



Photo: Zen Center Regensburg | Layout: Cornelia Z. Rötting

In the late 19th/early 20th century Buddhism began to be practised in Europe and was often presented by its European followers as a persuasive alternative to Christianity which had come under heavy attack from various sides. Buddhism in Europe was less a result of missionary activities from Asian countries than the consequence of propagation by Europeans, who studied Buddhism through various literary sources.

However, European Buddhists sought connections to Asian countries from a comparatively early stage onwards, and organizations such as the Mahabodhi Society came to play an important role. Tensions between Buddhism and Christianity in the West's Asian colonies and the critique of Christianity in the West had their reciprocal impact on each other.

Whereas in the early days of European Buddhism the focus was predominantly on Theravada, after the Second World War Western interest shifted to Japanese Zen-Buddhism and, somewhat later, to Tibetan Buddhism. Increasingly also other forms of Buddhism (such as Pure Land or Nichiren Buddhism) became present in Europe. Immigrants from Asian countries brought along their local forms of Buddhism and established their own centres. While some of these immigrant communities kept largely to themselves, other forms of Asian Buddhism, as for example "Inter-Being", opened their home traditions and adopted distinctly European features. Today, then, Buddhism in Europe exists in a large variety of forms and with different degrees of individual belonging and/or commitment.

## Venue:

St. Virgil, Ernst-Grein-Straße 14,  
5026 Salzburg, Austria

## Accommodation:

Rooms and breakfast have to be booked separately. If you wish to stay at the conference venue, please contact: [www.virgil.at/hotel/](http://www.virgil.at/hotel/) Please state "ENBCS Conference 2022" for getting the special rates and book before 1st of April 2022:  
Single (incl. breakfast): 79,00 € per person/night.  
Double (incl. breakfast): 64,50 € per person/night

## Conference Rates:

Ordinary: 210,00 €

Students: 90,00 €

Rates include conference fees, meals (except breakfast) and the cultural tour on Saturday.

Day visitors: 50,00 € (meals and tour not included)

## Call for Papers

for the open panels. Proposals should be sent to: [perrysl@uni-muenster.de](mailto:perrysl@uni-muenster.de)

## All Information and Registration:

[www.buddhist-christian-studies.org](http://www.buddhist-christian-studies.org)

Conference Secretary:

Prof. Dr. Martin Rötting (University of Salzburg)

Email: [martin.roetting@plus.ac.at](mailto:martin.roetting@plus.ac.at)

ST. VIRGIL



# Registration

13th Conference of  
the European Network of  
Buddhist-Christian Studies  
in Cooperation with  
the University of Salzburg

# Euro-Buddhism & the role of Christianity

St. Virgil, Salzburg, Austria, 30.6.-4.7.2022



# Programme Schedule

## Thursday (30th June)

20.00 – 21.15: Opening of the conference

20.00 – 20.15: *Welcome Address*

(Perry Schmidt-Leukel)

20.15 – 21.15: *Buddhism between Idealization, Disillusion, and Reality*

(Rupert Gethin)

## Friday (1st July)

09.00 – 12.30: I. Case Studies:

*Replacing the 'Religion of the Tax Collectors and Sinners' by the Bright Light of Buddhist Teachings: The Role of Polemics against Christianity among Early European Buddhists*

(Martin Baumann)

*Divide and Rule: Strategic Encounters Between a Hippie Buddhist Lama and a Christian Counter-Cult Leader in the Early Phase of Practiced Buddhism in Denmark* (Jørn Borup)

15.00 – 18.30: II. Diversity and Unity of Buddhisms in Europe Today

*An Overview* (Jamie Cresswell)

*A Perspective from Austria*

(Kurt Krammer)

20.00 – 21.30: Open Presentations 1

## Saturday (2nd July)

09.00 – 12.30: III. *The Challenge of Secularism*

*Secularism as a European Phenomenon*

(Lieven Boeve)

*Secularized Buddhism* (Inken Prohl)

