

Mennorode 2014

26. Internationales Seminar für Interkulturelle Seelsorge und Beratung

Die andere Religion und Tradition als Segen

Spirituelle Potentiale für Seelsorge und Beratung erkunden



26th International Seminar on Intercultural Pastoral Care and Counselling

The Other Religion and Tradition as Blessing
Exploring spiritual potentials for care and counselling

Menno Conference Centrum
Apeldoornseweg 185, 8075 RJ Elspeet, Netherlands
September 14 – 19, 2014

Partners of SIPCC for the Seminar

Vereniging van Geestelijk Verzorgers in Zorginstellingen – Amsterdam, Netherlands

Contact-person: *Anneke de Vries*

www.vgvz.nl

Caritas Vlaanderen, Belgium

Contact-person: *Dominiek Lootens*

www.caritas.be

Issues – processes – goals of the Seminar

With the 26th International Seminar for Intercultural Pastoral Care and Counselling the SIPCC begins a series of seminars for the coming years, directed at exploring the meaning and the potentials of

Culture – Religion – Tradition

for contemporary living-conditions and for care and counselling in our multi-cultural and multi-religious societies. The plan is to look at the issues from different aspects until 2017. An International Study Group will accompany the Seminars, provide advice and support and publish documentations of the results.

The Seminar in Mennorode, Netherlands will focus on the main-theme from two primary angles:

In order to understand them better one needs to become better acquainted with other or even ‘strange’ religions, faith-traditions and humanistic spiritualities. Religions, faith-traditions and non-religious spirituality attract some people, while others can become bewildered, feel insecure or frightened. The pluralities of religions, world-views, faith-traditions and spiritualities are welcomed and accepted by parts of our societies, others reject and marginalize them and consider the situation to be a danger for the cohesion of societies. On the other hand the “Other” is and the “others” are an expression of diversity and an integral part of the cohabitation of societies and people today. They represent a reality with which we have to reckon in practices of care and counselling.

That leads us to another aspect. In the seminar we want to find ways to learn more about religious and spiritual convictions with which we are not familiar. We want to learn to appreciate their beliefs and faiths, to explore their potentials for individuals and societies and to recognize them as *blessings*. The theme of *blessings* and the various spiritual resources, that empower people and nurture trust and confidence in life in social and individual problems and difficulties, will be a core theme of the Seminar. That will require as well critical reflexion on fundamentalist social, political and spiritual trends.

The goal of the Seminar is to enhance the co-operation between diverse spiritual potentials for care and counseling, so that people, communities and societies can gain confidence in life und take responsibility for our world. That also means promoting social integration between different cultures and supporting a peaceful communal life.

WORKING METHODS AT THE SEMINAR

Devotions - spiritual exercises – prayers from different traditions in the building “De Luwte” (see front page) on the theme “Blessing”

Inputs on the themes of the day in the plenum: Each day three speakers will give short inputs to lead the audience into conversation and discussion.

Intercultural forums: People will tell about themselves (a narrative biographical approach) and about their experiences with other religions and traditions. They inspire the audience to reflect on their own experiences. Moderator of the forums will be *Helmut Weiss*.

Workshops: Aspects of the theme of the day will be discussed on a deeper level in a small group. For the workshops moderators will be present: *Sawsan Chahrour / Franziska Boury / Max Krumbach / George Melel*.

Reflection-groups: In the reflection-groups the participants will have the opportunity for sharing on a personal level in small groups. The groups will remain together throughout the whole Seminar. The groups will represent the diversity of the participants in the Seminar (countries, gender, religions).

The main questions in the reflection groups will be:

- What kind of experiences with culture – religion – tradition do I bring with me into the Seminar?
- What do I experience here in the Seminar?

The groups will be moderated by persons who are experienced in leading groups.

Ursula Harfst (English) / *Désirée Binder* (English) / *Wim Smeets and Annerien Groenendijk* (English) / *Jean-Charles Kaiser* (German).

Seminar observation: The International Study Group (ISG) of the SIPCC will observe the processes in the seminar with a view to specific aspects and evaluate the processes and conversations afterwards to enhance future seminars. The main aspects will be to look for “critical incidences” in the following areas:

- connection of language and power
- facilitation of participation of the participants
- communication between male and female participants
- interaction between presenters and audience

The facilitation and coordination of the Seminar observation will have: *Dominiek Lootens* and *Ursula Harfst*

Excursion: The whole group will spend one day in **Amsterdam** and work there on the theme of the seminar as well as having the opportunity to enjoy the world famous city.

General Assembly of SIPCC: Reports – Publications – Activities - Plans

The Dutch organising team:

Suat Aydin / Ari van Buuren / Brecht Molenaar / Sieta Motiram Sharma / Anneke de Vries

Steering Committee:

If there are any questions or complaints during the Seminar, please do not hesitate to approach the members of the Steering Committee and talk with them.

