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
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.
15:00
Guided Tour through the House of Religions

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

Public Lecture
Spiritual Care, Migration, and Multiplicity: Care in the Context of Complex Religious Bonds
Prof. Dr. Duane R. Bidwell,
Claremont / California, USA

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

Prof. Dr. med. Bruno Vogt,
University of Bern, CH
Sasikumar Tharmalingam,
Hindu Priest, House of Religions, Bern, CH

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

Music
Frutti di Mare/Jazz

Conference Venue
House of Religions, Europaplatz,
Bern, Switzerland

Access
• by train to „Europaplatz” station (trains no. S3 or S6)
• by tramways no. 7 or 8 from Bern main station to „Europaplatz”
09:15
Welcome
Prof. Dr. Isabelle Noth,
University of Bern, CH

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

10:15
Research Group Spiritual Care
Dr. theol. Claudia Kohli Reichenbach
Emmanuel Schweizer,
MA Religious Studies
Lukas Stuck,
MA Theology
Thuvarakha Thillaiyampalam,
Stud. psy.

11:00 Break

11:15
A model of Spirit and Spirituality in the face of Trauma
Prof. Dr. psy. Daniel S. Schipani,
Indiana, USA

12:15 Lunch

14:00
On the relationship between trauma and identity: Being Palestinian in Germany and Switzerland
Lic. phil. Sarah El Bulbeisi,
Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich, DE

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

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
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

16:30  Break

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

18:30
IASC General Assembly

Conference Venue
UniS, Schanzeneckstrasse 1,
Bern, Switzerland

Access
five-minute walk from the main train station
09:15
Spiritual Care of Migration: Gender and Trauma
Prof. Dr. theol. Pamela Cooper-White, Union Theological Seminary, New York, USA

09:45
What comes after? Aspects of bereavement from a psychological perspective
Prof. Dr. psy. Hansjörg Znoj, University of Bern, CH

10:15 Break

10:30
Spiritual Care in human-caused disasters: An intercultural approach
Prof. Dr. theol. Emmanuel Y. Lartey, Emory University Atlanta, USA

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

12:15
Conclusion & Future Perspectives
Prof. Dr. theol. Isabelle Noth, University of Bern, CH

12:45 Closing remarks