



Faculty of Catholic
Theology of the
University of Bochum



Catholic Faculty of
Theology, University of
Zagreb

International Research Seminar for Postgraduate Students of Theology

“Religion, Church, and Theology in Times of Crisis: A Theological
and Religious Pedagogical Research”



March 31 - April 1, 2022

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Organizer:

Department of Religious Education and Catechetics of the Catholic Faculty of Theology, the University of Zagreb (Croatia)

Department of Religious Education and Catechetics of the Faculty of Catholic Theology of the University of Bochum (Germany)

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Zoom: <https://ruhr-uni-bochum.zoom.us/j/66781713399?pwd=Wm9QQ241cUJQdFVyZnU1ZVcxMDFMUT09>

Researcher: Marija Jurišić

**Lecture: The Religious Dimension of Intercultural Education in Council of Europe Documents:
How to Reconcile National and Transnational Perspectives?**

Faculty: Catholic Faculty of Theology, University of Zagreb

Abstract:

The paper “The Religious Dimension of Intercultural Education in Council of Europe Documents: How to Reconcile National and Transnational Perspectives?” raises the question on the contribution of the religious dimension of intercultural education towards the goals of intercultural education (coexistence in cultural diversity, knowledge about cultural diversity, and skills for intercultural dialogue). The methodology of this paper is based on the content analysis of the Council of Europe's policy papers. Grounded in the content analysis the paper will show the contribution and value of religious education.

Questions that remain for the discussion and which can guide us towards the solution are narrowed within the area of practice and implementation of the European documents in the national context: is it possible to keep the national attributes and perspectives regarding religious education while we are surrounded by the growing tendency of supranational politics?

Keywords: religious education, intercultural education, policy papers, Council of Europe

Researcher: Luka Slijepčević

Lecture: Church Communication in Times of Crisis: The Case of Keeping Silent about the Disappearance of Bishop Carević in 1945

Faculty: Catholic Faculty of Theology, University of Zagreb

Abstract:

This presentation will begin with a brief outline of the character and pastoral work of the retired Bishop of Dubrovnik Josip Marija Carević (1883 – 1945).

The aim of the presentation is to reflect on the Church crisis communication based on two epistles of the Yugoslav Catholic Episcopate: the Epistle of the Catholic Bishops to the Faithful of 4 May 1938, and the Pastoral Letter of the Catholic Bishops of Yugoslavia of 20 September 1945.

The aim of the presentation is to explore the Church communication based on the disappearance of Bishop Carević.

The main research question is why was Bishop Carević, as the only Croatian bishop killed during the Second World War, erased from the modern Church history, and why the reasons of his resignation, his disappearance, his murder and the place where he was buried remain unknown 77 years later.

Key words: crisis, communication, Church, war, bishop Carević

Researcher: Marius de Byl

Lecture: Religious Education in the Face of Crisis: Translating Processes and a Theological Centre

Faculty: Faculty of Catholic Theology of the University of Bochum

Abstract:

Religious education in school is massively influenced by teachers and students, who can be called the most important protagonists in processes of religious education. In fact, in school this subject is questioned due to its perceived 'loss of language'. This question becomes even more transparent if one considers the current circumstances. Especially, in times of an ongoing pandemic and a military crisis this question becomes even more transparent: Is religious education in school still able to contribute to discourses and to offer contents, that can be reflected by all participants of this subject? Moreover, it must be contemplated whether this subject offers a sustainable relevance in school. The concept of religious education as a place of translating processes which implies a theological centre can help to face those dynamics and challenges.

Researcher: Sani Gilja

Lecture: The Contribution of the Spiritual Movements of the Catholic Church to the Formation of Family as the Domestic Church

Faculty: Catholic Faculty of Theology, University of Zagreb

Abstract:

This research inquires ways, possibilities and opportunities of achieving sanctity for the laypeople in the Catholic Church. The main discourse of this reflection is to explore the role of the community and the spiritual movements on the way of regaining union with God for the Catholic family. This article considers foundation of the family holiness and various threats which weaken contemporary family. Theological base of this reflection is metaphor of family as domestic Church. Main goal of this research is to correlate spiritual reinforcement of Christian family with contemporary spiritual movements of the Catholic Church. This article is formatted using descriptive method.

Key words: *family, marriage, sanctity, communitarity, spiritual movements.*

Researcher: Manuel Hartmann

Lecture: Non-Denominationalism and Bible Didactics: The Living Environment of Young People

Faculty: Faculty of Catholic Theology of the University of Bochum

Abstract:

Non-denominational attitudes among teenage pupils are on the rise.

Non-denominationalism is not only the missing of membership in one of the Christian churches constituted by baptism. This raises questions of the living environment and the attitudes of current non-denominational young people.

In this paper the attitudes towards life of young people will be analysed by illuminating the various aspects so that a general profile can be developed.