Ari van Buuren / Kathleen Greider / Dominiek Lootens / Martin Walton / Helmut Weiss

Symbols of your tradition: The participants are requested to bring with them to the seminar a symbol of their religion, world-view, faith tradition or spirituality, which is meaningful to them.

The Conference Centre will provide regular, vegetarian, halal food and other diet on request.

There is a special prayer-room for Muslims.

Mennoorode Conference Centre

has a unique history as a centre for reflection and gathering. It was created in 1925 as a "fraternity house" of the Mennonite community. The Mennonite community is a small, non-dogmatic and open group within the Christian tradition, attentive to meaning, personal growth and social commitment. Over the years the Mennoorode centre has grown into a conference centre for the general business market. Still, many people experience the atmosphere of authentic and personal attention.



Programme of the Seminar

SUNDAY, 14 September 2014

Arrival – Getting to know each other

Theme of the day: *The religious, social and political situation in the Netherlands today*

Moderator of the day: *Anneke de Vries*

14.00 Arrival - Accommodation

15.30 Coffee – tea – cake

LOBBY

16.30 **Welcome** to the Seminar

LUCASGAT A/B

VGZ – *Simon Evers*, chairman

SIPCC – *Helmut Weiss*, president, and the *Executive Committee* of SIPCC

17.00

Introductions:

LUCASGAT A/B

The steering committee:

Ari van Buuren / Kathleen Greider / Dominiek Lootens / Martin Walton / Helmut Weiss

The Dutch organising team:

Suat Aydin / Ari van Buuren / Brecht Molenaar / Sieta Motiram Sharma / Anneke de Vries

The Participants:

Where do I come from? To which tradition do I belong?

The participants are requested to bring with them to the seminar a symbol of their religion, world-view, faith tradition or spirituality, which is meaningful to them.

18.00 Supper

RESTAURANT

20.00

TUNING IN:

LUCASGAT A/B

The religious, social and political situation in the Netherlands today

Prof. Dr. Christa Anbeek, former spiritual caregiver in a psychiatric clinic; Associate Professor for Spiritual Care at the University of Humanistic Studies, Utrecht; Professor at the Remonstrant (Arminian) Seminary of the Free University, Amsterdam.

MONDAY, 15 September 2014

Theme of the day:

Other religions and traditions: bewilderment – challenge - blessing

Moderator of the day: *Kathleen Greider*

7.30 – 8.30	Breakfast	RESTAURANT
8.30	Spirituality in the morning in BLESSING from a Humanistic perspective: <i>Brecht Molenaar</i>	“De Luwte”
9.00 – 10.30	Inputs on the theme of the day <i>Dominiek Lootens</i> , Belgium / <i>Brecht Molenaar</i> , Netherlands / <i>Ron Geenen</i> , Netherlands	LUCASGAT A/B
10.30	Coffee / Tea	LOBBY
11.00 – 12.00	Intercultural Forum Experiences with Christian and Humanistic traditions <i>Daniel Louw</i> , South-Africa / <i>Wouter Kuijman</i> , Netherlands / <i>Désirée Binder</i> , Germany	LUCASGAT A/B
12.30	Lunch	RESTAURANT
15.00 – 16.30	Workshops	
	1) <i>Nahana Mjema</i> , Tanzania: Christian- Muslim Relations in Tanzania	LUCASGAT A/B
	2) <i>Ursula Hecker</i> , Germany: Animistic traditions in Myanmar – are they a blessing for the people?	LUCASGAT C
	3) <i>Jürgen Janik</i> , Germany: Ethical issues in care and counselling	LUCASGAT D
	4) <i>Daniel Schipani</i> , USA: Understanding and engaging <i>toxic</i> spirituality	LUCASGAT E
16.30	Coffee / Tea	LOBBY
17.00 - 18.30	Reflection groups	
	Group 1:	LUCASGAT A/B
	Group 2:	LUCASGAT C

	Group 3:	LUCASGAT D
	Group 4:	LUCASGAT E
18.30	Dinner	RESTAURANT
20.00	Blessings & Blues <i>Martin Walton - Elisabeth Posthumus Meyjes - Mirek Walton</i>	LUCASGAT A/B

TUESDAY, 16 September 2014
‘PRINSJESDAG’ in the Netherlands
King Willem Alexander opens the new Parliamentary Year

Theme of the day:
The purpose of culture, religion and tradition: to become a blessing for the world

