Our Topic: Religion and Ageing in Global Perspective

Already in 1982 the first UN World Assembly on Ageing in Vienna/Austria concluded that demographic change is a global phenomenon which has an impact on societies all over the world. Challenges and potentials around this topic have so far not been widely discussed in ecumenical contexts.

This conference aims at starting this discussion.

Researchers from Hong Kong, Tanzania, Indonesia, South Africa, Botswana, Switzerland and Germany have been invited to discuss gerontological, theological, socio-political and political aspects of ageing, both in their differences and similarities in their respective world regions. Presentations on best practices in communities and churches will enrich the discussion.

The conference will be conducted in English.

This conference will be arranged by the United Evangelical Mission and the Protestant University Wuppertal/Bethel.

Registration
Registration deadline is November 1, 2015. Please register with Monique Bartsch at Protestant University, preferably via e-mail:

monique.bartsch@kiho-wuppertal-bethel.de

or by phone: +49/202/2820 142

Registration Fee (including Full Board and Participation Fee): 200€

Cancellation Fee (after December 3): 150€

Travel Information
The closest airport is Duesseldorf International Airport.

The closest train station is Wuppertal Hauptbahnhof. Please proceed further by bus from bus stop “Wall/Museum” (about five minutes walking distance). Bus 643 towards “Hardt, Kirchliche Hochschule” runs every 20 minutes. Exit at the final stop.

Check your travel connection at http://www.bahn.de/m/view/en

Address
International Protestant Conference Centre
Missionsstraße 9
42285 Wuppertal
Germany

Religion and Ageing in Global Perspective

International Protestant Conference Centre, Wuppertal

December 11-13, 2015
Program

FRIDAY, December 11, 2015

13.00  Arrival, Registration and Lunch

14.00  Words of Welcome and Introduction into the Theme and Program of the Conference
Prof. Andrea BIÉLER, Practical Theology, Protestant University Wuppertal/Bethel
Angelika VEDDELER, Executive Secretary Department Germany, United Evangelical Mission, Wuppertal

I. Developing a Discourse

14.15-15.15  The Longevity Revolution: Global Developments
Dr. Alexandre KALACHE, International Longevity Centre, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

15.15-16.15  Opening the Horizon: Developments and Themes in Contemporary Behavioral and Social Gerontological Research and Practice
Prof. Hans-Werner WAHL, Heidelberg University, Germany

16.15-16.45  Coffee Break

16.45-17.45  Discourse on Religion and Ageing – Integrating Theological, Intercultural and Global Perspectives
Prof. Ralph KUNZ, University of Zurich, Switzerland

17.45-18.45  Ethical and Theological Perspectives on Ageing in the Fourth Stage of Life
Prof. Günter THOMAS, Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany

19.00  Dinner

SATURDAY, December 12, 2015

07.30  Breakfast

II. Contexts and Issues: Hong Kong, Indonesia, Tanzania and South Africa

09.00-10.00  Age Differences in Personality, Social Relationships and Cognition: The Role of Interdependent Self Construal
Prof. Helene FUNG, Chinese University of Hong Kong

10.00-11.00  Ageing, Generational Dynamics and the Spirit of Ubuntu Revisited: Implications for Care in South Africa
Prof. Jaco HOFFMAN, North-West University, Vanderbijlpark, South Africa

11.00-11.30  Coffee Break

11.30-12.30  Religion and Ageing in Indonesia and Tanzania: When Older Persons Need Care
Dr. Piet VAN EEUWIJK, Universities of Basel, Bern and Zurich, Switzerland, Swiss Tropical and Public Health Institute, Basel, Switzerland

12.30-13.00  Open Questions and Concluding Remarks

13.00-14.30  Lunch Break

III. Theological Reflections

Prof. Mario I. AGUILAR, University of St. Andrews, Scotland

15.30-16.30  Biblical Perspectives on Ageing
Prof. Musa W. Dube, University of Botswana, Gaborone/Botswana

16.30-17.00  Coffee Break

17.00-18.00  A Paradox of Life: Finding Meaning in Ageing. Horizons in Theological Anthropology
Prof. Angel MENDEZ MONTOYA, Universidad Iberoamericana, Mexico City

19.00-19.30  Greetings
Rector, Protestant University Wuppertal/Bethel
Dr. Fidon MWOMBEKI, General Secretary, United Evangelical Mission, Wuppertal

19.30  Banquet and Film: The Pina Bausch Company: "Kontakthof: Damen und Herren über 65"
Introduction and Comments
Prof. Angel MENDEZ MONTOYA, Universidad Iberoamericana, Mexico City

SUNDAY, December 13, 2015

07.30  Breakfast

IV. Innovative Practice

09.00-09.30  Innovative Practice in Germany and the Role of Theology and Church
Gerrit HEETDERKS, Managing Director, Protestant Organisation for Adult Education, Düsseldorf, Germany

10.00-10.30  Innovative Practice: World Health Organization and HelpAge International
Dr. Alexandre KALACHE, International Longevity Centre, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

10.30-11.00  Internationalisation of Nursing and Care: The Contribution of Diaconal Institutions
Deacon Jörg OELMANN, Head of International Diaconia Programs, United Evangelical Mission, Bielefeld, Germany

11.00-11.30  Coffee Break

11.30-12.30  Reflection of Innovative Practice and Framing Future Research Questions
Prof. Beate HOFMANN, Protestant University Wuppertal/Bethel, Institute for Diaconic Science and Diaconic Management, Bielefeld, Germany

12.30  Closing

12.45  Lunch and Departure