

The Biographical Location of Interreligious Processes in the Life and Works of Raimon Panikkar (1918–2010) - a Centenary Symposium

12.-13.6.2018

Paris-Lodron-University Salzburg

Tuesday, 12.6.2018, 13:00 – 18:00

Wednesday, 13.6.2018, 8:30 – 12:00

Faculty of Catholic-Theology, Universitätsplatz 1, 5020 Salzburg

HS 103 (Tue), HS 122 (Wed)

Center for Intercultural Theology and Study of Religions

FWF-Projekt "The Biographical Location of Interreligious Processes with the example of Bettina Bäumer"

Prof. DDr. Franz Gmainer-Pranzl, Prof. Dr. Ulrich Winkler, Dr. Christian Hackbarth-Johnson

Schedule

Tuesday, 12.6., Room 103

13.00 Registration

13:30 **Welcome addresses** by

Prof. Dr. Dr. Franz Gmainer-Pranzl, Director of the Center for Intercultural Theology and Study of Religions

Prof. Dr. Ulrich Winkler, Director of the FWF-Projekt „The Biographical Location of Interreligious Processes“.

13:50 **Introduction** by Dr. Christian Hackbarth-Johnson (FWF-Project "The Biographical Location of IR Processes"), Organizer

Presentations

14:00 **Dr. Maciej Bielawski** (Verona): On Writing a Biography on Raimon Panikkar

15:15 Break

15:45 **Prof. Dr. Bettina Bäumer** (Varanasi): Raimon Panikkar as a Spiritual Guide

16:45 **Prof. Dr. Michael von Brück** (Regensburg, Linz): Raimon Panikkar as Theological Mentor and Friend

17:30 – 18:00 Panel Discussion

19:00 Dinner at Restaurant Maharaja, Ignaz-Harrer-Str. 9 (reservation and invitation for presenters, walking distance)

Wednesday, 13.6. (Room 122)

8:30 **Dr. Renate Kern** (München, Duisburg): Raimon Panikkar and Karl Rahner – Spiritual Experience and Theology

9:30 **Prof. Dr. Joseph Prabhu** (Los Angeles): R. Panikkar – A Prophet for an Ecological Age

10:30-10:45 Break

10:45 **Adj. Prof. Dr. Jyri Komulainen** (Helsinki): Raimon Panikkar's Cosmotheandrisms as Catholicism for the Third Millennium?

11:45 – 12:15 Panel Discussion

12:30 Lunch at Restaurant Indian Palace, Franz-Josef-Kai 7, (reservation and invitation for presenters, walking distance).

We are grateful to our sponsors:

**Universität Salzburg, Erzdiözese Salzburg, Stadt Salzburg,
Land Salzburg.**

Presenters:

Bettina Bäumer, b. 1940 in Salzburg, studied Philosophy, Religion, Indology (Sanskrit), Theology and Music at the Universities of Salzburg, Wien, Zürich, Rome and Munich (Germany). Dr. phil. (Ph.D.) in Philosophy from the University of Munich, thesis on "Creation as Play: The Concept of Lila in Hinduism, its Philosophical and Theological Significance." Post-doctoral research in Indian philosophy and Sanskrit at Banaras Hindu University (1967–1971). Lecturer in German, Banaras Hindu University (1972–1974). Assistant and Lecturer in Sanskrit, Institute of Indology, University of Vienna (1975–1979). Research Director, Alice Boner Foundation for Research on Fundamental Principles in Indian Art, Varanasi (1979–2000). Member of the "Equipe de recherche" (research group) on Hinduism under the direction of Andre Padoux, at the CNRS, Paris (1982–1990). 1997 Habilitation at the Institute for the Study of Religions, University of Vienna. Research Fellow at Harvard, IAS Shimla. Visiting Professor at Vienna, Frankfurt, Bern, Salzburg, Shimla. Since 200.. Director of Samvidalaya: Abhinavagupta Research Library, Varanasi. Important Publications: *Upanishaden: Die heiligen Schriften Indiens meditieren* (1998). *Trika: Grundthemen des kaschmirischen Sivaismus* (2003, ed. by Ernst Fuerlinger); *Vijnana Bhairava: Das göttliche Bewusstsein. 112 Weisen der mystischen Erfahrung im Shivaismus von Kashmir* (2008); *Abhinavagupta's Hermeneutics of the Absolute: Anuttaraprakriya. An Interpretation of his Paratrisika Vivarana* (2011). Upcoming: *The Yoga of the Netra Tantra. 'Third Eye' and 'Overcoming Death'*.

Maciej Bielawski, b. 1963 in Bydgoszcz, Poland; theologian, writer and painter; PhD in 1997 at PUT (Rome); author of books on theology, spirituality and iconography; recently published: *Strannik. Spiritualità del Pellegrino russo* (Lemma Press 2017); *Canto di una biblioteca* (Lemma Press, 2016); *Panikkar. Una biografia* (Fragmenta Editorial, 2014) and *In principio. Racconti sull'origine del mondo* (Garzanti 2014); *La luce divina nel cuore. Introduzione alla Filocalia*, (Pazzini Editore, 2007); lives in Italy, teaching Slavic and Russian literature at the University of Verona.

