

KULTURSTIFTUNG
DES
BUNDES

12 – 14 JUNE 2015
COLOGNE

TRIAL OF FAITH

ON RELIGION AND GROWTH

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Addressing the relationship between religion and growth is equivalent to asking society the notorious “Gretchen Question”: How does it feel about religion after the narratives of secularisation have been exhausted? And how about growth when the economy becomes the focus of a critique of faith?

“Growth-thinking” – the beliefs and prospects of continuous accumulation of knowledge, capital or technical advances – has always been closely tied to religious motives, concepts and convictions. However, the growth-religion connection is far more intertwined and extensive than most people realise. In fact, the three monotheistic religions, Judaism, Islam and Christianity, have played a decisive role in shaping Western economic systems and their images of growth. It is no coincidence that marketplaces are located next to churches, mosques and synagogues, or words like debt and obligation, tribute and service, redemption and testament are rooted in both the economic and religious world, or that both God and money rely on credence and trust. And such relationships are typical of each of the three monotheistic religions in their respective way. At the same time, Judaism, Islam and Christianity are closely interwoven, both historically and theologically, and this is how they exert their formative influence on society, also in terms of growth-thinking.

What role do religions play in our modern, consumption-, growth- and competition-based societies? Do they inhibit or promote thinking and action with regard to growth parameters? Has our present-day belief in growth arisen from a religious foundation? Could religions be the mental drivers of global economic and democratic crises? Or could they rather serve as a means to overcome them? Could religious-cultural practices help us find a “third way” which surmounts the dilemmas facing growth-based society?

These are the central questions of the conference. It regards religion not as the residuum of irrational thought, not as contrary to knowledge, nothing in fact that could or should be surmounted by enlightenment. Rather it sees religion as a vibrant mode of experience, as cultural heritage, which continues to influence our lives today and has the power to shape the future. In the same way, the conference doesn't equate growth-thinking and economy as mere manifestations of power structures or invisible hands mysteriously controlling events. Religions and economic growth-thinking are both rooted in hopes, promises and visions of a better tomorrow. Is this perhaps where we might find an explanation for their close relationship? Or rather might this be the place where religion and economy decisively diverge?

The conference points to the heart of various lines of discourse which are already being conducted with increasing intensity. In the Western world, religion has gained greater public attention in recent years, either in debates on post-secular society or in connection to the spread of fundamentalist and terroristic religious currents. And ever since the financial crisis of 2008, if not earlier, economics and growth-thinking have become the focus of a new form of deliberation. What wishes or fears are encouraging the current wave of criticism regarding growth and capitalism? What is making us so painfully aware of the sweeping loss of utopias, of the dreams of a social future? And what is the significance of religions in all of this?

PROGRAMME

FRIDAY, 12 JUNE

12 – 5 pm, Schauspiel Köln at the DEPOT (Mülheim)

CAMPUS

7 pm, auditorium

OPENING THE DIVINE ECONOMY

Welcome by **Hortensia Völckers** (German Federal Cultural Foundation) and **Dirk Pilsz** (curator)

Keynote presentation by **Tomáš Sedláček**

Followed by a **reception**

SATURDAY, 13 JUNE

10 am, auditorium

GROWTH AND PROSPERITY

Presentations by **Marcia Pally** and **Philip Roscoe** with follow-up **discussion** with **Clemens Sedmak**

Moderator: **Wolfram Eilenberger**

11:30 am, cinema

POLITICS OR RELIGION?

Podium discussion with **Edna Brocke**, **Ahmet Cavuldak** and **Philipp Stoellger**

Moderator: **Hermann Breulmann**

2:30 pm, auditorium

THE TIMES OF THE FUTURE

Presentation by **Saskia Wendel** with follow-up **discussion** with **Milad Karimi**

Moderator: **Wolfram Eilenberger**

4:30 pm, auditorium

IS RELIGION UNDER PRESSURE TO REFORM?

Podium discussion with **Petra Bahr**, **Volker Gerhardt** and **Hamideh Mohagheghi**

4:30 pm, cinema

GROWTH: ACCELERATE OR DECELERATE?

Presentations by **Armen Avanessian** and **Niko Paech** with follow-up **discussion**

Moderator: **Jacqueline Boysen**

7:30 pm, auditorium

MONETARY POLICY

Discussion with **Hans Christoph Binswanger** and **Josef Ackermann**

Moderator: **Christoph Fleischmann**

9 pm, auditorium

WINDZÜGE

Reading by **Christian Lehnert** with follow-up **discussion** with **Sebastian Kleinschmidt**

WORKSHOPS

10 am – 11:45 am

WHAT DOES BUSINESS BELIEVE IN?

With **Christoph Fleischmann**

12 pm – 1:45 pm

HOW DOES DIALOGUE BETWEEN RELIGIONS WORK?

With **Roland Stolte**

2:30 pm – 3:45 pm

WHAT IS GROWTH?

With **Christian Felber**

SUNDAY, 14 JUNE

10 am, auditorium, ground floor

DEBT, GUILT AND RESPONSIBILITY

Presentations by **Thomas Macho** and **Klaus von Stosch** with follow-up **discussion** with **Birger P. Priddat**

Moderator: **Stephan Schaede**

12:30 pm, auditorium, ground floor

WHY CRITICISE GROWTH?

Podium discussion with **Thomas Baltrock**, **Martin Kämpchen**, **Reiner Klingholz** and **Peter Seele**

Moderator: **Frank Meyer**

12:30 pm, cinema, ground floor

WHY ARE BUSINESS ETHICS NECESSARY?

Podium discussion with **Elisa Klapheck**, **Michael Bongardt** and **Hans Diefenbacher**

Moderator: **Jacqueline Boysen**

3 pm, auditorium, ground floor

DOING BUSINESS WITH RELIGION

Podium discussion with **Zaid el-Mogaddedi**, **Ulrich Lilie** and **Hans-Peter Klös**

Moderator: **Daniel Deckers**

4:30 pm, auditorium, ground floor

WHAT IS ENLIGHTENMENT AND WHAT DO WE HOPE TO ACHIEVE WITH IT?

Discussion with **Hans Joas** and **Jochen Hörisch**

Moderator: **Joachim Hake**

WORKSHOPS

10 am – 11:45 am

WHAT DO CHRISTIANS BELIEVE?

With **Christine Büchner**

12 pm – 1:45 pm

WHAT DO JEWS BELIEVE?

With **Anat Feinberg**

2:30 pm – 3:45 pm

WHAT DO MUSLIMS BELIEVE?

With **Hureyre Kam**

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AN EVENT BY THE GERMAN FEDERAL CULTURAL FOUNDATION

Concept & Coordinator: Dirk Pilz

Idea: Friederike Tappe-Hornbostel

Responsible for the Campus / Research associate: Alexander Klose

Tickets

Day ticket: 8 euros, festival ticket: 12 euros, students: free

To register for workshops or reserve tickets, please visit:

www.ihraberglaubet.de