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1 Preface

The Centre for Interreligious Studies of the University of Bamberg was officially opened on November 1st, 2004 with an academic ceremonial act in the university’s assembly hall in the presence of a number of personalities from public life.

A year later we are presenting an annual report that provides information on the centre’s current situation, its teaching and research activities up to today and on contacts and cooperation partners as well as giving an insight into the members’ respective activities.

What we have been able to achieve up till now has been due primarily to the commitment of the founding members and a number of colleagues who have energetically supported the project. The heads of the University of Bamberg have emphatically welcomed the foundation of the centre as an element in the formation of the university’s profile and have actively endorsed the establishment of the centre and the non-consecutive Master programme of studies “Interreligious Studies: Judaism – Christianity – Islam”. Sincere thanks are given to our rector Prof. Dr. Dr. Godehard Ruppert and the entire university board.

To create an institution, to establish a course of studies and to impel new research activities almost from nowhere is not a simple task despite great ideational support, despite the commitment and a certain ability to improvise of all those involved. Without a minimum of financial endorsement by the University of Bamberg what we have achieved until now would not have been possible. We are still only in a preliminary stage, which will not have been completed until the outstanding elements of a sustainable academic infrastructure for the Master programme “Interreligious Studies” have been established, particularly with regard to a professorship for Judaism, which must be gained by the University of Bamberg so that the whole range of subjects of the study programme can be attended to by our own professors.
All things considered, the review of our first year demonstrates that the centre has met with great interest within and outside the university. The initiative to establish Interreligious Studies as an object of research and of teaching at the University of Bamberg has been a response to considerable social demands. Meeting these requirements is the genuine task of the university as an educational institution. To make use of the good conditions in Bamberg in this spirit and to expand them further is our central concern. The interest shown by our first students in the Master programme as well as the general public and the media is both an incentive and an obligation for us.

Bamberg, December 2005

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2 Organisation

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3 The Centre – Structures and Aims

3.1 The ZIS as an Interdisciplinary and Interreligious "Gateway"

As an academic research institution of the University of Bamberg, the Centre for Interreligious Studies frames a comprehensive structural network, linking the resources and competences of the various faculties, departments and sections of the Otto-Friedrich University.

At the moment, the centre is bringing together scholars and experts from four faculties, that is the faculty of Catholic Theology, the faculty of Linguistics and Literature, the faculty of Social Sciences and Economics, and the faculty of Philosophy – Pedagogy – Psychology. In addition, the project has also been able to benefit from the structuring impulses emanating from the postgraduate college “Anthropological Principles and Developments in Christianity and Islam” (funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft DFG), which is carried by members of the faculty of Catholic Theology and the section Orientalism and is in its third stage of promotion. The postgraduate college represents an indispensable basis for the development of the centre.

The programmatic focuses of the centre's activities are presence-oriented interreligious issues in the fields of Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Thus, with a project hitherto unrivalled in Bavaria, we are contributing to the formation of the profile of all the departments involved as well as the university as a whole.
3.2 The ZIS – Research and Teaching Centre

The return of religion to politics is a central challenge for our future life within and between plural societies. Therefore a minimum of familiarity with one’s own and the other traditions is of fundamental importance.

To this the Master programme of studies “Interreligious Studies: Judaism – Christianity – Islam” can make an important contribution. The main subject-matter of the course of studies are the three monotheistic religions Judaism, Christianity and Islam and their interreligious, political and cultural relations. The Master programme, which is planned to take two years, is aimed at enabling the students to grasp from a comparative perspective the significance of the three religions’ Holy Scriptures for the present, to competently analyse the religions’ formative effects on societies and their relations to the sphere of politics as well as to independently work out and adequately present the details of circumstances and problems in the fields mentioned.

In addition to the courses and lectures for students, the centre also offers regular thematically relevant events – such as symposia and series of lectures – for a broader, academically interested public.

Besides these courses and events, the centre provides a platform for research cooperation within the University of Bamberg and with scholars from outside the university.

This serves to create interdisciplinary links between all departments and sections involved and offers them a reliable foundation for the formation of their profiles.

