CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

EUROPEAN SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME@DIALOGUEPERSPECTIVES

PROGRAMME YEAR 2019/20

DIALOG UE/PERS PECTIVES

Discussing Religions and World Views

Ernst Ludwig Ehrlich Studienwerk e.V.

Postfach 210320
10503 Berlin
Germany

Project Leader:
Jo Frank
frank@eles-studienwerk.de

Project Coordinator:
Johanna Korneli
korneli@dialogperspektiven.de

Project Assistent:
Adrian Fiedler
fiedler@dialogperspektiven.de

Project Assistant:
Rachel de Boor
deboor@dialogperspektiven.de

info@dialogueperspectives.org

www.dialogueperspectives.org

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ELES Ernst Ludwig Ehrlich Studienwerk

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Discussing Religions and World Views

Become a part of a unique European network of future decision-makers! Seize the chance to help shape the shared life of different religious communities in Europe, and our shared European society!

You are a student or doctoral candidate in the United Kingdom, France, Luxembourg, Poland, Sweden, or Hungary? You are active in the life of your university, your religious community, or in civil society organisations and institutions? You are interested in questions about the role of religions and worldviews? You believe in the importance of inclusive and innovative inter-religious and worldview dialogue? You are seeking exchange and encounters with students and doctoral candidates from other countries and with a diversity of identities? You would like to get involved in a unique network for inter-religious and worldview dialogue?

Then apply for the *European Scholarship Programme@Dialogue Perspectives!* As a participant in the *European Scholarship Programme@Dialogue Perspectives,* you will take part in the following four events:

AUTUMN SEMINAR 2019
"Religion and Identity"
September 25th-29th, Brandenburg/Germany

SPRING SEMINAR 2020
"Luxembourg — religious diversity and the socio-political responsibility of religious communities in the centre of Europe"
March 25th–29th 2020, Luxembourg

EUROPEAN LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP 2020
Spring 2020, Vatican City

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
June 18th–21 2020, Berlin/Germany

THE PROGRAMME

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Discussing Religions and World Views

DialoguePerspectives. Discussing Religions and Worldviews is a programme of the Ernst Ludwig Ehrlich Studienwerk, a Jewish scholarship fund from Germany. *Dialogue-Perspectives* develops and implements new forms of worldview and inter-religious dialogue. The programme has been successfully training future decision-makers to be experts in inter-religious/worldview dialogue for the past five years.

Participants enter into a dialogue with one another and with renowned international academics and experts on one of the most important topics of our time: the role of religions and worldviews for the individual and for European society.

DialoguePerspectives illustrates the religious, political, and societal pluralism of European society in a unique way. *DialoguePerspectives* allows its participants to work across disciplines and to encounter multipliers of diverse religious and non-religious affiliations. With the *European Scholarship Programme@DialoguePerspectives,* the programme is opening itself to European students and doctoral candidates from France, Hungary, Poland, Luxembourg, Sweden and the United Kingdom. We will address a number of new topic areas and in doing so profit from the diversity of experiences the participants bring with them. Topics will include commonalities and differences in the shared lives of religious communities, constitutional prerequisites on the relationship between state and religion and the socio-political and personal implications resulting from them.

RELIGIOUS PRACTICE

Joint religious practice during the events is, alongside the topical work, a further focal point of the programme. *DialoguePerspectives* creates a space to both live out your own practices and to get to know the practices of other religious communities and worldviews. Participants create morning inputs in which they can introduce and share with each other their religious and spiritual practices. They forge shared forms of prayer and meditation together, thus developing inclusive concepts, shared practices of prayer that open up new religious and spiritual approaches.

COSTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

The *European Scholarship Programme@DialoguePerspectives* is a part of the *Dialogue-Perspectives. Discussing Religions and Worldviews* programme. The *DialoguePerspectives* programme is made possible by contributions from Germany's Federal Foreign Office. The costs of the seminars, accommodation, and catering during all events, as well as a travel stipend per event, are covered by the scholarship.

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EVENTS

AUTUMN SEMINAR 2019: "RELIGION AND IDENTITY: UNDERSTANDINGS OF SELF, EXTERNAL ATTRIBUTIONS, AND COLLECTIVE IDENTITIES"
25TH TO 29TH SEPTEMBER 2019
BEGEGNUNGSSTÄTTE SCHLOSS GOLLWITZ, BRANDENBURG/HAVEL

Hybrid identites, self-determination, external attribution: How do individuals and society express diverse orientations, backgrounds, and affiliations? How do people grapple with their own heritages, religious affiliations, and sexual and gender identities, and which linguistic, media, and artistic vehicles do they use to express them? What roles do identities and their labels play in political and legal processes, in socio-political discourses and debates in Europe? Is it possible to bring together particular identity and social cohesion, or are identity politics and societal cohesion contradictory? We seek to figure out how we actually speak about ourselves and others, and how we could speak, with *Dialogue-Perspectives'* foundational assumption of pluralism as our conceptual starting point.

