

Introduction

What are the roles and impact of religion(s) in national and international politics today? And what kinds of 'politics of religion' are prevalent? The conference will deal with religion and politics in the perspective of "integration and resistance", and with an interreligious outlook.

The keynote address will be given by Peter Beyer, University of Ottawa (author of *Religion and Globalization*, Sage Publications, London 1994): "How and why states attempt to control religion within their territories". The keynote lecture is open for all.

The other papers that will be presented may be subsumed under such headings as "religion, state and power", "Islam and politics", "Pentecostals, Catholics and politics in Latin-America", "religion and nationalism" and "religion, politics and gender". In the conference, the indicated issues will be dealt with either in the form of theoretical discussions or case studies.

The conference is co-organised by the Network for Interreligious Studies and the research project "Religion in a Globalised Age", which are both based at the Faculty of Theology, University of Oslo.

The conference is open to senior researchers, doctoral students and MA-students with ongoing or planned projects related to religion and politics in multicultural societies.

Program

Thursday 12 December

- 13 Opening of the conference,
by dean of the Faculty of Theology Trond Skard Dokka.
Presentation of the conference theme, by Oddbjørn Leirvik
- 1330 Keynote address by Peter Beyer:
How and why states attempt to control religion within their territories
- 1430 Open responses
- 1500 Coffee break (30 min)
- 1530 Plenary papers I (25 min each + 30 min responses/discussion):
RELIGION, STATE AND POWER
- 1) Pål Repstad:
Powerful actors with clear intentions or power everywhere? Concepts of power in the study of religion
- 2) Ingvill T. Plesner:
Should the state support religions? Human rights- and sociological perspectives

1700 End of the day's program

1900 Dinner

Friday 13 December:

0900 Workshop session I: presentation of papers in three groups (3 x 25 min presentations + 15 min responses in each group)

1130 Lunch

1230 Workshop session II: presentation of papers (1 x 25 min + 15 min response)

1330 Plenary papers II (25 min each + 30 min responses/discussion):
ISLAM AND POLITICS IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND TURKEY

1) Hege Irene Markussen:

Religion and National Politics in Turkey. Alevism and Islamism in light of the November Elections of 2002

2) Turid Smith Polfus:

Women's citizenship: integration or resistance? (Palestine)

1500 Coffee break (15 min)

1530 Plenary papers III (25 min each + 30 min responses/discussion)
RELIGION AND POLITICS IN NORWAY

1) Torkel Brekke:

Religious nationalism in contemporary Norway

2) Katrine Ore:

The influence of state feminism on gender roles in the church

1700 End of the day's program

Saturday 14 December:

1000 Plenary papers IV (25 min each + 30 min open responses/discussion)
PENTECOSTALS, CATHOLICS AND POLITICS IN LATIN AMERICA

1) Sturla Stålsett:

Liberation theology: Religious resistance to globalisation? The Chiapas uprising as a case

2) Lina Snoek:

Cuban pentecostals – between faith and social commitment

3) Hans Egil Offerdal:

My kingdom is not of this World: Why Christian Praxis is not Political

1200 Lunch

1300 Discussion of Peter Beyer's *Religion and Globalization*:

1) Comment by Oddbjørn Leirvik:

Liberal-conservative responses to globalisation: the case of the Norwegian Pentecostal missionary Aril Edvardsen.

2) Comment by Sturla Stålsett:

Globalisation and the hidden transcript: religion as everyday resistance

3) Response by Peter Beyer. Plenary discussion.

1500 Concluding session:

Visions for a "Network of Contextual Theology and Interreligious Studies".

1530 (or 1600 at the latest) End of program

PAPERS IN WORKSHOPS, FRIDAY:

Workshop 1:

Tordis Borchgrevink: *Secularism and globalization of religion: some considerations of freedom of belief vs. pragmatics of civility*

Oddbjørn Leirvik: *Models for religious education, communal identity and politics of religion in the Muslim world*

Halldis Breidlid, Tove Nicolaisen, Olav Christian Ruus: *Plurality and Religious Education in Norway and South Africa*

(After lunch) Ben Willie Golo: *Economic Globalisation and the Question of Ecological Justice. A Theological Response from the Periphery of the 'Global Village'*

Workshop 2:

Susanne Olsson: *Renewal and Heritage in Muslim Quests for Authenticity*

Åsne Halskau: *Between Tradition and Modernity: A radical Muslim view on the interpretation of Gender roles in Islam*

Rannveig Haga: *Integration of Muslim migrants into a Muslim society. The conception of Muslim women's dress*

(After lunch) Anne Mailin Selland: *Betraying the Nation: Reactions and Background to the Assassination of Yitzhak Rabin*