



CALL FOR PAPERS

FOR A CONFERENCE ON THE TOPIC

BEING SPIRITUAL WHILE DOING RESEARCH

AT FORUM WIEDENEST/GERMANY (NEAR COLOGNE)

29 - 30 AUGUST 2023

Although the topic of spirituality has been experiencing a renaissance since the end of the previous century, it is not always associated with academic activities. Some Master's and Doctoral students experience writing their thesis as a very dry and spirit-less time. We are however convinced that research can also be a spiritual experience; specialist research has at times indicated this too.

This conference aims to address this very topic: *How can academic research, no matter in which discipline, also be experienced as a spiritual journey?*

Our own background is Christian theology. However, contributions from other disciplines and/or from other faith traditions are most welcome.

The convening organisation of the conference is the GBFE (a network for research and higher education in Europe), in cooperation with renowned scholars from two South African universities: the University of Pretoria and the University of South Africa.

There is a lot of good work on the integration of spirituality in theological education. But there are not many publications on spirituality in research as an active (albeit often unacknowledged) component in research.

With our conference we therefore would like to focus on this niche.

Potential topics

Presenters in this conference are requested to address topics pertinent to one of the following issues:

- Spiritual elements which arise while being involved in research;
- Spiritual transformation while doing research;
- Spiritual intention of research, for oneself and for the community
- The broader / deeper horizons of research;
- Perspectives from different cultures and different disciplines on spiritual dimensions related to research;
- Personal reflections on spirituality related to (in whichever academic field).

Research on spirituality in research



Venue, date & language

The conference will last two days: 29-30 August 2023. It will include plenary sessions, presentations in parallel groups and a conference dinner on the Tuesday night. The conference language will be English; for small group presentations German will also be an option.

The conference site is Forum Wiedenest, near Cologne. (We will arrange a visit to Cologne before the conference for visitors arriving early.)

The fee for the conference will be 190€, including meals and the conference dinner. Accommodation can be booked at the conference hotel (details to follow later).

Literature

Some examples literature related to the topic of our conference:

Audéoud, Martine 2022. Research as worship in the company of God. Draft.
<https://maudeoud.academia.edu/research#drafts>.

Görnitz, Thomas & Görnitz, Brigitte 2018. Naturwissenschaft und evangelische Spiritualität, in P. Zimmerling (Hg), *Handbuch Evangelische Spiritualität* Band 2 (Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht), 89-110.

Kessler, Volker 2019. Spirituality in mathematics. *Journal for the Study of Spirituality*, Vol. 9, No.1, 49-61.

Liebert, Elisabeth 2002. The role of practice in the study of Christian Spirituality. *Spiritus* 2/1, 30-49.

Please submit a paper title and abstract of no more than 200 words **by 15 February 2023** to Mrs Dorothea Krämer (dorothea.kraemer@gbfe.eu). The programme will be finalised by March 2023. On request, presenters can get an earlier decision, if required. The aim is to publish the (revised) conference papers in a special journal or as a conference volume.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE:

Prof Volker Kessler, Germany
GBFE, Gummersbach;
volker.kessler@gbfe.eu

Prof Marilyn Naidoo, South Africa
University of South Africa, Pretoria;
Naidom2@unisa.ac.za

Dr Matthias Wenk, Switzerland
Bewegung Plus, Burgdorf;
m.wenk@bewegungplus.ch

Prof Christo Lombaard, South Africa
University of Pretoria;
cjs.lombaard@up.ac.za

Prof Tanya van Wyk, South Africa
University of Pretoria;
tanya.vanwyk@up.ac.za

Dr Philipp Wenk, Switzerland
GBFE, Zürich;
wenk@igw.edu

Gesellschaft für Bildung und Forschung in Europa e.V.
Furtwänglerstr. 10, 51643 Gummersbach, Germany
www.gbfe.eu / info@gbfe.eu