SPRING SEMINAR 2020: "LUXEMBOURG – RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY AND THE SOCIO-POLITICAL RESPONSIBILITY OF RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES IN THE CENTRE OF EUROPE"
25TH TO 29TH MARCH 2020, LUXEMBOURG

Luxembourg is home to many EU institutions and has traditionally been a builder of bridges between European societies. The country is currently a site where various discourses on the relationship between religion, state, and society are playing out: traditionally Catholic, Luxembourg is today a diverse, multi-religious society. With more than 50 percent of its residents being of foreign nationality, the majority of the population belong to religious and cultural minorities. Dialogue between these communities is – in part due to the tight quarters – more intensive than in almost any other European state. In the course of the constitutional reform of 2015, the centuries-old close relationship between the state and the Catholic church was changed, while the relationship between state and religion, on the one hand, and the relationship of religious communities to one another, on the other, was renegotiated. At the Spring Seminar we would like to discover the diverse religious and inter-religious society of Luxembourg with local political and civil society actors and representatives of religious institutions while analysing and discussing questions of religious and worldview diversity, the relationship between state and religion, and the responsibility of religions in socio-political discourses.

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EUROPEAN LEADERSHIP WORKSHOP
SPRING 2020
VATICAN CITY

At the European Leadership Workshop you will come together with selected current and former participants of the *DialoguePerspectives* programme with experience in inter-religious dialogue who are involved in the life of their universities, religious and other communities, or who have founded initiatives on the ground. The European Leadership Workshop offers you the opportunity to network and exchange ideas and experiences with European and international actors. A focal point of the workshop will be an intensive training in methods. You will learn strategies and gain the tools to strengthen your role as a future decision-maker and European multiplier.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2020
18TH TO 21ST JUNE 2020, BERLIN

We will close the programme year in June 2020 with a four-day, international conference. The programme participants will be actively involved in the planning and implementation of the event. The results of the two seminars will be brought together and presented to the public there.

APPLICATION

We kindly request that you submit the following application materials via e-mail to *application@dialogueperspectives.org* by **September 15th** as a PDF document:

- Completed application form
- Letter of motivation (max. one page)
- CV
- Enrolment certification from your university

Please address any questions on the application process to *europe@dialogueperspectives.org*

How can we enter into dialogue with one another? How do we wish to position ourselves within various discourses? Which innovative forms of speaking about questions of religion and worldview can we develop together? How can we address conflicting personal lifestyles and life choices while also developing shared positions?

Come and grapple with these and other questions with us. Formulate shared goals, forge new alliances, and get engaged with us: Against racism, anti-Semitism, and hatred of Muslims, and for a pluralistic European society!

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FUNDAMENTAL GOALS

1. To generate and promote inter-religious/worldview relationships between future European decision-makers of diverse religious and worldview backgrounds.

2. To communicate and establish practical, outcome-oriented, pluralistic approaches to and formats for dialogue in the public discourse and in academia.

3. To create a European, globally-acting, stable network of future decision-makers that is active in shaping the current discourse on the intersections between religions/worldviews and societal responsibility.

FOUNDATIONAL CONCEPTUAL ASSUMPTIONS

- Religions fundamentally shape the lives and actions of individuals and society. *DialoguePerspectives* works on a foundational assumption of religious pluralism. All dialogue partners are entitled to equal participation in an inclusive, contemporary, and thoughtful dialogue. When speaking of religions and worldviews, following the social structure of pluralistic societies, we mean not only the three Abrahamic religions (Judaism, Christianity, Islam) but also all other institutional religions, and non-institutional, privatistic and new religious movements, orientations, and convictions as well as atheistic and anti-theistic worldviews.

- No position is favoured within the programme. Rather, open social science and religious studies methods are used.

- *DialoguePerspectives* prioritises the encounter between different individuals, above and beyond their convictions. These individuals represent diversity not only in terms of their religious/worldview orientations, but also in terms of other attributes that shape identity such as, for example, sexual and gender identities and ethnic origins.

- Relationships are the focus of the programme: interpersonal, inter-religious/worldview, and intercultural. The encounter has the relationship as its goal: The programme lives on intensive exchange with one another, from constructive confrontation and from shared experiences of religious practice. Individual beliefs and attitudes relating to their worldviews are often seen by the participants as highly intimate aspects of their selves. This exchange thus requires a framework that makes possible very deep discussions – with the goal of crafting resilient personal alliances out of the relationships that develop after a year of working together.