collegium emmaus

coordinated by
Who we are

The Collegium Emmaus is a community of theological researchers who are committed to an in-depth collaboration on a research programme as friends from various ecclesial backgrounds.

The community wishes to model and encourage a renewed kind of academic culture: dialogical, ecumenical, communal. We believe that theology is fruitfully done in the interplay between academic, ecclesial and social perspectives; therefore, members of the Collegium are engaged in dialogue with partners from academia, the church, and the wider society.

Beyond their research, they are open to participating, where possible, in activities and events that foster the renewal of the church and serve the common good.

We are a voluntary association of researchers from the Swiss universities of Basel, Bern, Geneva, Fribourg, and Zurich, both professors and doctoral/post-doctoral researchers.

Our aims

Fostering a theological learning community that is intellectually stimulating and spiritually sustaining.

Wholistically forming people for future leadership in church and society.

Conducting theological research (and teaching) that serves the renewal of the church and society.
God and the Good Life

What constitutes the good life? The research programme “God and the Good Life” brings scholars together from across theological disciplines to explore what distinctive insights theology offers to this question. Specifically, it investigates the ways in which human beings may flourish in communities centred on the Triune God, and focuses on how these communities contribute to the Common Good.

For Christian theology (taking up the Aristotelian tenet that human beings are ‘political animals’), the good life is relational and human flourishing involves a communality. God created human beings so that they would flourish in communion with him and one another; God made a covenant with Israel, blessing his people so that they would be a blessing. In Jesus Christ, the supreme calling of human beings is revealed. Christ made a way for all human beings to find fullness of life amid suffering and death. In being sent by God’s Spirit and in sending his Spirit, he enabled and commissioned the Church to witness to the hope of God’s coming kingdom even in and through suffering. Far from ignoring broken lives and failing communities, a theological perspective on the good life and human flourishing addresses the brokenness of human existence, the reality of evil and injustice in light of Jesus’ life, death and resurrection.
Members of the board & staff

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Fellows

Prof. Dr. Andrea Bieler  
Professor for Practical Theology  
University of Basel

Prof. Dr. Thomas Schumacher  
Professor of New Testament  
University of Fribourg

Prof. Dr. Christophe Chalamet  
Professor of Systematic Theology  
University of Geneva

Prof. Dr. Barbara Hallensleben  
Professor of Dogmatic Theology  
University of Fribourg

Prof. Dr. em. Guido Vergauwen  
Professor emeritus of Fundamental Theology  
University of Fribourg

Dr. Silvianne Aspray  
Member of the Board  
British Academy  
Postdoctoral Fellow  
Cambridge University

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Member of the Board  
Director Studienzentrum für Glaube und Gesellschaft  
University of Fribourg

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Member of the Board  
Professor of New Testament  
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Yale Center for Faith and Culture

St. Mellitus College London

Institut zur Erforschung von Evangelisation und Gemeindeentwicklung,
Universität Greifswald

The Rt. Revd. Dr. Graham Tomlin
Bishop of Kensington
President of St. Mellitus College

Prof. Dr. Michael Herbst
Director for the Research Institute for Evangelism and Church Development
University of Greifswald
Commitments

Participants who wish to be part of the programme «God and the Good Life» commit to being part of the Collegium Emmaus and its activities. They devote some of their time and research to the purposes of the research programme. Beyond their research, members are open to participating, where possible, in activities and events that foster the renewal of the church and serve the common good.

The research community is committed to certain joint events and research activities. These are annual:

1. One Study-Week with a scholar-practitioner collaborative.
2. One Colloquium.
3. One Consultation.
4. Attendance of and participation in the Study Days.

The programme aims to start with the first cycle of three years in the academic year 2019/2020. Each year will have a particular focus, following the focal point laid out in the research programme mentioned.

Requirements

Professors may recommend their doctoral students for membership, and postdoctoral researchers apply to the board. The final decision to accept someone into the programme is taken by the board, which reserves the right to reject applications.

Members who wish to do so can leave the programme at any time but need to inform the professors of their decision, who will then communicate with the board.

Doctoral students who are part of the programme regularly enroll as doctoral students in their home university through whatever (structured or non-structured) doctoral programmes they wish.

Their participation in and contribution to the activities of the programme «God and the Good Life» can be made extrinsically compatible with the requirements of structural doctoral programmes (i.e., they can retrospectively be awarded credits for it). In principle, the provisions and regulations of the enrolling university apply.

All members of the Collegium Emmaus are encouraged to link their research to some kind of engagement in the church (be this through teaching, preaching, youth work etc.) and/or for the common good of the wider society.
Contact

If you want to contact the Collegium Emmaus for further information or with any other concerns feel free to write an email to the administrative coordinator:

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Visit us at: www.collegium-emmaus.com

A research collaboration by

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