



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS DIALOGUEPERSPECTIVES PROGRAMME YEAR 2021/22

DIALOGUE/PERSPECTIVES

Discussing
Religions and
World Views

"To any of my friends who are still at university in bachelors, masters or PhD programs, and interested in interfaith and intercultural dialogue: do consider applying for next year's DialoguePerspectives cohort! Great opportunity!"

Nurenisa, DialoguePerspectives participant

"Through DialoguePerspectives, I have realised, for the first time, what it really means to live in a pluralistic society – and that it is exactly what I want!"

Whitney, DialoguePerspectives participant

"I am very grateful to DialoguePerspectives for making these heartfelt encounters possible and for the opportunity not only to broaden my horizons, but also to challenge myself again and again in a safe and pluralistic space."

Yee-Sol, DialoguePerspectives participant

*"Interreligious dialogue in Europe is possible!
Thank you DialoguePerspectives."*

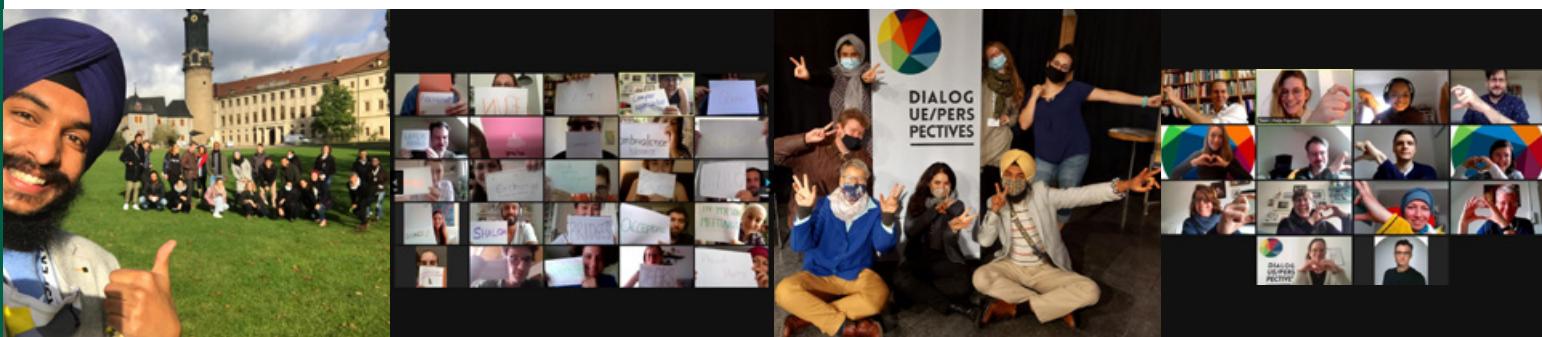
Eleonora, DialoguePerspectives participant

"DialoguePerspectives offers a unique change of perspective! The programme allows you to really grapple with current and highly societally relevant questions, to reflect on your own identity, and to get to know the diversity of European identities."

Ezgi, DialoguePerspectives participant

"DialoguePerspectives is, for me, a unique opportunity to really listen and understand, to feel what in-depth, earnest exchange means, and how painful, illuminating, and game-changing this is – for me, for the other person, and for our society as a whole."

Hannah, DialoguePerspectives participant



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DialoguePerspectives

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LEO BAECK FOUNDATION
L. Baeck



Federal Foreign Office



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

You are a student or doctoral candidate in the European Union or the UK? You are active in the campus life, 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 of future change-agents for inter-religious and worldview dialogue?

THEN APPLY FOR THE DIALOGUEPERSPECTIVES PROGRAMME!

Come and grapple with questions of religious, political, and societal plurality of European society with us. Formulate shared goals, forge new alliances, and get engaged with us: Against racism, anti-Semitism, hatred of Muslims, anti-feminism and queer- and transphobia and for a pluralistic European society!

As a participant of *DialoguePerspectives*, you will take part in the following three events:

> AUTUMN SEMINAR 2021

"Towards a pluralistic European culture of remembrance: Navigating the narratives, memories and histories that shape European communities"

October 6th—10th 2021, Potsdam/Germany & Berlin/Germany

> SPRING SEMINAR 2022

"Luxembourg—religious diversity and the socio-political responsibility of religious communities in the centre of Europe"

March 23rd—27th 2022, Luxembourg

> INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2022

June 16th—19th 2022, Berlin/Germany

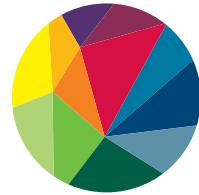
COSTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

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 programme.



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THE PROGRAMME

DialoguePerspectives. Discussing Religions and Worldviews develops and establishes new and innovative forms of interfaith-worldview dialogue. Its mission is to meaningfully contribute to European understanding and collaboration, to the strengthening and defence of European civil society, and to the shaping of a pluralistic and democratic Europe grounded in the principle of solidarity.

Since 2015, almost 250 students and doctoral candidates of diverse religious and worldview orientations have come together through the programme. With the support of the Federal Foreign Office, the programme has been extended to a European platform for training future leaders in academia, culture, politics, and business to become experts in a new, societally-oriented interfaith-worldview dialogue.

The participants reflect the religious, political, and societal plurality of European society. They incorporate their diverse backgrounds and experiences to create a fertile ground for exchange, finding an urgently necessary space for encounter, exchange, and dialogue at *DialoguePerspectives*.