15.00: Guided Tour through Salzburg (followed by joint dinner in Salzburg)

## Sunday (3rd July)

09.00 – 12.30: IV. *Gender Justice as a Challenge to*

*Buddhism and Christianity*

*A Buddhist Perspective*

(Carola Roloff)

*A Christian Perspective*

(Natalie Watson)

15.00 – 18.30: V. *Buddhist-Christian Hybridities*

*Christian Elements in the Practice of the Order of Interbeing*

(Ursula Baatz)

*Hybrid Spiritual Identities*

(Martin Rötting)

19.45 – 21.15: Open Presentations 2

21.15 – 21.45: *Conclusion of the Conference*

## Monday (4th July)

Departures after Breakfast

The European Network of Buddhist-Christian Studies (ENBCS) (<http://buddhist-christian-studies.org/>) is dedicated to the academic study of Buddhist-Christian relations around the world. While some of its conferences have focused on issues of doctrinal dialogue and religious practice, others have had a more regional emphasis or dealt with certain challenges emerging from a modern mindset. The 2022 conference will combine these research interests: it will investigate the development of Buddhism in Europe from its beginnings until today and inquire particularly about the role of Christianity in the emergence of what might be called “Euro-Buddhism”.

The conference is organized in cooperation with the University of Salzburg.

## Speakers

**Ursula Baatz**, Vienna (Austria). Intercultural philosopher, author and journalist with a special interest in Buddhist-Christian encounter, mindfulness coach.

**Lieven Boeve**, Prof of Systematic Theology, Catholic Uni of Leuven (Belgium). Research interest: dialogue, difference and Catholic identity in the context of a post-Christian and post-secular society.

**Jørn Borup**, Ass Prof and Head of Department at the Department of Religion, Univ. of Aarhus (Denmark). Research interest: Buddhism, interreligious encounter, multireligiosity.

**Jamie Cresswell**, Vice President of the European Buddhist Union, Director of the Centre for Applied Buddhism, member of the European Council of Religious Leaders, trustee of Religions

for Peace – UK, member of the Soka Gakkai International. **Martin Baumann**, Prof for the Study of Religions at the Univ. of Lucerne (Switzerland). Special interest in immigration and religion, public space, diaspora studies, and Hindu and Buddhist traditions in the West.

**Rupert Gethin**, Prof of Buddhist Studies in the Department of Theology and Religious Studies and codirector of the Centre for Buddhist Studies at the Univ. of Bristol (UK). President of the Pali Text Society and a practising Buddhist in the Theravada tradition.

**Kurt Gakuro Krammer**, Magister, Head of the Institute for the Study of Buddhism and Dialogue of Religions, Salzburg (Austria) and a Buddhist practitioner in the Zen tradition. He is a board-member of conveners for the network “Buddhist Teachers in Europe”.

**Inken Prohl**, Prof of Religious Studies, Head of Department, Institute for Religious Studies, Univ. of Heidelberg (Germany). Special research interest in Japanese Buddhism and transformations of Buddhism in modernity.

**Carola Roloff (Ven. Jampa Tsedroen)**, Prof of Buddhism, Academy of World Religions, Univ. of Hamburg (Germany). Special research interests: Gender and religion, Buddhism and modern society, interreligious dialogue.

**Martin Rötting**, Ass Prof of Religious Studies, Univ. of Salzburg (Austria), Chair of OCCURSO Institute for interreligious and intercultural encounter e.V., Secretary of the Network. Specialized in Buddhist-Christian dialogue, issues of religious identity in a multireligious world.

**Perry Schmidt-Leukel**, Prof of Religious Studies and Intercultural Theology, Univ. of Muenster (Germany), Chair of the Network. Specialized in inter-faith studies, Buddhist-Christian encounter, Indian Buddhism.

**Natalie Watson**, PhD from Univ. of Durham (UK), writer, theologian and long-term editor in the field of theology, religious studies, international relations, Asian studies, geopolitics and security.