International Conference on Religion(s) @ School

WELCOMING WORDS
Ednan Aslan - Department of Islamic-Theological Studies, University of Vienna
Heinz Fassmann - Former Minister of Education

Keynote I Almeda M. Wright
Yale University-Divinity School
Children, Youth, and Spirituality in a Troubling World

Keynote II Lauren R. Kerby
Harvard University-Divinity School
Habits of the Mind, Values of the Heart: Religious Literacy and the Pursuit of Pluralism in Schools

Participants
Ayman Agbaria - Syed Magfur Ahmad - Sami Adwan - Muhammed Ali - Leila Almazova
Dzintra Ilisko - Tarequl Islam - Wisam Kh. Abdul-Jabbar - Seyfi Kenan - Lauren Kerby
Zekirija Sejdin - Henrik Simojoki - Mehmet Tuna - Wolfgang Weiser - Zsofia Windisch
Almeda Wright - Senol Yagdi - Ali Yaman

https://ras.univie.ac.at/
ras.iits@univie.ac.at
International Conference Religion(s) at School
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NOVEMBER 15-17, 2019
- Aula am Campus Spitalgasse 2, Hof 1, 1090 Wien
- Aula am Campus Spitalgasse 2, Hof 1
- HSI am Institut für Orientalistik, Hof 4.1, 1090 Wien
- Aula am Campus Spitalgasse 2, Hof 1

15.11.2019 (17:00-20:00)
16.11.2019 (9:00-18:30)
17.11.2019 (9:00-15:00)
CONFERENCE ON RELIGION(S) AT SCHOOL

School is not only a place of learning for children, but also a space where they encounter new cultural, religious and other worldviews. Regardless of family and social background, children cannot avoid this diversity. It challenges them to acquire competences for reflecting on and processing this plurality. This is not simply a task for religious education, but rather a private or public school educational task aimed at enabling children and adolescents to deal with plurality.

In this process, religious education has the particular task of introducing children to religious and cultural diversity and challenging them to form their own opinions. Cognitive, psychological and ideological factors play an important role in this process. By integrating such factors, teachers can guide pupils out of a passive observer-consumer attitude and into the role of an active learner-participant, thus transforming plurality into an educational paradigm. This process encompasses enabling pupils to realize that plurality is not simply a given, but rather an adaptable and integral feature of their individuality that challenges them to make decisions by critically reflecting on themselves and society and to formulate justifications for those decisions.

It is also possible that students will continue to make new decisions along the way. To look at the world again and again from different perspectives should also be considered a human quality and a sign of maturity, because without these competences plurality would remain a buzzword, an empty pronouncement to which no action corresponds. Plurality requires capacities for dealing with and processing it, otherwise it ultimately results in relativism, or passivity, and extremism.

The question raised at the outset as to how an individual and a dynamic religious identity can emerge must therefore be answered in such a way that a healthy and balanced identity emerges only after serious examination of one’s own tradition, one’s own environment and oneself.

Religious education should offer an appropriate atmosphere in which pupils can learn to process not only concurring, like-minded and compatible, but also competing and divergent histories of religions and, on that basis, to seek, discover and pursue their own individual orientation.

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Friday, 15 November 2019
Location: Auditorium on Campus

16.00 Registration
Welcome coffee and Snacks

17.00 Opening Ceremony
Welcoming words: Ednan Aslan, Department of Islamic-Theological Studies, University of Vienna
Heinz Fassmann - Former Minister of Education

Keynote I - Almeda Wright
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Saturday, 16 November 2019

SESSION I - Theoretical Approaches to Islamic Education
Moderation: Arniika Kuusisto
Location: Aula am Campus
09.00-09.20 Challenges to Teaching Islamic Religion in the Modern World
Theological Seyfi Kenan, Turkey
09.20-09.40 Al-Kindi On Education: Interdisciplinary Theorizing and the Intercultural Minhaj
Wisam Kh. Abdul-Jabbar, Canada
09.40-10.00 The Importance of Women’s Education in Islamic Philosophy
Tarequl Islam, Turkey
10.00-10.10 Panel Discussion
10.10-10.30 Coffee Break