Moderator of the day: *Ari van Buuren*

7.30 – 8.30	Breakfast	RESTAURANT
8.30	Spirituality in the morning in BLESSING from a Hindu perspective: <i>Sieta Motiram Sharma</i>	“De Luwte”
9.00 – 10.30	Inputs on the theme of the day <i>Mohammad Meftah, Iran / David Ito, Japan / Brenda Ruiz, Nicaragua</i>	LUCASGAT A/B
10.30	Coffee / Tea	LOBBY
11.00 – 12.00	Intercultural Forum – Experiences with the Hindu tradition <i>Rawie Sewnath, Netherlands / Solomon Victus, India / George Melel, Germany</i>	LUCASGAT A/B
12.30	Lunch	RESTAURANT
13.00	Watching the opening of the new Parliamentary Year through King Willem Alexander on TV	LOBBY
15.00 – 16.30	Workshops	
	1) <i>Alfred Stephen, India:</i> Hindus become a blessing for Christians – Christians become a blessing for Hindus in South-India	LUCASGAT A/B

	2) <i>Peggy Ong</i> , Netherlands: Brahma Kumaris	LUCASGAT C
	3) <i>Danny Smith</i> , England: The concept of „tikkun olam“ in the Jewish tradition	LUCASGAT D
	4) <i>Martin Walton</i> , Netherlands: Practices of mutual hospitality in spiritual care	LUCASGAT E
16.30	Coffee / Tea	LOBBY
17.00 - 18.30	Reflection groups	
	Group 1:	LUCASGAT A/B
	Group 2:	LUCASGAT C
	Group 3:	LUCASGAT D
	Group 4:	LUCASGAT E
18.30	Dinner	RESTAURANT
20.00	SIPCC General Assembly All participants are invited to attend!	LUCASGAT A/B

WEDNESDAY, 17 September 2014

A day in Amsterdam

Theme of the day: *The multi-religious education for care and counselling and the practical work of various religions and traditions*

Moderator of the day: *Anneke de Vries*

A day in Amsterdam

The Seminar will spend one day in Amsterdam, starting at the Theological Faculty of the Free University, afterwards we move to De Nieuwe Poort and then you have the opportunity to enjoy the city by yourself.

7.00 – 8.00 Breakfast

8.15 Departure for **Amsterdam by bus**

10.00 – 12.00 **In the Free University of Amsterdam (www.vu.nl)**

Faculty of Theology; De Boelelaan 1105, 1081 HV Amsterdam

Multi-religious education for care and counselling in the Netherlands

Prof. Dr. *Ruard Ganzevoort*

12.30 Lunch in **De Nieuwe Poort**

Claude Debussylaan 2-8; Viñoly Zuidas; 1082 MD Amsterdam

13.30 – 16.00 **About De Nieuwe Poort**, Meeting Centre between Business and Spirituality

Ruben van Zwieten, Reinoud Beimers

Towards a Society of ‘New We’

Prof. Dr. *Manuela Kalsky*

Reports by some institutions: Buddhist, Hindu, Humanistic, Islamic, Jewish, about their work in in caring, counselling and about social activities directed towards social cohesion

16.00 **Free afternoon**; some possibilities:

Trip on the channels / Visiting the ‘Anne Frank House’

Sightseeing and shopping in the Old Town

Dinner in Amsterdam (individual or in small groups – on own costs)

21.00 **Return trip to Mennorode**

THE FACULTY OF THEOLOGY AT VU-UNIVERSITY

Acknowledging its protestant (Reformed) roots, the Faculty of Theology at VU University Amsterdam today is a center for academic teaching and research that serves the needs of a number of faith communities of various religious traditions.

The faculty cooperates closely with the Protestant Theological University, housed in the same quarters, and with various seminaries (Restored Reformed, Baptist, Mennonite, Remonstrant) and traditions (Russian Orthodox, Anglican, Pentecostal).

The faculty also hosts training programs for Islamic, Buddhist, and Hindu spiritual care, with staff members from each of these traditions.

True to its tradition, VU University cherishes this dialogical space in which religious and world view traditions are not silenced or downplayed but brought into conversation.

The faculty believes that only through dialogue can diversity become fruitful, even when that implies going through conflicts and misunderstanding.

The faculty considers itself a microcosm and practice ground for a society that is equally diverse. Students and staff are encouraged to connect their personal faith affiliation with their academic work in dialogue with others.

The faculty is conscious of the fact that it is part of a larger university where the academic study of the literary, historical, socio-cultural, and philosophical aspects of religious claims may take place, and also of the fact that this university is located in Amsterdam, a metropolitan environment characterized by a diversity of denominations and religious faiths from around the world.

The faculty's goal is to provide sound academic instruction and to engage in solid scholarly research in this multi-religious context and, in doing so, to make a meaningful contribution to the city, the nation, and the world.