With its members’ competences the centre provides consulting services in interreligious concerns for various social, political and ecclesiastical groups and institutions.
4 The Course of Studies

4.1 Study and Examination Regulations

Conditions of Study (including changed statute from 2/5/2005):
- http://www.zis.uni-bamberg.de/Studiengang_1.htm

Examination Regulations (including changed statute from 2/5/2005):
- http://www.zis.uni-bamberg.de/Studiengang_1.htm

4.2 Courses Offered in the Winter Term of 2004/05
- http://www.zis.uni-bamberg.de/Lehre_WS0405.htm

4.3 Courses Offered in the Summer Term of 2005
- http://www.zis.uni-bamberg.de/Lehre_SS05.htm
5 Grand Opening of the Centre

Ceremonial act on November 1\textsuperscript{st}, 2004 (Bamberg)

- **Organiser:** ZIS in cooperation with the postgraduate college “Anthropological Principles and Developments in Christianity and Islam“ (Bamberg)

- **Talk:** Dr. Wolfgang Thierse (President of the German Bundestag)

- **Sponsor:** Dr. Robert-Pfleger GmbH (Bamberg)

6 Academic Conferences and Symposia

6.1 “Religious Identity/ies and Religious Freedom as a Current Challenge to Plural Societies”

Symposium on November 2\textsuperscript{nd}, 2004 (Bamberg)

- **Organiser:** ZIS in cooperation with the postgraduate college “Anthropological Principles and Developments in Christianity and Islam“ (Bamberg)

- **Lectures:** PD Dr. Regina Ammicht Quinn (Frankfurt/D), Dr. Reza Hajatpour (Bamberg/D), Prof. Dr. Marianne Heimbach-Steins (Bamberg/D), Dr. Walter Homolka (Berlin/D), Prof. Dr. Stefan Huster (Bochum/D), Duran Terzi M.A. (Düsseldorf/D), Prof. Dr. Rotraud Wielandt (Bamberg/D), Prof. Dr. Reinhard Zintl (Bamberg/D)

- **Sponsors:** Universitätsbund Bamberg, Sparkasse Bamberg
6.2 The Role of Religion in Today’s Legislation and Political Order – Part 1: One Right – A Medium for the Social Integration of Religion(s)

*Symposium on July 1\textsuperscript{st} /2\textsuperscript{nd}, 2005 (Bamberg)*

- **Organiser:** ZIS in cooperation with the postgraduate college “Anthropological Principles and Developments in Christianity and Islam” (Bamberg), the Centre for Intercultural Ethics (Tilburg) and the Franco-German project group “Democracy and Religious Plurality in a Post-National Constellation” directed by Dr. Matthias Koenig (University of Bamberg)

- **Lectures:** Prof. Dr. Heinrich Bedford-Strohm (Bamberg/D), Prof. Dr. Herman Beck (Tilburg/NL), Prof. Dr. Marianne Heimbach-Steins (Bamberg/D), Bishop. emeritus Dr. Josef Homeyer (Hildesheim/D), Prof. Dr. Donald Loose (Tilburg/NL), Prof. Dr. Karl Wilhelm Merks (Tilburg/NL), Prof. Dr. Ute Sacksofsky (Frankfurt a.M./D), Prof. Dr. Osman Taştan (Istanbul/Tr), Prof. Dr. Rotraud Wielandt (Bamberg/D), Prof. Dr. Jean-Paul Willaime (Paris/Fr), Prof. Dr. Reinhard Zintl (Bamberg/D)

- **Sponsor:** Universitätsbund Bamberg

6.3 The Role of Religion in Today’s Legislation and Political Order – Part 2: A New Meaning of Religion for the Order of Public Life?

*Symposium on September 1\textsuperscript{st}/2\textsuperscript{nd}, 2005 (Tilburg/NL)*

- **Organiser:** Centre for Intercultural Ethics (Tilburg) in cooperation with the ZIS and the postgraduate college “Anthropological Principles and Developments in Christianity and Islam” (Bamberg)

- **Lectures:** Dr. Mariano Barbato (Bamberg/D), Dr. Veerle Draulans (Tilburg/NL), Dr. Johannes Först (Bamberg/D), Dr. Jan Jans (Tilburg/NL), Cevat Kara M.A (Bamberg/D), Prof. Dr. Karl Wilhelm Merks (Tilburg/NL)
7 Academic Projects

7.1 Christian-Muslim Dialogues in Germany. An Analysis of the Activities of the Christian Churches

- **Project manager:** Dipl. theol. Barbara Göb
- **Period:** September 2005 – March 2006
- **Funding:** University of Bamberg (internal research funding)

