



**KIROHER**  
Network  
Jesuit Higher Education  
in Europe and the Near East



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## **BLENDED INTENSIVE PROGRAMME**

HEST'S CLUSTER OF CHRISTIAN-MUSLIM RELATIONS

SYMPOSIUM

# "Universal-Communitarian Approaches to Social Values in Christian and Islam"

DEUSTO UNIVERSITY, BILBAO (SPAIN)

**PROGRAM**

**JULY**  
**11TH-15TH**  
**2023**

# SCHEDULE

## VIRTUAL COMPONENT

DAY 1  
**JUNE**  
**14TH**

18:00-20:00

**Prof. Liyakat Ali Takim**

Sharjah Chair in Global Islam at  
McMaster University

[LINK](#)

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DAY 1  
**JULY**  
**11TH**

9:00-11:30

**Arrival and registration**

16:00-17:30

**Welcome session**

Welcome activity and visit to Deusto University

# SCHEDULE

DAY 1  
**JULY**  
**11TH**

9:00-11:30

## **Arrival and registration**

16:00-17:30

## **Welcome session**

Welcome activity and visit to Deusto University

DAY 2  
**JULY**  
**12TH**

09:00 - 11:00

## **OPENING**

TOPIC 1

### **Theological opening lecture**

Keynote speaker: Alessandro Ferrary, PhD.  
(University of Insubria)

*"European laicity on a global scale. The osmosys  
between the religious and secular juridical orders"*

Discussion

**11:00-11:30 COFFEE BREAK**

11:30-14:00

TOPIC 2

### **Creating a common ground: Philosophical and political reflection**

Speaker 1: Lina Iskandar, PhD (USJ)

*"The art of separation for an authentic coexistence"*

Speaker 2: Gorca Urrutia, PhD. (Deusto  
University)

*"Secular spaces for interreligious dialogue. Ground  
for common values?"*

Discussion

# SCHEDULE

DAY 2  
**JULY**  
**12TH**

16:00-17:30 LUNCH

TOPIC 2 CONTINUATION

Speaker 3: Michaela Quast-Neulinger, PhD.  
(University of Innsbruck)

*"Liberalism's struggle with religion - and religion's struggle with liberalism"*

Speaker 4: Dirk Ansorge, PhD. (PTH Sankt Georgen)

*"Do religious values exist? Observations on the historicity of values as identity markers of religious communities"*

Discussion

17:30-18:00 COFFEE BREAK

18:00-20:30

TOPIC 3

**Moral values in christianity and islam: underlining universalism or otherness**

Speaker 1: Mira Sievers, PhD. (Humbolt University)

*"Moral universalism and Muslim identity -a Qur'anic approach"*

Speaker 2: Rana Alsoufi, PhD. (Goethe University)

*"Moral values between universality and Islamic legitimacy"*

Discussion

21:00 DINNER

# SCHEDULE

DAY 3  
**JULY**  
**13TH**

09:00 - 11:00

TOPIC 3 CONTINUATION

Speaker 3: Olga Torres, PhD. (Sevilla University)

*"Nana Asma'u's Yan Taru Female Education within Islamic Tradition: The Pursuit of Knowledge from 19th Century West Africa to 21st Century USA"*

Discussion

11:00-11:30 COFFEE BREAK

11:30-14:00

**General assembly: future steps for the cluster**

18:00-20:30

TOPIC 4

**Building a common house: urgency of the Islamo-Christian dialogue**

Speaker 1: Tobias Specker SJ, PhD.  
(PTH Sankt Georgen)

*"Fratelli Tutti: from competition to cooperation"*

Speaker 2: Gonzalo Villagrán SJ, PhD.  
(Universidad Loyola)

*"A comparative reading of Sayyid Qutb's political thought from a Christian perspective"*

# SCHEDULE

DAY 3  
**JULY**  
**13TH**

TOPIC 4 CONTINUATION

Speaker 3: Jaime Flaquer SJ, PhD.  
(Universidad Loyola)

*"Emergence of the concept of citizenship in the principal declarations of Islamic institutions and challenges for its application"*

Discussion

**21:00 DINNER**

Walk around downtown Bilbao and tapas

DAY 4  
**JULY**  
**14TH**

09:00 - 11:30

**Wrap up session**

Formulation of main conclusions

# CALL FOR PAPERS



## **Symposium on “Universal/Communitarian Approaches to Social Values in Christianity and Islam”**

12th-14th July 2023 at Deusto University (Bilbao, Spain)

Dear Colleagues,

In contemporary plural democracies there is a constant tension between two ways of understanding the construction of society: a universalist view that seeks universal common values beyond any particular tradition, and a communitarian view that seeks to preserve the identity and full meaning of the particular lifestyles of different moral and religious communities within plural societies giving less importance to the construction of these. At the same time, this tension and alternative obviously fully touches the different religious traditions and, therefore, Christianity and Islam.

This tension was formulated in the 1980s and 1990s with the debate between liberals and communitarians in the field of political philosophy. Today the tension continues with new nuances, and, above all, with a stronger tendency towards particularism and stronger nationalism. An example of this is the current strong skepticism about the possibility of having rules of coexistence accepted by all, especially in the field of international law, and the struggle for identity.

Within themselves, Christianity and Islam have the same tension. In both traditions there is a dimension of universality since they understand themselves as universal religions with a claim to truth. At the same time, both traditions seek to generate spaces of community life with a shared style and values that do not necessarily have to be accepted by the rest of the plural society. The clarification of this point therefore also has intra-religious implications for each of the traditions.

This situation raises fundamental questions: Should the religious traditions, Christianity and Islam, accept modifications in them to facilitate the assumption of shared values in a plural society, to what extent should Christianity and Islam seek to defend their values and identity in a society whose shared values are increasingly distant from those of these religious traditions? Is it possible to put a limit to the 'search for and defense of one's own identity', is it possible to impose shared ethical values on a religious tradition, how can religious traditions appropriate social values that have not sprung from their sources, what ethical references do we have to build a shared morality of plural societies?

- Abstract submission acceptance: January 31st, 2023
- Abstract length: 150 words.