

# Program of the Interreligious Conference Graz 2013

[Download PDF](#)

		God and Transcendence	The Individual and Society	World and Global Responsibility	
	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
8-9 AM		<a href="#">Registration (Conference center)</a>			
9-10 AM		<p><a href="#">Opening plenary session (Conference center)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Keynote addresses</a>  <b>Dr.in Karin Kneissl:</b>  <i>God's power and Caesar's power: the difficult relationship between political and spiritual power</i></p> <p><b>Prof. DDr. Johann Figl:</b>  <i>In what ways can Religions give orientation and guidance today and for the future?</i></p>	<p><a href="#">Plenary session (Conference center)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Keynote addresses</a>  <b>Prof.in Susanne Heine</b>  <i>Perceiving and respecting differences. A social responsibility</i></p> <p><b>Prof. Roberto Catalano:</b> <i>Individual and communities: Dialogue between challenges and prophecy</i></p>	<p><a href="#">Plenary session (Conference center)</a></p> <p><a href="#">Keynote addresses</a>  <b>Dr.in Carole Reich:</b>  <i>The Council of Europe Exchanges</i></p> <p><b>Dr. Mustafa Ceric</b>  <i>Religion for Peace</i></p>	
10-10:30 AM		Coffee break/change of location	Coffee break/change of location	Coffee break/change of location	
10:30-12:00 AM		<a href="#">Workshops-morning session (Conference center / Town Hall)</a>	<a href="#">Workshops-morning session (Conference center / Town Hall)</a>	<a href="#">Workshops-morning session (Conference center / Town Hall)</a>	
12:00-1:30 PM	Arrival of participants	Lunch break / Opportunity for prayer	Lunch break / Invitation to Friday prayer at the mosque*	Lunch break / Opportunity for prayer	Departure of participants
1:30-2:30 PM		<a href="#">Panel discussion</a> "God and Transcendence" (Conference center)	<a href="#">Panel discussion</a> "Religion and gender aspects" (Conference center)	Closing plenary session (City Council Chamber, Town Hall)	
2:30-3 PM		Coffee break/change of location	Coffee break/change of location		
3-4:15 PM		<a href="#">Workshops-afternoon session (Conference center / Town Hall)</a>	<a href="#">Workshops-afternoon session (Conference center / Town Hall)</a>	3-5 PM Interreligious City Tour (German/English) Historical City Tour (German/ English)	
4:15-4:30 PM		Change of location	Change of location		
4:30-5:30 PM		Closing plenary session (Conference center)	Closing plenary session (Conference center)	5 PM Dinner Songs of Spirit Festival Choir Parade (City center)	
6-7 PM		Dinner	Dinner		
7-8:45 PM	<a href="#">Opening Ceremony (Minoritensäle)</a>	<b>7:30 PM Specialist lecture</b> Prof. Dr. Karl-Josef Kuschel <i>World Religions and Global Ethic in the Era of Globalization (Synagogue)</i>	<b>7:30 PM Interfaith encounter (St. Lukas church)</b> 8 PM Messa da Requiem Stefaniensaal	<b>6.30 PM "Sounding Schlossberg"</b> <a href="#">Musical path up the Castle Mountain</a> <a href="#">Choirs of the Songs of Spirit Festival</a>	
8:45-9 PM	Break with possibility of fast-breaking*	possibility of fast-breaking*	8 PM Film Screening: "The Cup" Kunsthaus		
	Welcome Reception (Minoritensäle)	Questions and moderated discussion with Prof. Kuschel after the lecture	<b>9:30 PM The Rosary Electronic Music and Light Performance (St. Andrä church)</b>	<b>7.30 PM- 10.30 PM</b> <a href="#">Grand Interreligious Closing Ceremony "Com Unity Spirit"</a> <a href="#">(Kasematten stage on top of the Schlossberg)</a>	
From 9 PM		From 9PM Invitation of Muslim participants to the mosque	From 9PM Invitation of Muslim participants to the mosque		

17:00- 24:00

Songs of Spirit Festival  
Long Night of Choir Concerts

\* Möglichkeit zum Gebet bzw. Fastenbrechen für  
muslimische Teilnehmer

## Program of the Interreligious Conference Com Unity Spirit 2013

Overall moderation of the Conference: Mag. Johannes Kaup

### Wed, July 17

[to the top](#)

#### 7-8:45 PM Opening Ceremony of the Interreligious Conference Com Unity Spirit

Minoritensäle (<http://www.minoritensaal.at/>)

Interlude: Choirs of the Songs of Spirit Festival Rivka Saltiel (Jewish songs)

accompanied by Kurt Bauer on the violin

[More information](#)

8:45-9 PM Break with possibility of fast-breaking for Muslim participants

From 9 PM Welcome Reception Minoritensäle (<http://www.minoritensaal.at/>)

### Thu, July 18

[to the top](#)

#### 8-9 AM Registration of participants at the reception desk in the foyer of the conference center

<http://www.museum-joanneum.at/en/kunsthau/kunsthau-graz-5>

#### 9-10 AM **Opening plenary session (Conference center )**

Keynote addresses: *Dr. Karin Kneiss*: God's power and Caesar's power: the difficult relationship between political and spiritual power

*Prof. DDr. Johann Figl*: In which ways can Religions give orientation and guidance today and for the future?