The spiritual care training programs are carefully designed to foster the development of a sound professional identity by bringing together generic academic perspectives and practical skills on the one hand and tradition-specific insights and practices on the other.

Parts of the program are taught as interreligious modules, while other parts are taught as intrareligious. The program and its theoretical underpinnings will be presented by lecturers of the faculty.

Ruard Ganzevoort

De Nieuwe Poort is a very interesting and challenging project since May 2012. The objective of this experiment of religious / spiritual presence is dialogue with the business community and the humanization of Dutch society. The director, the pastor and businessman Ruben van Zwieten, organized with his team a lot of meaningful events in the Business Centre. He was 2012 'theologian of the Year'. He is very inspiring person, always looking for new ideas. www.denieuwepoort.org



THURSDAY, 18 September 2014

Theme of the day:

Specific spiritual potentials for care and counselling

Opening oneself for the transforming powers of foreign traditions and of the own spiritual community

Moderator of the day: *Dominiek Lootens*

7.30 – 8.30	Breakfast	RESTAURANT
8.30	Spirituality in the morning in BLESSING from a Islamic perspective: <i>Suat Aydin</i>	“De Luwte”
9.00 – 10.30	Inputs on the theme of the day <i>Razi Quadir, Netherlands / Corry van Straten, Netherlands / Esnaf Begic, Germany</i>	LUCASGAT A/B
10.30	Coffee / Tea	LOBBY
11.00 – 12.00	Intercultural Forum Experiences with the Islamic tradition <i>Ali Eddauodi, Netherlands / Sawsan Chahrour, Germany</i>	LUCASGAT A/B
12.30	Lunch	RESTAURANT
13.30	The past, present and future of Mennorode Director <i>Gert Eigenbrood</i>	
	We plant an SIPCC tree – a contribution to preserv the nature	
15.00 – 16.30	Workshop	
	1) <i>Mohamed Ajouaou, Netherlands:</i> The basis for care and counselling: Human rights	LUCASGAT A/B
	2) <i>Mohammad Imran Sagir, Germany:</i> The Muslim Telephone Hotline in Berlin, Germany - MuTeS	LUCASGAT C
	3) <i>Imad Haddad, Palestine:</i> Care and counselling for Christians and Muslims in Palestine	LUCASGAT D
	4) <i>Cemal Tosun, Turkey /</i> <i>Helmut Weiss, Germany</i> Spiritual potentials for care and counselling in Islam and Christianity: A dialogue	LUCASGAT E
16.30	Coffee / Tea	LOBBY

17.00 - 18.30 **Reflection groups**

Group 1:	LUCASGAT A/B
Group 2:	LUCASGAT C
Group 3:	LUCASGAT D
Group 4:	LUCASGAT E

19.30 Dinner and Celebration **RESTAURANT**

Turkish music

Prof. Daniel Louw, President of ICPCC, South Africa:

Invitation to the ICPCC World Congress

October 2015 in San Francisco, USA.

All participants are invited to contribute to the celebration with music, singing, jokes, stories or whatever.

FRIDAY, 19 September 2014

Theme of the day:

Collaboration amidst diversity as blessing for our world

Opportunities of cooperation in care and counselling

Moderator of the day: *Martin Walton*

Please notice that all have to leave the rooms before 10.00 h.

7.00 – 8.00 Breakfast **RESTAURANT**

8.30 Spirituality in the morning in **“De Luwte”**
BLESSING from a Christian perspective – *Annerien Groenendijk*

9.00 – 10.30 **Reflection groups:**

TURNING ONWARD: What blessings do I take with me for tomorrow? (The written results go to the SIPCC Study Group)

Group 1: “De Luwte”

Group 2: HINDELOOPEN

Group 3: ‘T LEESTEN A

Group 4: ‘T LEESTEN C

10.30 Coffee / Tea **LOBBY**

11.00 – 12.30 **New ideas** for future cooperation: “De Luwte”
Helmut Weiss, Simon Evers and Dominiek Lootens in conversation

The junction of the seas: meeting as a blessing –
An initial evaluation of the Seminar: *Ari van Buuren*

12.30 **Farewell dinner – Words of thanks –** **RESTAURANT**

Invitation to the 27th International Seminar 2015

Conclusion of the Seminar

14.00 **Departure**



V E N U E

Mennorode Conference Centrum

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T 0031 577 498 111

E info@mennorode.nl

www.mennorode.nl



C O S T S

Per person:

Seminar-fee: **200,00 €**

Accommodation and food (breakfast; lunch; dinner; coffee /tea) in the venue:

double rooms **400,00 €**

single rooms **500,00 €**

Donations for sponsoring participants are welcome!

The registration is valid only after transferral of the full payment.

Please register with the registration-form.