The first thing to be examined is the socialization of pupils, which shows that non-denominationalism is an inherited phenomenon.

Furthermore, the religious self-image of the youths is analyzed.

Building on this, the question arises as to the faith of non-denominational young people, for example the analysis of the image of God.

In addition, the values of non-denominational pupils must come into focus as well as their religious practices.

The last important aspect is the relationship to the church and to Christianity, which is characterized by distance and disinterest.

Even tho at first glance non-denominational pupils seem to be very similar, they are actually a very heterogeneous group. However, it is appropriate to give the group a profile so that teachers know which type of pupil they will encounter. Furthermore the diversity can be described.

Researcher: Ana Juratović

Lecture: Interpretation of the Decalogue as a Path to Freedom in the Catechesis of Adolescents

Faculty: Catholic Faculty of Theology, University of Zagreb

Abstract:

The subject of my research is the meaning of the Decalogue for adolescents. For young people, adolescence is a time of searching for one's place in society and developing one's personality. It is also a time when rules are perceived as restrictions on freedom.

The first part of my presentation is about the Decalogue: its purpose and why people feel that the Decalogue prohibits so much.

The second part will be about young people and their view of life, rules and themselves. We will also try to figure out how to help them understand the rules as a way to freedom and not as something that imprisons them. The Decalogue is there to help us grow into responsible people.

Key words: *Decalogue, adolescents, freedom, moral slavery responsibility*

Researcher: Jens Schwarzkamp

Lecture: Orientations of Religious Education Teachers in International Classrooms

Faculty: Faculty of Catholic Theology of the University of Bochum

Abstract:

In my presentation, implications for professional religious education in International Classes will be generated on the basis of central results of my reconstructive study on the orientations of religious education teachers in International Classes, taking into account discourses on professionalism and heterogeneity. The qualitative research project is based on narrative interviews with religious education teachers in the German state of North Rhine-Westphalia who talk about their experiences in International Classes in religious education. In the course of analysing the interview material with the Documentary Method, orientations were reconstructed and typified in terms of meaning through the modi operandi of habitual dealing with specific tensions in the teachers' professional practice.

Researcher: Božidar Nađ

Lecture: The Impact of the Covid-19 Pandemic on Receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation

Faculty: Catholic Faculty of Theology, University of Zagreb

Abstract:

Main research question in this paper is: How much has the attitude towards receiving the sacrament of reconciliation changed compared to the time before the pandemic? The aim of the presentation is to analyse the paradigm shift about experiencing the sacrament of reconciliation before and during the pandemic. The method is an inductive-exploratory.

The time we live in has been marked by an epidemic of the coronavirus. As a result, our lives have changed greatly. Therefore the phrase "new normal" was coined, which describes the change in human lives and the functioning of the world in relation to the time before the pandemic.

Like all other aspects of existence, the changes affected the Catholic Church. Pastoral life has changed, as has the celebration of the sacraments. Consequently, the attitude towards the sacrament of reconciliation has changed. On the one hand, there are Catholics who refuse to receive the sacrament for fear of infection. On the other hand, there are Catholics who are unable to come to church due to illness or are in an institution where access to all unemployed people, including priests, is prohibited.

Keywords: epidemic, change, sacrament, confession, priest

Researcher: Kathrin Termin

Lecture: Professionalization of Teachers for Religion in a Culture of Digitality

Faculty: Faculty of Catholic Theology of the University of Bochum

Abstract:

The culture of digitality is not only a temporary phenomenon but omnipresent and enables different offers that are used every day. Diverse digital possibilities have increasingly come to the fore because of the corona pandemic and have received a high level of attention.

In the time of the lockdown, particularly teachers have attended online training courses more often, networked in social media, and thus, received professional and informal training.

In September 2021, the "relilab" (relilab.org) started as an agile training format that offers religion teachers from Germany, Austria, and Switzerland the opportunity to deal with topics of religious teaching and digital learning. The platform, therefore, offers the ideal place to research religion teachers regarding their professionalization in a culture of digitality.

An online questionnaire gathered data concerning the participating teachers' motivations and their previous training. Subsequently, 23 religion teachers were interviewed through narrative interviews to reconstruct action-guiding orientations. The transcripts are currently being evaluated using the documentary method.

Researcher: Ivan Blaževac

Lecture: Pastoral Care in the Life of Soldiers: The Significance of the Activities of Military Chaplains

Faculty: Catholic Faculty of Theology, University of Zagreb

Abstract:

This lecture will show roles and responsibilities of military chaplains during pastoral care in military bases and in modern crisis situations. We will also show research on conscripts and on veteran population with the aim of developing better pastoral programs which can help soldiers to better cope with stress and crises. In the concluding section we will present the challenges that military chaplains face in spiritual care and some experience of veteran military chaplains from Croatian war of Independence.

Keywords: Military chaplain, conscript, veteran, values, crises