SESSION II - Religious Education in Post-Communist Societies
Moderation: Dzintra Iliško
Location: HSi am Institut für Orientalistik
09.00-09.20 How Kids Learn about Islam in Post-Soviet Tatarstan?
Leila Almazova, Tatarstan
09.20-09.40 Teaching Religion in Bulgarian Public Schools
Rositsa Atanasova, Bulgarien
09.40-10.00 The Challenge of Religious Education in Schools in Multi-Religious Societies: The Case of Albania
Genti Kruja, Albania
10.00-10.10 Panel Discussion
10.10-10.30 Coffee Break
<table>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>10.30-11.40</td>
<td><strong>SESSION III - Islamic Education in Non-Muslim Countries</strong></td>
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<td><em>Moderation: Rositsa Atanasova</em></td>
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| 10.30-10.50  | Islamic Education in Non-Muslim Countries - The Cases of England, the Netherlands, Russia, and Sweden  
|              | Holger Daun, Sweden                                                      |
| 10.50-11.10  | The Transformation of Islamic Education in Contemporary Germany          |
|              | Asilgül Aysel, Germany                                                   |
| 11.10-11.30  | The Legal Integration, Political Challenges and Future Prospects of Islamic Religious Education in Austria  
|              | Michael Ameen Kramer, Austria                                            |
| 11.30-11.40  | Panel Discussion                                                          |
| 11.40-12.00  | Coffee Break                                                             |
| 12.00-12.20  | **SESSION V - Pluralism as an Opening for Religious Instruction**        |
|              | *Moderation: Michael Ameen Kramer*                                       |
|              | *Location: Aula am Campus*                                               |
| 12.00-12.20  | Religious Education as a Location for Encountering Pluralism and Developing Identity  
|              | Areti Demosthenous, Cyprus                                               |
| 12.20-12.40  | **SESSION IV - Teachers’ Roles in Religious Education**                  |
|              | *Moderation: Martin Rothgangel*                                          |
|              | *Location: HSI am Institut für Orientalistik*                            |
| 12.20-12.40  | The Teacher Training Program in the German State of Hessen             |
|              | Yasar Sarikaya, Germany                                                  |
| 12.40-13.00  | Religious Sensitivity and Teacher Professionalism in Post-Migration Societies  
|              | Henrik Simojoki, Germany                                                 |
| 13.10-15.10  | **SESSION VII - Refugees and Religious Education**                      |
|              | *Moderation: Sabine Hermisson*                                           |
|              | *Location: Aula am Campus*                                               |
|              | A Contribution Toward Perpetuating Islamic Religious Education          |
|              | Senol Yagdi, Austria                                                     |
| 15.10-15.30  | Panel Discussion                                                          |
| 15.30-15.50  | **SESSION VI - Religious Encounters and Religious Education**           |
|              | *Moderation: Yasar Sarikaya*                                             |
|              | *Location: HSI am Institut für Orientalistik*                            |
| 15.30-15.50  | Adolescents’ Views on Religion(s) and the Absence of Religion            |
|              | Sabine Hermisson, Austria                                               |
| 15.50-16.10  | Religion and Education as Resources for Young Refugees. Results from an Empirical Mixed-Methods Study  
|              | Manfred L. Pirner, Germany                                               |
| 16.10-16.20  | Panel Discussion                                                          |
| 16.20-16.40  | Coffee Break                                                             |
|              | **SESSION VII - Refugees and Religious Education**                      |
|              | *Moderation: Sabine Hermisson*                                           |
|              | *Location: Aula am Campus*                                               |
| 15.10-15.30  | Religious Plurality in Schools: The Case of Schools with a Religious Character in England  
|              | Farid Panjwani, England                                                  |
| 15.30-15.50  | Multivocal Identity: The Religious Development of Children and Adolescents in a Plural Context  
|              | Ina ter Avest, Netherlands                                                |
| 15.50-16.10  | Socialisational Significance of Religion as a General Educational Resource and a Reference Horizon in Everyday Life  
|              | Nadire Mustafi, Switzerland                                              |
| 16.10-16.20  | "From the Wells" and The Story of Joseph (Yousef): A Jewish-Arab Educational Initiative: Theory and Practice  
|              | Ayman Agbaria, Israel                                                   |
| 16.20-16.40  | Spreading Antisemitism in Islamic Religious Education Programs? A Qualitative Content Analysis of the Austrian Public School IRE Curricula.  
|              | Sule Dursun, Austria                                                    |
SESSION IX - Muslim Minorities and Religious Education
Moderation: Farid Panjwani
Location: Aula am Campus
16.40-17.50

16.40-17.00  Being a Minority: Muslim Minorites and Religious Education
Denis Brylov, Ukraine

17.00-17.20  Religious Education that Develops Religious Competency for Dealing with Pluralism
Dzintra iliško, Latvia

17.20-17.40  Contents and Practices Regarding the “Religion of the Other” in Educating the Mixed (Christian/ Muslim) Society in Greek Thrace
Georgios Mavrommatis, Greece

17.40-17.50  Panel Discussion

18.30  Dinner

Sunday, 17 November 2019

SESSION X - Fundamentalism in Schools
Moderation: Ayman Agbaria
Location: Aula am Campus
09.00-10.10

09.00-09.20  Religious Fundamentalism as a Challenge for (Inter)Religious Education
Wolfgang Weirer, Austria

09.20-09.40  Growing up Radical? Supporting Pupils’ Worldview Construction in School
Arniika Kuusisto, Sweden

09.40-10.00  Can We Live Together? An Islamic Perspective
Abdulhakeem Yousuf Al-Khelaifi, Qatar

10.00-10.20  Religious Schools in Bangladesh: Does it Impress to be Extremist or Fundamentalist?
Abdullah Muhammad Zaved Rakib, Turkey

10.20-10.30  Panel Discussion

10.30-10.50  Coffee break

SESSION XI. Minorities in Public Schools
Moderation: Areti Demosthenous
10.50-12.00

10.50-11.10  Alevism Education in Contemporary Turkey
Ali Yaman, Turkey

11.10-11.30  The Fundamentals of Christian-Islamic Dialogue from an Islamic Point of View
Zekirija Sejdini, Austria

11.30-11.50  Religious Education in Palastine
Sami Adwan, Palastine

11.50-12.00  Panel Discussion

12.00-12.30  Coffee Break

Closing Session: The Future of Religious Education: A Short Review of the Conference
Moderation Lauren Kerby
12.30-13.00

Discussant
Farid Panjwani
Dzintra iliško
Arniika Kuusisto
Ayman Agbaria

Cultural Program
14.00