Michael von Brück (b. 1949), theologian, received Dr. theol. degree from the University of Rostock with a dissertation on *Möglichkeiten und Grenzen einer Theologie der Religionen (Karl Barth und Rudolf Otto)*, Habilitation 1982 mit *Einheit der Wirklichkeit. Gott, Gotteserfahrung und Meditation im hinduistisch-christlichen Dialog* (1986). Verschiedene Forschungs- und Lehraufenthalte in Indien, USA, Japan, Tübingen. 1988-91 Prof. for Comparative Religion at the University of Regensburg, from 1991-2014 at the University of Munich. Guest Lecturer in multiple Universities in Europe, Asia and America. Presently Professor for Aesthetics of Religion at the Catholic University Linz. Important publications are: *Buddhismus und Christentum. Geschichte, Konfrontation, Dialog* (1997, with Whalen Lai), *Leben in der Kraft der Rituale. Religion und Spiritualität in Indien* (2011 with Regina von Brück). *Grundzüge einer modernen Anthropologie* (2012 with Günter Rager), *Weltinnenraum. Rainer Maria Rilkes Duineser Elegien in Resonanz mit dem Buddha* (2015).

Jyri Komulainen (b. 1968), theologian, received his PhD degree from the University of Helsinki in 2003. His dissertation was subsequently published as *An Emerging Cosmotheandric Religion? Raimon Panikkar's Pluralistic Theology of Religions* (Brill 2005). His publications include also numerous articles on the theology of religions, Hinduism, and Catholicism mainly in Finnish. Komulainen studied at the United Theological College in Bangalore in 1997 and at the Academy of Mission in Hamburg in 1998–99. He worked in various teaching and research positions at University of Helsinki until he started his current job in the Church Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland in 2010. He is an adjunct professor in the University of Helsinki and in the University of East Finland.

Renate Kern (b. 1971), educator, theologian, philosopher, received her DD degree from the University of Munich in 2006 with a dissertation on *Theologie aus Erfahrung des Geistes. Eine Untersuchung zur Pneumatologie Karl Rahners* (Innsbruck 2007). She is currently teaching at Faculty of Catholic Theology of the University of Duisburg-Essen while finishing a PhD dissertation on *Christophanie – Raimon Panikkar's Transformation der Christologie aus interkultureller und interreligiöser Perspektive* at the Hochschule für Philosophie SJ München. She published numerous articles incl. „Are the Catholics – catholic?“ (1952) and „Jesus Christ in global religious dialogue“ (2008) – A comparison of two essays by Raimon Panikkar as a preliminary approach to developments of his thinking. In: Joan Vergés Gifra (Hg.): *Raimon Panikkar – Intercultural and Interreligious Dialogue*. Girona 2017, 127-140.

Joseph Prabhu is Professor of Philosophy and Religion at California State University, Los Angeles (CSULA). He is both a scholar and a peace activist. He has edited *The Intercultural Challenge of Raimon Panikkar* (1996) and co-edited the two-volume *Indian Ethics: Classical Traditions and Contemporary Challenges* (2007, 2016). He has authored *Raimon Panikkar as a Modern Spiritual Master* (2017). He has three books in process, "Liberating

Gandhi: Community, Empire and a Culture of Peace,” due out in 2018, and “Hegel, India and the Dark Face of Modernity,” and “Human Rights in Cross-Cultural Perspective,” due out in 2019. He has been a Senior Fellow of the Center for the Study of World Religions at Harvard University and of the Martin Marty Center at the University of Chicago. He has also been co-editor of ReVision from 1995-2003, and a contributing editor of Zygon. He is the past President of the international Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy, 2008-2010, and the Program Chair for the Melbourne Parliament of the World’s Religions, 2009. Among his many awards are the Outstanding Professor Award of CSULA for 2004-2005 and the Lifetime Achievement Award from Soka Gakkai, USA and Official Commendations from both the Southern California Committee of the Parliament of the World’s Religions and the Mayor of Los Angeles for his contributions to interfaith dialogue and civic harmony. He served on the Board of Trustees and the Executive Committee of the Council of a Parliament of the World’s Religions from 2005-2011. He was the Program Chair for the 2009 Melbourne Parliament. He serves as well on the Advisory Board of the Toda Institute for Peace Research associated with Soka Gakkai International. He is also the Co- Chair of the Southern California Committee of a Parliament of the World’s Religions, and on the Special Advisory Committee of the American Academy of Religions. In addition, he serves on a panel of experts advising the UN High Commission for Human Rights and the International Security Forum based in Geneva. He has lectured and taught at more than seventy universities either as visiting professor or as guest lecturer in Asia, Africa, Australia, Europe and the United States, including at the universities of California, Berkeley and Chicago. He was most recently a Visiting Fellow at the Oxford Centre for Hindu Studies and a Visiting Professor at Oxford in Michaelmas Term 2015. In 2016, California State University, Los Angeles, honored him with an annual endowed lecture series in his name, called the Joseph Prabhu Fund for Interfaith Peace and Justice.