7.2 Religion in Secular Public Spheres

- **Project coordination:** Prof. Dr. Marianne Heimbach-Steins
- **Period:** Since July of 2005
- **Funding:** Funds of the academic chairs involved

7.3 Democracy and Religious Plurality in a Post-National Constellation – Religious and Sociological Analyses in Germany and France

- **Project coordination:** Dr. Matthias Koenig (University of Bamberg), Prof. Dr. Jean-Paul Willaime (EPHE-Sorbonne, Paris)
- **Period:** 2002 – 2005
- **Funding:** Bayerisch-Französisches Hochschulzentrum (BFHZ), Deutsch-Französische Hochschule (DFH) and Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS)
8 Partners and contracts

8.1 Intra-University Partners

- Postgraduate college "Anthropological Principles and Developments in Christianity and Islam" (Bamberg)

  Hornthalstraße 2, D-96045 Bamberg
  +49 (951) 863-2255
  gk.anthropolog@split.uni-bamberg.de
  http://web.uni-bamberg.de/~ba4gk99/

  Joint projects: Interreligious prelude symposium (2/11/2004), interreligious double symposium in Bamberg and Tilburg (1, 2/07/2005 and 1, 2/09/2005)

8.2 Inter-University Partners

- Centre for Intercultural Ethics (Tilburg)

  Postbus 9130, NL-5000 HC Tilburg
  +31 (13) 466-2782
  H.M.J.Goris@uvt.nl
  http://www.tilburguniversity.nl/faculties/tft/cie/

  Joint projects: Interreligious double symposium in Bamberg and Tilburg (1, 2/7/2005 and 1, 2/11/2005)

8.3 Further Contacts

- Jewish Community Bamberg

  Willy-Lessing-Straße 7, 9647 Bamberg
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  Joint projects: Series of lectures "Judaism is multi-faceted. Currents in present Judaism" in the teaching facility of the Jewish Community
9 On the Work of the Members Of the ZIS

Subsequently interreligiously relevant academic activities realised by individual members of the centre are specified.

9.1 Research Projects

- Discourses in the Face of Evil. Transformations of the Theozee Question (Prof. Dr. Klaus Bieberstein).

- The Development of a Global Understanding of Justice – The Role of Churches as Intermediary Institutions in the Plural Civil Society (Prof. Dr. Heinrich Bedford-Strohm).

- The Change in the Church’s Self-Image and Its Organisation in the Context of Religious Plurality in the Multi-Level Society (Prof. Dr. Marianne Heimbach-Steins; Prof. Dr. Heinz-Günther Schöttler).

9.2 Publications


Koenig, Matthias. “Von Religionsfreiheit zum Minderheitenschutz? Staatliche Regelungen von religiöser Pluralität im Wandel.“ In:


### 9.3 Conferences and Lectures

Erding Talks (Airforce Maintenance Regiment of the German Federal Armed Forces) on 25/5/05 in Erding; Lecture “Troublemaker or Peacemaker? The Christian Model of Just Peace and the Role of Religion in a Violent World” (Prof. Dr. Marianne Heimbach-Steins).


Conference organised by the representation of the Free State of Bavaria in Berlin on "Living with Islam – from Conflict to Partnership?", 20/1/2005 in Berlin; Lecture on "Modernity Stamped by Europe – A Possible Model for Muslims?"; participation in a panel discussion with the Bavarian minister of the interior Dr. Günther Beckstein, Sate Secretary Karl Freller from the Bavarian State Ministry of Education and Cultural Affairs, Prof. Dr. Nasr Hamid Abu Zayd, Dr. Rainer Glagow, Wolfgang Günther Lerch, Prof. Dr. Tilman Nagel and Bruno Schirra (Prof. Dr. Rotraud Wielandt).

Symposium on "Claims to Universality and Mission in Islam", 21, 22/6/2005 in the Catholic Academy in Bavaria (Munich), direction and presentation of the symposium.
9.4 Consulting Services

- Conversation group “Jews and Christians“ of the Catholic Central Committee (ZdK) (Prof. Dr. Heinz-Günther Schöttler).

9.5. Further International Contacts

- Work trip to Cairo (Egypt) for the accumulation of material for an own academic project on Islam, and for discussions with colleagues at the University of Cairo and the al-Azhar University (Prof. Dr. Rotraud Wielandt).
10 Imprint

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