

MELANIE FERSI

CURRICULUM VITAE

(Feb. 2026)

Personal Details

Date of birth 08.06.1988
Nationality German
Family status Married, one child
E-Mail melanie.fersi@stud.plus.ac.at
Languages German (mother tongue), English (C1), Arabic, French, Greek, Portuguese



Research Title **Interfaith places as learning spaces for peace building in interfaith dialog. A comparative analysis using the example of the College of Interreligious Studies Munich, the Al Amana Center (Muscat) and the Graduate School UGM (Yogyakarta)**

Research Interests **Interfaith Dialogue, Interreligious Learning Processes, Individual and Interreligious Spirituality, Peace Building, Peace Education, Interreligious Places, Empowerment of Individuals, Applied Religious Studies, Psychological and Cognitive Understanding of Interreligious and Intercultural Encounters, Participatory Action Research, Visual Anthropology (Photovoice, Photo Elicitation and Visual Ethnology)**

Currently engaged in

since 09.2022 **College Supervisor**
College of Interreligious Studies München
Areas of responsibility: Student Mentoring, Programm Implementation, Teaching in the Certificate Programm "Interreligious Studies", Preparation and Facilitation of the College Rounds, Facilitation of Interfaith Photovoice Projects, Dormitory / House Management, Networking, Public Relations, Application Process, Further Development College
OCCURSO - Institute for Interreligious and Intercultural Encounter e.V.

since 10.2020 **Course Leader Qualification courses**
„Kulturdolmetscher plus – sharing empowerment“
Katholisches Bildungswerk im Landkreis Miesbach e.V.

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Education

- Since 04.2023 **Doctoral Program Religious Studies, Paris Lodron University of Salzburg (PLUS)**
First Supervisor: Assoz.-Prof. Dr. Martin Rötting (PLUS)
Second Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Elisabeth Naurath (AUGSBURG)
- 03.2011 – 02.2015 **Magister Artium (M.A.), Ludwig-Maximilians-University of Munich (LMU)**
Major: German as a Foreign Language, Minors: Intercultural Communication & General Linguistics
Grade: 1,36
M.A. thesis topic: Variations in the emotive concepts of “love” and “anger” in German and (Tunisian) Arabic: verbal expression, underlying concepts, and their embedding in (culture-specific) emotion regulation
Grade: 1,3
- 2008 – 2012 **Studies in Elementary Education, Ludwig Maximilians-University of Munich (LMU)**
Subject: Geography
Didactics Subjects: German, Math, Art
Extension Subject: Didactics of German as a Second Language

Further Trainings (Selection)

- 02.2024 – 07.2024 **Photovoice Facilitation for Interfaith Engagement Course**
Online with Dr. Roman R. Williams, Founder of Interfaith Photovoice
- 03.2022 – 10.2022 **Satyananda Yoga Nidra Training**
Online with Swami Marutdeva and Sannyasin Mantradhyanam
- 11.2019 – 06.2021 **Interreligious Dialogue Coordinator**
Studienzentrum für evangelische Jugendarbeit in Josefstal e.V.
- 01.2020 – 02.2020 **Trainer Training for the Qualification Course**
„kulturdolmetscher plus – sharing empowerment“
Stiftung Bildungszentrum Erzdiözese München und Freising

Professional Experience (Selection)

- Since 04.2024 **Facilitation of various Interfaith Photovoice Workshops with the topics:**
„Sharing Interreligious Learning Processes through Interfaith Photovoice“ &
„What can our relationships teach us about peacebuilding?“
College of Interreligious Studies München and a Montessori School
- 28.09.2024 **Presentation: Interreligious learning processes – Introduction and Practice. & A Interfaith Photovoice Workshop**
Practical Conference for Interreligious Encounter
Beauftragte für interreligiösen Dialog und Islamfragen
Evang. Luth. Kirche in Bayern
- 01.2022 – 09.222 **Co-Founding the College of Interreligious Studies München**

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Stays abroad

- 08.11.23 – 17.11.23 **Participation in an Interfaith Photovoice Workshop on the occasion of the International Day of Tolerance with Roman R. Williams,**
Al Amana Centre
Muscat
Oman
- 09.2022 – 10.2022 **Teaching internship in German as a foreign language using the tandem method**
German Jordanian University (GJU)
Amman
Jordan
- 12.2007 – 05.2008 **Courses for learning “Modern Greek”**
Modern Greek Language Learning Institute
University of Athens
Greece
- 01.2005 – 07.2005 **High School Programm Linwood College**
Christchurch
New Zealand

Memberships

- Since 2024 **Member of Community of Practice. Interfaith Photovoice**
- Since 03.2023 **Board member of OCCURSO – Institute for Interreligious and Intercultural Encounters e.V.**
- Since 2023 **Extended Board Member of House of Cultures and Religions in Munich e.V.**
- Since 2019 **Diverse and active participation in the network Integration in Landkreis Miesbach e.V.**

Publications

2023: Glauben aus interreligiöser Sicht. Können wir (als Christen) von anderen Religionen etwas lernen? In: impusle. Magazin der Pfarrei St. Johann Baptist Gröbenzell.

Eingereicht: Ein Interfaith Photovoice Projekt am College of Interreligious Studies München: Reflexion und Austausch über individuelle Prozesse des interreligiösen Lernens. In: Martin Rötting, Nermina Irdiz, Thomas Steinfort, Roger Schmidt (Hgg.): Projekte im interreligiösen Dialog. Ideen, Erfahrungen und Leitfäden.

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Eingereicht: Was können uns unsere Beziehungen über Friedensbildung beibringen? – Ein Photovoice Projekt an einer Montessorischule. In: Martin Rötting, Nermina Irdiz, Thomas Steinfurt, Roger Schmidt (Hgg.): Projekte im interreligiösen Dialog. Ideen, Erfahrungen und Leitfäden.

Eingereicht: Buchrezension zu Sacred Snaps. Photovoice for Interfaith Engagement In: Michael Klöcher, Udo Tworuschka, Martin Rötting (Hrsg.): Handbuch der Religionen. Westarp Science. Fachverlag.