

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS DIALOGUEPERSPECTIVES PROGRAMME YEAR 2022/23



DIALOGUE/PERSPECTIVES

Discussing Religions and Worldviews

"Interreligious dialogue in Europe is possible!

Thank you DialoguePerspectives."

Eleonora, DialoguePerspectives participant

"As an academic studying religious pluralism, I experienced a very warm and welcoming environment in the DialoguePerspectives programme. I learned a great deal from open-minded people from so many diverse backgrounds. DialoguePerspectives is truly pluralism in practice!"

Fatima, DialoguePerspectives participant

"DialoguePerspectives enabled me to get in touch with a diverse group of people who believe in positively shaping European society. While attending the seminars I was able to expand my knowledge and worldview in a lasting way. Every seminar was a great opportunity to evolve and challenge yourself while connecting with amazing people!"

Charly, DialoguePerspectives participant

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

Ezgi, DialoguePerspectives participant

"DialoguePerspectives has connected me with many great souls who are experts in different fields of study and passionate about social change and making friends across borders of any kind. I'm happy to be part of a big network now with new friends who I can ask academic questions, as well as be welcomed to their home when travelling through Europe and beyond!"

David, DialoguePerspectives participants

"To engage in a pluralistic discourse, to reflect on your own identity and those of others, to find common goals and learn how to embrace differences, DialoguePerspectives provides a safe and welcoming space for everyone who wants to understand different religions and worldviews. I am so grateful to have met so many inspiring people from all over Europe."

Lotta, DialoguePerspectives participant



Project Leader:

Jo Frank
frank@dialogueperspektiven.de

Programme Leader:

Johanna Korneli
korneli@dialogueperspektiven.de

Programme Manager:

Rachel de Boor
deboor@dialogueperspektiven.de

Programme Manager:

Henri Vogel
vogel@dialogueperspektiven.de

Programme Assistant:

Adrian Fiedler
fiedler@dialogueperspektiven.de

Programme Assistant:

Katja Sigutina
sigutina@dialogueperspektiven.de

Programme Assistant:

Kira Wisniewski
wisniewski@dialogueperspektiven.de

FB/dialoGeperspektiven

IG/dialoGeperspectives

@neuedialoge

YouTube DialoguePerspectives

www.dialogueperspectives.org

DialoguePerspectives
P.O. Box 22430
10126 Berlin | Germany

A European Programme made possible by contributions from the Federal Foreign Office



Federal Foreign Office



DIALOG UE/PERS PECTIVES

Discussing
Religions and
Worldviews

**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 for our European society? You believe in the importance of inclusive and innovative interreligious 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 a constructive, socially-oriented, 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, Islamophobia, 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 2022**
Towards European Diversity Competence
Tackling questions of difference and cohesion in the context of religions, worldviews and society
12—16 October 2022, Bonn/Germany

- > **SPRING SEMINAR 2023**
Mapping Memory, Shaping Present & Future
Exploring the religious/worldview and social landscapes of Poland
8—12 March 2023, Kraków/Poland

- > **International Conference 2023**
15—18 June 2023, 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.





THE PROGRAMME

Dialogue Perspectives. 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, more than 200 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 program 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 programme.

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 *Dialogue Perspectives*.

Dialogue Perspectives 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/worldview Practice

Joint religious practice during the events is, alongside the topical work, a further focal point of the programme. *Dialogue Perspectives* 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.

DIALOGUE/PERSPECTIVES

Discussing
Religions and
Worldviews





DIALOGUE/PERSPECTIVES

Discussing Religions and Worldviews

EVENTS

AUTUMN SEMINAR 2022

Towards European Diversity Competence

Tackling questions of difference and cohesion in the context of religions, worldviews and society

12—16 October 2022, Bonn/Germany

European societies are plural and diverse. At the same time, there is a significant lack of diversity competence in many central areas of society, while old ideas about “social cohesion” are in urgent need of updating. The religious and worldview pluralism of our European society offers huge opportunities to come together on the basis of our differences, by broadening our knowledge and perspectives, and by countering exclusion. The social frame of reference of our coexistence must expand. But how? And in which settings and spaces?

For our Autumn Seminar 2022, we want to explore the potential that difference offers us in the interplay of religions, worldviews, and society in search of concepts and ideas for a new, productive cohesion. *Dialogue Perspectives*' participants, coming from all over Europe and bringing with them their diversity and multiplicity of voices, perspectives, and expertise are thus key contributors to this endeavour. We want to recognise, strengthen, and make visible the diversity of European society and include their voices and perspectives on it.

We invite our participants to address various aspects, challenges, and opportunities. *Dialogue Perspectives* will tackle nagging questions of European plurality from an interdisciplinary perspective and develop ideas and visions for a new, productive societal cohesion.

SPRING SEMINAR 2023

Mapping Memory, Shaping Present & Future

Exploring the religious/worldview and social landscapes of Poland

8—12 March 2023, Kraków/Poland

In our Spring Seminar 2023 we will focus our work on questions surrounding plurality and diversity in Central and Eastern Europe. Against the backdrop of the historical complexity and current challenges facing this country, *Dialogue Perspectives* has chosen Poland as a “case study”. Shaped by the impact of historical, political and cultural conflicts of the 20th century, Poland has over the past two decades become one of the most important countries in Central Europe today. Poland's importance for Europe has also been recently increased by its strategic role in the war in Ukraine, which was started by Russia.

What is the significance of this gain in influence for Polish and European civil society? Polish society has become increasingly divided in recent years: While one part of society has been significantly shifted to the right, another part continues to advocate for civil





DIALOGUE/PERSPECTIVES

Discussing Religions and Worldviews

liberties, minority rights and the values and law of the European Union. And in Poland in particular, the relationship between religion and politics is currently being renegotiated – the Catholic Church has formed an almost symbiotic relationship with the rightwing governing parties, which results in an increasing restriction of fundamental human rights and a threat to many parts of the Polish society.

In Kraków – the historical capitol of Poland and spiritual and intellectual center of the country – we will explore the intertwining of past and present in Polish society, and the role of religious communities in shaping current debates and discourses. We will have an opportunity to study the centuries-old religious heritage and today's interreligious co-existence as well as meet with local and national scholars and activists from religious communities, civil society and academia to examine the interactions between EU law, Polish politics, civil society, and activism regarding women's rights, gender equality and queer and minority rights.

International Conference 2023

15—18 June 2023, Berlin/Germany

We will close the programme year in June 2023 with a four-day International Conference. The programme participants will be actively involved in planning and carrying out the event. They will 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. The conference will offer an opportunity for the results of the joint work of the programme year to be discussed and presented to a broader audience.

APPLICATION

We kindly request that you submit the following application materials (English or German) by **15 August 2022** 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



GUIDING QUESTIONS

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?



DIALOGUE/PERSPECTIVES

Discussing Religions and Worldviews

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 *Dialogue Perspectives'* 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.

FOUNDATIONAL CONCEPTUAL ASSUMPTIONS

- > Religions and worldviews fundamentally shape the lives and actions of individuals and society. *Dialogue Perspectives* 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.
- > *Dialogue Perspectives* 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.