebock, Gülbahar Erdem, Tarik Eroğlu