

Inaugural Conference  
of the International Association  
for Spiritual Care (IASC)

Bern, June 19 – 21, 2016  
House of Religions / UniS  
Switzerland

Theme

# Spiritual Care and Migration



International Association  
for Spiritual Care

[www.ia-sc.org](http://www.ia-sc.org)

● **Addressing human needs in today's pluralistic societies requires understanding, respect, and appreciation of others in their diversity. Failure to cultivate this enhanced knowing of diversity risks cultural misunderstandings and relational harm in helping relationships. Therefore, encounter becomes pivotal and scholarly exchange between Muslims, Jews, Christians, Buddhists, Hindus, Sikhs, people without religious affiliation, and atheists is of utmost importance and value.**

**Of equal significance is the cooperative approach of the disciplines concerned – in particular the disciplines of medicine, psychology, and theology. Each discipline contributes unique and valuable insights to the topic of culturally competent spiritual care in increasingly pluralistic contexts. This conference will bring these key values of the IASC to the pressing topic of migration in today's world. The conference aims to promote a better interdisciplinary dialogue among people from different cultural and religious backgrounds in addressing the psychospiritual dimensions of migration and approaches to healing.**

# **SUNDAY** **JUNE 19, 2016**

Public Lecture,  
House of Religions

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**15:00**

**Guided Tour through the  
House of Religions**

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**17:00**

**Welcome and Introduction**

Prof. Dr. Isabelle Noth,  
Institute for Practical Theology,  
University of Bern, CH

David Leutwyler,  
Managing Director House  
of Religions, Bern, CH

Prof. Dr. med. Bruno Vogt,  
University of Bern, CH

Sasikumar Tharmalingam,  
Hindu Priest, House of Religions,  
Bern, CH

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**Chair**

Dr. Brigitta Rotach,  
Cultural Manager House of  
Religions, Bern, CH

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**Music**

Frutti di Mare/Jazz

 **Public Lecture**

**Spiritual Care, Migration, and  
Multiplicity: Care in the Context  
of Complex Religious Bonds**

Prof. Dr. Duane R. Bidwell,  
Claremont/California, USA

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**Panel Discussion**

Imam Dr. Abdelmalek Hibaoui,  
University of Tübingen, DE

Dr. theol. Claudia Kohli Reichenbach,  
University of Bern, CH

Prof. Dr. med. Christina Puchalski,  
The George Washington  
Institute for Spirituality & Health,  
Washington D.C., USA

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**Conference Venue**

House of Religions, Europaplatz,  
Bern, Switzerland

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**Access**

- by train to „Europaplatz“ station  
(trains no. S3 or S6)
- by tramways no. 7 or 8 from Bern  
main station to „Europaplatz“



# MONDAY JUNE 20, 2016

Academic Conference,  
UniS

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**09:15**

**Welcome**

Prof. Dr. Isabelle Noth,  
University of Bern, CH

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**09:30**

**Spiritual Care – the alternative  
to Pastoral Care in a world of  
migration and trauma?**

Prof. Dr. med. et theol. Doris Nauer,  
University of Vallendar, DE

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**10:15**

**Research Group Spiritual Care**

Dr. theol. Claudia Kohli Reichenbach

Emmanuel Schweizer,  
MA Religious Studies

Lukas Stuck,  
MA Theology

Thuvarakha Thillaiyampalam,  
Stud. psy.

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**11:00 Break**

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**11:15**

**A model of Spirit and Spirituality  
in the face of Trauma**

Prof. Dr. psy. Daniel S. Schipani,  
Indiana, USA

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**12:15 Lunch**

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**14:00**

**On the relationship between  
trauma and identity: Being Pales-  
tinian in Germany and Switzerland**

Lic. phil. Sarah El Bulbeisi,  
Ludwig Maximilian University of  
Munich, DE

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**14:30**

**Healing Hatred: Instruments  
of Pastoral Care and Counseling  
Applied to the Israel-Palestine  
Conflict II**

Dr. iur. Sarah Bernstein,  
Jerusalem Center for Jewish-  
Christian Relations, IL

Prof. Dr. Ruchama Weiss,  
Hebrew Union College  
Jerusalem, IL

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**15:15**

**The negotiation of meaning –  
language, culture and faith-based  
barriers between asylum seekers  
and nurses.**

Dr. phil. Alexander Bischoff,  
Institute of Nursing Science,  
University of Basel, CH

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**16:00**

**Panel Discussion**

Dr. iur. Sarah Bernstein

Prof. Dr. theol. Duane R. Bidwell

Lic. phil. Sarah El Bulbeisi

Prof. Dr. theol. Pamela Cooper-White

Prof. Dr. Ruchama Weiss

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**16:30 Break**

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**17:00**

**How to ensure high-quality  
Spiritual Care for all in health  
systems**

Prof. Dr. med. Christina Puchalski,  
The George Washington Institute  
for Spirituality & Health,  
Washington D.C., USA

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**18:30**

**IASC General Assembly**

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**Conference Venue**

UniS, Schanzeneckstrasse 1,  
Bern, Switzerland

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**Access**

five-minute walk from the main  
train station

# TUESDAY JUNE 21, 2016

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**09:15**

**Spiritual Care of Migration:  
Gender and Trauma**

Prof. Dr. theol. Pamela Cooper-White,  
Union Theological Seminary,  
New York, USA

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**09:45**

**What comes after? Aspects of  
bereavement from a psychological  
perspective**

Prof. Dr. psy. Hansjörg Znoj,  
University of Bern, CH

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**10:15 Break**

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 **10:30**

**Spiritual Care in human-caused  
disasters: An intercultural  
approach**

Prof. Dr. theol. Emmanuel Y. Lartey,  
Emory University Atlanta, USA

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**11:30**

**Panel Discussion**

Dr. Alexander Bischoff

Prof. Dr. theol. Emmanuel Y. Lartey

Prof. Dr. med. et theol. Doris Nauer

Prof. Dr. psy. Daniel Schipani

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**12:15**

**Spiritual Care: A Discipline on the  
Upswing. Future Perspectives**

Prof. Dr. theol. Isabelle Noth,  
University of Bern, CH

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**12:45 Closing remarks**

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## CONTACT

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3012 Bern, Switzerland

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www.ia-sc.org

## REGISTRATION

[www.ia-sc.org/  
conferences/conference-  
registration/](http://www.ia-sc.org/conferences/conference-registration/)

## REGISTRATION DEADLINE

June 1, 2016

IASC  
2016

## **Organized by**

**University of Bern  
Faculty of Theology  
Länggassstrasse 51  
CH-3012 Bern  
Switzerland**