10-10:30 AM Coffee break/change of location

#### 10:30-12 AM 6 concurrent workshops on the day's theme "God and Transcendence"- morning session (Conference center/ Town Hall)

1.1 The significance of the conception of God for humans:

Why God, why Transcendence?

1.2 Religions and Spirituality:

What distinguishes a religious person?

1.3 Self image of religions and perception of others:

What is the meaning of terms like "Nirvana", "Trinity" or "Devotion"...?

1.4 Identity – Rites – Symbols:

To what extent are religious symbols and rites legitimate in the public sphere?

1.5 Mature and communicative religious belief:

How do religious people position themselves between the polar opposites of fundamentalism and indifference?

1.6 Freedom of religion, criticism of religion, converting to another religion:

How is the human right to freedom of religion implemented on a political, state level and within the respective faith communities themselves?

12:00-1:30 PM Lunch break with invitation to selected restaurants in the vicinity of the conference center.

Possibility of Dhuhr prayer for Muslim participants in the prayer room at the conference center

#### 1:30-2:30PM **Panel discussion "God and Transcendence" (Conference center)**

- Univ. Prof. Dr. Ednan Aslan, M.A., Professor for Islamic Religious Education at the University of Vienna
- Prof. Dr. Reinhold Bernhardt- Professor for Systematic Theology / Dogmatics at the University Baseln Gesellschaft für Religionswissenschaft und Professor für Islamwissenschaft an der Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz.
- Dr. Jamie Cresswell- President of the European Buddhist Union EBU
- Hon. Prof. Dr. Walter Homolka- Executive Director of the Abraham Geiger College at Potsdam University, and Professor at its Department for Philosophy
- Imam Benjamin Idriz- Chairman of the association "Centre of Islam in Europe, Munich", and Imam of Penzberg

- Prof. Dr. Elpidophoros Lambriniadis- His Eminence Metropolitan of Bursa and Exarch of Bithynia
- Ao.Univ.-Prof. Mag. Dr.theol. Karl Prenner- Vice Chairman of the Austrian Society for Religious Studies and Professor for Islamic Studies at the Graz University

2:30-3 PM Coffee break/change of location

**3-4:15 PM** [Workshop - afternoon session \(Conference center/ Town Hall \)](#)

4:15-4:30 PM Change of location

**4:30-5:30 PM Closing plenary session (Conference center)**

6-7 PM Dinner invitation to selected restaurants in the vicinity of the conference center.

### Evening program

7-7:30 PM Doors open at 7 PM

**7:30-8:45 PM Specialist lecture in the Graz Synagogue**

**Prof. Dr. Karl-Josef Kuschel, University of Thübingen, Germany**

**"World Religions and Global Ethic in the Era of Globalization"**

Interlude: Choir of the Songs of Spirit Festival: Mixed Choir Group Marupia, Latvia Klezmer Duo of the Graz University of Music and Performing Arts

8:45-9:00 PM Possibility of fast-breaking for Muslim participants

9:10 PM Questions and discussion with Prof. Dr. Kuschel

From 9 PM Invitation of Muslim participants to the mosque (Laubgasse)

**From 5 PM Cultural side program: Songs of Spirit Festival , "Long Night of Choir Concerts"**

## Fri, July, 19

[to the top](#)

**9-10 AM Plenary session  
(Conference center )**

Keynote addresses *Prof.in Susanne Heine:*

Perceiving and respecting differences. A social responsibility

*Prof. Roberto Catalano:*

Individuals and communities: Dialogue between challenges and prophecy

10-10:30 AM Coffee break/change of location

**10:30-12 AM** [Six concurrent workshops on the day's theme "The Individual and Society"- morning session  
\(Conference center/ Town Hall \)](#)

2.1

The responsibility of religions in the public sphere:

To what extent should and would faith communities participate in political life?

2.2 Coexistence in religious diversity:

What are the challenges and are there any inspiring initiatives?

2.3 Religions and gender:

What are the paths to more equality between the genders in the faith communities and in society at large?

2.4 Partnership, family and sexuality:

In which way do religions contribute to building interpersonal relationships embodied with human values and dignity?

2.5 Salvation and healing:

How are the various notions of religious salvation linked to our health?

