

COLLABORATION AGREEMENT no.1 (Memorandum of Understanding)

Article I - Parties

This Agreement is made between

- (1) the **FACULTY OF THEOLOGY AND ISLAMIC STUDIES AT FERDOWSI UNIVERSITY (FUM)**, Mashhad / Iran, address: Azadi Square, Mashhad, Razavi Khorasan Province, Iran ("Theology FUM")
- (2) and the Institute for **THE STUDY OF THEOLOGIES BEYOND EUROPE** at the **CATHOLIC THEOLOGICAL FACULTY AT THE WESTPHALIAN WILHELMS UNIVERSITY OF MÜNSTER (WWU)**, Robert-Koch Strasse 29, 48149 Münster, Germany ("Theologies Beyond Europe WWU").

Individually referred to as "Party" and jointly referred to as "Parties".

Article II – Purpose of the Agreement

- (1) The purpose of this Agreement is to establish a framework of co-operation among the Parties in order to develop an intercultural and interreligious academic theological exchange between the two institutions.
- (2) Within this framework, the Parties shall co-operate and work together in good faith to implement, support and promote the purpose of this Agreement.

Article III – Scope and Duration of the Collaboration

- (1) Theology FUM and Theologies Beyond Europe WWU agree to offer three formats of academic exchange and collaboration in the academic area of "Intercultural Theology and Interreligious Studies", beneficial to mutual understanding of their respective theological and religious traditions and distinct research cultures, enabling cross-cultural and interreligious learning for the institutions' academic staff and students:

(a) Scholar-in-Residence and Fellowship Appointments

Theology FUM helps to secure a 1-year Scholar-in-Residence appointment for Professor Norbert Hintersteiner from 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2021. FUM provides 2 months of free accommodation at its Campus Guesthouse. Otherwise his stay is self-sponsored. FUM also provides full administrative support to facilitate the necessary Iranian visa for the one-year stay.

Theologies Beyond Europe WWU helps to secure a 1-year Scholar-in-Residence appointment for an Islamic theology professor, scholar or postdoc selected and introduced by FUM for 1 September 2021 to 31 August 2022. Theologies Beyond Europe WWU provides 2 months of free accommodation at its Campus Guesthouse. Otherwise an FUM scholar's stay is self-sponsored. Theologies Beyond Europe WWU also provides full administrative support to facilitate the necessary German visa for the one-year stay.

"WWU fellowship" appointments for professors and postdocs from FUM for research stays at WWU, ranging from 1 to 3 months. For the period of September 2020 to September 2023, each year a WWU fellowship and visa support will be offered to one candidate from FUM. The maximum amount of support offered to each candidate is Euro 2000 per month (maximum 3 months).

"FUM fellowship" appointments for professors and postdocs from Theologies Beyond Europe WWU for research stays at FUM, ranging from 1 to 3 months. For the period of September 2020 to September 2023, each year an FUM fellowship and visa support will be offered to one candidate from WWU. The maximum amount of support offered to each candidate includes free accommodation at the Campus Guesthouse and free enrolment in Persian Language Courses (maximum 3 months).

Scholar-in-Residence and fellowship appointees, next to their research, contribute with teaching some courses at the host institution as agreed with each candidate.

(b) International Summer Schools

Parties agree to collaborate in coordinating and hosting International Summer Schools for short term student exchange opportunities.

Theology FUM will host and help facilitate summer schools of Theologies Beyond Europe WWU on its campus and related institutions in Mashhad: (1) DAAD Summer School "Exploring Asian Christianity", 3-15 October 2020; (2) "Christianity in Iran: Cultural Heritage and Interreligious Coexistence", 1-15 April 2021. Funding will be secured by Theologies Beyond Europe.

Theologies Beyond Europe WWU will host and help facilitate summer schools of FUM on its campus and related institutions in Münster: Proposed themes are (1) "The Shia School of Faith", date: to be announced later; (2) "Shia Communities in Europe", date: to be announced later. Funding will be secured by FUM.

(c) Teaching Mobility and Curriculum Collaboration

Parties agree to facilitate teaching mobility through scholars-in-residence or fellowship holder so to contribute to the other institution's course offerings in their respective study programmes, particularly in the area of "*Intercultural Theology and Interreligious Studies*".

For example, Professor Norbert Hintersteiner at his first Scholar-in-Residence appointment will add to the teaching at FUM within its Theology programmes with the following courses

Autumn Semester 2020:

- (1) The Christian Tradition: Theological Key Texts I
- (2) Exploring Asian Christianity
- (3) Islam and Christianity: Comparing Theological Themes
- (4) Interreligious Dialogue for Peace, Reconciliation and Social Cohesion I

Winter / Spring 2021

- (1) The Christian Tradition: Theological Key Texts II
- (2) Hinduism and Christianity: Comparing Theological Themes
- (3) Christianity in Iran: Cultural Heritage and Interreligious Coexistence
- (4) Interreligious Dialogue for Peace, Reconciliation and Social Cohesion II

FUM Scholar-in-Residence at WWU or WWU fellowship holder contribute to the module "*Intercultural Theology and Interreligious Studies*" of the Masters in Theology programs offered by the Catholic Theological Faculty of WWU.

