

## The Theme:

Public space is a significant concept in plural societies for negotiating questions of justice and peace. In many countries in this world, faith and religious life have always been an important part of public space in society. Individuals and communities are shaped by their faith commitments. In other countries, e.g. in Europe, religions are currently regaining new attention after a time when the visibility of religions had decreased.

Scholars and religious leaders from about fourteen different countries will share their experiences and insights across contexts. We will examine the distinctions and relations between religious communities and the state, look at the role of faith commitments in society and analyze what anthropological and theological axioms and assumptions guide different models of imagining public space and citizenship of all.

Across the globe there is not only a plurality of religions as such, but an increased direct interaction between different religions. The interaction includes tension, if not conflicts, but also the potential for new understanding of one another and for joint engagement for the well-being of society. In this interreligious interaction a renewed interest in the meaning of "public space" is emerging.

## The Venue:

*Johanniter-Gästehaus, Weißenburgstr. 60-64  
48151 Münster, Germany*

Opening Event: *Vom –Stein-Haus, Schlossplatz 34*

## The Organizers:

The **Lutheran World Federation (LWF)** is a global communion of churches in the Lutheran tradition. Founded in 1947 in Lund, Sweden, the LWF now has 142 member churches in 79 countries all over the world representing 70.5 million Christians. The LWF strives to put its faith into action within and beyond the communion. This takes a variety of forms, as for example: ecumenical and interfaith relations, intercultural theological reflection, capacity building, advocacy, humanitarian assistance, development work.  
[www.lutheranworld.org](http://www.lutheranworld.org)

The **Zentrum für Islamische Theologie (ZIT)** at the Westphalian Wilhelms-University in Muenster, Germany, was founded on 1 October 2011 as academic institution of confessional Islamic theology and Islamic pedagogy. Through academic discourse on matters of the religion of Islam, the ZIT responds to the need in society for Islamic theology in Germany. This includes capacity building in academic research and human resources.  
[www.uni-muenster.de/ZIT/](http://www.uni-muenster.de/ZIT/)

## Information:

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## Registration:

Laura Pusch: [l\\_pusch01@uni-muenster.de](mailto:l_pusch01@uni-muenster.de).

## Expenses:

Accommodation for three nights: 195 Euro

# Creating Public Space

## International Christian-Muslim Consultation on

## the Role of Faith in the Public Sphere

*9-12 January 2014  
Muenster (Germany)*

## The Program:

<b>Thur, 9 Jan</b>	<b>Keynote presentations</b> <i>At: Vom –Stein-Haus, Schlossplatz 34</i>
<b>18:00</b>	Word of welcome: Prof. Dr Mouhanad Khorchide Dr Simone Sinn  <b>Public space and the creation of imaginary and social bonds</b> Prof. Dr Mona Siddiqui (UK)  <b>Consumer or Citizen: Religious Communities in Public Space</b> Bishop Dr Antje Jackelén (Sweden)

<b>Fri, 10 Jan</b>	<b>Faith in the public sphere – Examining different contextual configurations</b>
<b>9:00</b>	<i>Middle East</i>  <b>Religion in the Public Space: Observations arising from the Palestinian context</b> - Dr Mitri Raheb <b>Egypt:</b> Dr Omar Kamil (to be confirmed)
<b>11:00</b>	<i>Europe/ US</i>  <b>The possibility of conflicting truth claims in public sphere of a plural democratic society</b> Prof. Dr Yasin Aktay  <b>Churches and Religions in Hungary today. After the Wende – where to?</b> Prof. Dr Péter Szentpétery  <b>The Church in Society—An American Lutheran Perspective</b> Ralston Deffenbaugh

<b>14:30</b>	<i>Asia</i>  <b>Debating religion in the public space: The legal, political and social discourse on freedom of religion in Malaysia</b> - Dr Kerstin Steiner  <b>Intolerance between different believers in Indonesia: Moving toward restricted and fragmented public space?</b> - Dr Arskal Salim
<b>16:30</b>	<i>Africa</i>  <b>Religion and the Public Space in Tanzania: A Contested Terrain</b> Prof. Dr Mohammed Ali Bakari, Dr Leonard Mtaita  <b>The Function of Religion in the Public Space in Nigeria: Christian/Muslim Perspectives</b> – Dr Imran Abdurrahman, Lesmore E. Gibson

<b>Sat, 11 Jan</b>	<b>Theological, historical &amp; sociological perspectives on faith in the public sphere</b>
<b>9:00</b>	<i>Islamic Theology</i>  <b>Search for Functional Secularity in Islamic Religious Thought</b> Prof. Dr Abdulaziz Sachedina  Sunni speaker to be determined
<b>11:00</b>	<i>Christian Theology</i>  <b>Citizenship and Public Theology: a Lutheran Approach from Brazil</b> Dr Felipe Gustavo Koch Buttelli  <b>Mennonite Response:</b> Prof. Dr Fernando Enns

<b>14:30</b>	<i>Historical and sociological perspectives</i>  <b>Spaces for Conversation: Occasions and Conditions for Christian-Muslim Dialogue in Pre-Modern Times</b> Prof. Dr. Mark Swanson  <b>Different Pasts, shared Futures? Cultural Memory and the Secularity of Public Space in Multicultural Societies</b> Dr. Marian Burchardt
<b>16:30</b>	Discussion
<b>20:00</b>	<i>Public panel discussion with politicians</i>  Ruprecht Polenz (CDU), Christoph Strässer (SPD), Dr. Tim Karis, Menno Preuschhaft and others

<b>Sun, 12 Jan</b>	<b>Scriptures, citizenship and civil society</b>
<b>9:00</b>	<b>The role of religion in the public space from a Qur’anic perspective</b> Dr Dina El Omari (Germany)  <b>No abiding city? Biblical perspectives and the public square</b> Dr Clare Amos (UK)
<b>11:00</b>	<b>The Secular State as a Religious Necessity, an Islamic Perspective</b> Prof. Dr Adnane Mokrani (Tunisia/Italy)  <b>Interreligious Relations and Secularity</b> Prof. Dr Oddbjørn Leirvik (Norway)