2.6 "Teaching Religion":

To what extent is religious education a public responsibility and service?

12:30-1 PM Lunch break with invitation to selected restaurants in the vicinity of the conference center

Invitation to Friday prayer for Muslim participants at the mosque (Josef-Huber Gasse)

**1:30-2:30 PM Panel discussion "Religion and gender aspects"(Conference center)**

- Dr.in Clare Amos, Programme Coordinator for Interreligious Dialogue and Cooperation at the World Council of Churches
- Mrs. Amina Baghajati, Women's Representative of the Islamic Faith Community of Austria
- Sr. Dr.in Beatrix Mayrhofer, President of the Association of the Austrian Orders of the Nuns

- Hamideh Mohaghegi, MA, University of Paderborn, HUDA- Network for Muslim Women
  - Parstor Anke Neuenfeldt- Pastor of the Methodist Church Graz
  - Dr. Eva Zeller- Zellenberg, former Vice President of the Austrian Buddhist Religious Community, Vienna
- 2:30-3 PM Coffee break/change of location

**3-4:15 PM** [Workshop - afternoon session \(Conference center/ Town Hall \)](#)

4:15-4:30 PM Change of location

**4:30-5:30 PM Closing plenary session (Conference center)**

6-7 PM Dinner invitation to selected restaurants in the vicinity of the conference center.

From 9 PM Invitation of Muslim participants to the mosque (Gmeinstraße) <http://www.dzematbosnjak.at/>

**Evening cultural side program:**

7:30 PM [The interfaith encounters of St. Lukas](#)

Spiritual Oriental Music by Belfahem Hisham, discussion on 15 years of genuine encounters between faith communities, St. Lucas Church, Eggenbergergürtel 76, 8020 Graz, Friday, July 19, 7:30 PM, free admission, no registration needed

7:30 PM Songs of Spirit Festivals:

Messa da Requiem by Guiseppe Verdi (Stefaniensaal)

8:00 PM Film Creening: "the Cup"

German version Directed by Khyentse Norbu. The plot involves two young football- crazed Tibetan refugee novice monks in a remote Himalayan monastery in India who desperately try to obtain a television for the monastery to watch the 1998 World Cup finals. Conference Center Kunsthaus Space 04, Lendkai 1, 8020 Graz Friday, July 19, 8-10 PM, free admission Registration at: [n.baloch@aai-graz.at](mailto:n.baloch@aai-graz.at)

9:30 PM [The Rosary – Electronic Music and Light Performance](#)

Musik - Bruno Degazio Installation - Henry Jesionka

Friday, July 19, 9:30 PM

St. Andrä church, Kernstockgasse 9, 8020 Graz

free admission, no registration needed.

**Sat, July 20**

[to the top](#)

**9-10 AM Plenary session (Conference center )**

Keynote addresses *Dr.in Carole Reich*, Council of Europe: The Council of Europe Exchanges

*Dr. Mustafa Cerić*, Grandmufti Emeritus of Bosnia and Herzegovina: Religion for Peace

10-10:30 AM Coffee break/change of location

**10:30-12 AM** [Six concurrent workshops on the day's theme "World and Global Responsibility " \(Conference center/ Town Hal \)](#)

3.1 Interfaith dialogue:

Who communicates with whom about what ? Why? To what purpose and under what conditions?

3.2 Responsibility for the world:

What potential do the religions offer for a global future worth living in?

3.3 Religions and politics:

Is religion a private matter?

3.4 Religions and Human Rights:

Can faith communities convincingly commit to advocating for Human Rights?

3.5 Religions and young people:

How can we succeed in offering constructive guidance?

3.6 Religions and the media:

How can the scope and enormous power of the media be utilized best?

12:30-1 PM Lunch break with invitation to selected restaurants in the vicinity of the conference center Possibility of Dhuhr prayer for Muslim participants in the prayer room at the conference center

**1:30-2:30 PM Closing plenary session of the conference (City Council Chamber, Town Hall)**

**Cultural side program:**

3-5 PM Interreligious City Tour (German/English)  
Historical City Tour (German/ English)  
Songs of Spirit Festival: Choir Parade (City center)

3:30 PM Exhibition "Kultur:Stadt" (Kunsthhaus, guided tour)

5 PM Dinner invitation to selected restaurants in the vicinity of the conference center

"Sounding Schlossberg"

**6.30-7.30 PM** Musical path up the castle hill in the town center leading to the Kasematten stage as venue of the closing ceremony on top of the Schlossberg;  
Choirs of the Songs of Spirit Festival

[More Information](#)

**7.30-10:30 PM** Grand Interreligious Closing Ceremony of the Interreligious Conference Com Unity Spirit & the Songs of Spirit Festival

(including common fast-breaking) (Kasematten stage on top of the Schlossberg)

[More Information](#)