- (2) Parties agree to this collaboration for a period of 4 years, 1 September 2020 to 31 August 2024, initially allowing for two cycles of collaboration along the formats stated in III (1).

Article IV - Term and Termination

- (1) This Agreement shall become effective upon the signature of the Parties and shall remain in force until all of the responsibilities and commitments of this Agreement have been fulfilled.
- (2) Either Party may terminate this Agreement, without cause and without liability, by giving 60 calendar days written notice of such termination to the other Party. Upon the effective date of termination of this Agreement, all legal obligations, rights and duties arising out of this Agreement shall terminate, except for such legal obligations, rights and duties as shall have accrued prior to the effective date of termination and except as otherwise expressly provided in this Agreement.
- (3) Either Party may terminate this Agreement by immediate notice if all the following conditions are satisfied: (i) the other Party is in breach of a material term of this Agreement; (ii) the terminating Party has given the other Party 30 days' notice of this breach; and (iii) the other Party has not remedied, or, if not capable of remedy, substantially mitigated the breach within that period.

Article V - Communication

- (1) The Parties shall, on a regular basis, keep each other informed of and consult on matters of interest concerning their co-operation under this Agreement. In addition, the

Parties shall inform each other, in writing, of any event or situation which might affect the implementation of this Agreement, in particular in relation to all matters that may necessitate a modification or an amendment to this Agreement.

(2) All communication relating to the implementation of this Agreement shall be in the English language and addressed to the contact persons of the Parties specified below, or the delegates nominated by these contact persons.

(a) Contact Person for Theology FUM:

Dr Gholamreza Raeisian,
Ferdowsi University of Mashhad
Faculty of Theology and Islamic Studies
Azadi Square, Mashhad, Razavi Khorasan Province, Iran
Phone: +98 51 3880 3853
Mobile Phone: +98 937 696 8838
E-mail: raeisian@um.ac.ir

(b) Contact Person for Theologies Beyond Europe WWU:

Professor Norbert Hintersteiner,
Westphalian Wilhelms University Münster
Catholic Theological Faculty
Theologies Beyond Europe
Robert-Koch Strasse 29, 48 149 Münster, Germany
Phone: +49 251 83 31994
Mobile phone: +49 251 83 31994
E-mail: norbert.hintersteiner@uni-muenster.de

(3) The Parties may, if deemed appropriate, convene meetings to review the implementation of the Agreement. The costs of such meetings shall be borne by each Party separately.

Article VI – Final Provisions

(1) The Parties shall maintain the confidentiality of all documents and information received as a result of this Agreement or its objective, and will not disclose any information relating directly or indirectly to this Agreement without the other Party's prior written consent.

(2) This Agreement will be governed by German and Iranian law with the exclusion of conflict of law provisions.

(3) Any dispute, controversy or claim arising out of or in connection with this Agreement shall be settled through negotiations between the Parties. If the Parties fail to settle the dispute amicably within 60 days of commencement of the negotiations, it shall be settled by arbitration in accordance with the relevant Optional Rules for Arbitration of the Permanent Court of Arbitration involving international organizations and private parties. One (1) arbitrator shall be appointed who shall have full powers to make final and binding decisions based on general principles of international law. The appointing authority shall be the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague. The place of arbitration shall be Münster and the language used in the arbitration proceedings shall be English.

(4) This Agreement may be modified or amended only with the written consent of the Parties.

(5) Nothing in or relating to this Agreement is to be understood as a waiver, express or implied, of any of Theology FUM's or Theologies Beyond Europe WWU's privileges and immunities under international or national law, including immunity from any form of legal process and any measure of execution.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned, being duly authorized thereto, has signed the present Agreement in the English language in two copies.

Signed for and behalf of Islamic
Theology FUM:



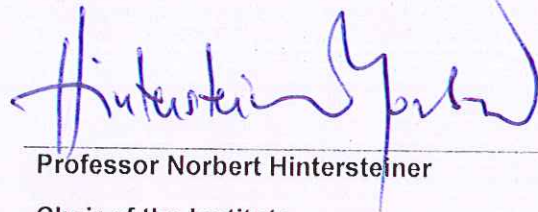
Professor Gholamreza Raeisian

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8 February 2020

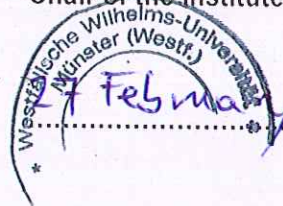


Signed for and on behalf of Theologies
Beyond Europe WWU:



Professor Norbert Hintersteiner

Chair of the Institute



2020