DialoguePerspectives allows its participants to work across disciplines and to engage change agents with of diverse religious and non-religious affiliations. During the seminars the participants reflect upon societal and political frameworks and their meaning for the respective religious communities in Europe. Topics include commonalities and differences in the shared lives of religious communities, constitutional prerequisites on the relationship between state and religion, the socio-political and personal implications resulting from them.

Through practical, outcome-oriented, and pluralistic dialogue processes and formats we equip our participants with concrete tools for taking on the challenges of our pluralistic and increasingly fragmented and polarized society. They learn to use their diverse sets of expertise to strengthen their communities and formulate their needs for the whole of society. They develop strategies against, among others, nationalism, right-wing extremism, anti-Semitism and (anti-Muslim) racism and for a pluralistic, democratic, society based in solidarity that they can apply and perpetuate long-term in their own alliances and in their academic and professional lives.

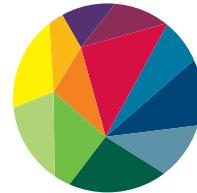
RELIGIOUS PRACTICE

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 expressions that open up new religious and spiritual approaches.



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EVENTS

AUTUMN SEMINAR 2021: "TOWARDS A PLURALISTIC EUROPEAN CULTURE OF REMEMBRANCE: NAVIGATING THE NARRATIVES, MEMORIES AND HISTORIES THAT SHAPE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES"

6TH TO 10TH OCTOBER 2021, POTSDAM/GERMANY

Radical diversity characterizes today's European societies. This has repercussions for societies' understanding of themselves, ranging from political ideas to forms of public memory and remembrance.

Cultures of remembrance are dynamic. They change over time, with new societal and political constellations. Who remembers when, where, and how, as well as whose remembrance is made visible thus plays a decisive role in determining the story a society tells about itself, about who belongs to its we.

Cultures of remembrance, in religious and non-religious frameworks, are political as they make certain groups and their respective perspectives visible, while excluding other groups.

At heart of our work lies the conviction that those who seek to understand the present and the future through the lens of contemporary societies' diversity must also tell a new story of the past. *DialoguePerspectives'* participants with their diversity, multiplicity of voices, perspectives and expertise and their various moments of memory, located all over Europe are thus key contributors to a diversification of European remembrance cultures which is a prerequisite for the recognition of plural European societies. We want to celebrate, strengthen and make visible the diversity of European moments of remembrance.

Addressing various aspects, chances and challenges of remembrance from an interdisciplinary perspective will open up the nagging questions of European plurality and pluralization. We invite our participants to join us in considering these questions, to develop ideas and visions for pluralistic remembrance culture, to experience European diversity, and to grapple with their own ambivalent perspectives.

SPRING SEMINAR 2022: "LUXEMBOURG—RELIGIOUS DIVERSITY AND THE SOCIO-POLITICAL RESPONSIBILITY OF RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES IN THE CENTRE OF EUROPE"

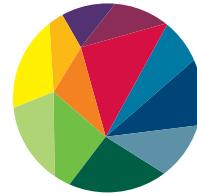
23RD TO 27TH MARCH 2022, LUXEMBOURG

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

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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.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE 2022

16TH TO 19TH JUNE 2022, BERLIN/GERMANY

We will close the programme year in June 2022 with a four-day, international conference. The programme participants will be actively involved in the planning and implementation of the event, interact with European actors from politics, academia, civil society, and religious communities and have the opportunity to actively and visibly position themselves in political and social discourses. At the conference, the results of the joint work of the program year are discussed and presented to a broad public.

APPLICATION

We kindly request that you submit the following application materials (English or German) by **August 15th 2021** via our online application portal: <https://www.dialogueperspectives.org/application/>

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

How can we enter into a shared dialogue across national, cultural, and religious/worldview boundaries? How can we position ourselves within existing discourses as an image of the increasing pluralization in Europe? Which new forms of discussing questions at the intersection between religions, worldviews, politics, and society can be developed together? How can antagonisms and conflicts in peoples' personal life-paths be addressed, while forming shared positions at the same time? How can we deal with the shared challenges of a pluralistic and increasingly fragmented and polarized European society, with attacks on religious minorities, and with the questioning of interfaith dialogue by right-wing extremism and nationalism? Which values are the foundation of the EU, and to what extent do these values actually inform European societies? How can joint societal action in Europe be shaped?





FUNDAMENTAL GOALS

1. To create a European, globally-acting and robust network of future European Leaders, with the goal of training them to become competent shapers of European discourses at the intersection of religions/worldviews, academia, politics, culture, business, and social responsibility.
2. To further develop a constructive, societally-oriented dialogue between religious and worldview-based communities in Europe with the goal of strengthening these diverse European communities across national boundaries, creating new European alliances, kindling a feeling of mutual protection and solidarity between individual religious and worldview communities, and to translate this feeling to a shared European responsibility to take action for one another.
3. To create a robust European network of renowned academic, civil society, political, religious/worldview, and corporate partner institutions and organizations in European partner countries to facilitate the transfer of *DialoguePerspectives'* insights and methods with the goal of actively strengthening European cooperation.
4. To actively participate in shaping current and future European discourses at the intersections between religions/worldviews, academia, politics, and societal responsibility using practical, outcome-oriented, and pluralistic dialogue processes and formats.

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FOUNDATIONAL CONCEPTUAL ASSUMPTIONS

- Religions and worldviews 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.
- *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 deep discussions – with the goal of crafting resilient personal alliances out of the relationships that develop after a year of working together.