

»BEYOND SERVICES TOWARDS JUSTICE«

12th – 14th
September 2018
Berlin

The Seventh Conference for Research in Diaconia and Christian Social Practice (ReDi)

INVITATION

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Beyond Services towards Justice

Questions on the issue of justice are posed by challenging developments in many parts of the world. Inequality and injustice are growing. In the Global South exploitation of resources, the truth about climate change and globalization continue to impact social, economic and democratic developments. In the Global North we continue to see increasing consumption, individualism and wealth inequalities. As a result, responses to phenomena such as global migration are often based on self-preservation and the protection of identity and belonging.

Globally, the 2008 financial and economic crisis has led to increased precarity in societies which has resulted in growing mistrust of democratic institutions and leadership. Yet despite the increasing disparities, we have never been more able to develop global connections than we are today. Technology allows us to understand 'the other' faster than ever before and we can become more aware of the impact of our actions and decision in all parts of the world.

Globally, we still see ethnic and gender injustice as well as economic, educational, environmental and social injustice. There is an increasing body of research that proves such injustice such as the link between ethnicity, discrimination and underrepresentation in the labour market, as well as the impact of material deprivation on both health outcomes and civic participation.

The practice of Diaconia and Christian social service seeks to combat these global challenges. However, in many countries such practice and the organisations who provide services are bound to state programs, refinanced by state schemes and thus somewhat limited in scope and outreach. How can we strive to get beyond services towards justice? What contribution can theology make to the development of social justice and Diaconia from both national and global perspectives? Where can the intersection of research and praxis shed light on the future perspectives of Diaconia in addressing social injustice?

Keynote speakers will highlight the most pressing questions, working groups and paper sessions will give ample opportunity to discuss and look for answers together with a shared purpose.

The main themes of the conference are:

- Globalisation and Justice from a Theological Perspective
- The Economics of Solidarity
- Welfare, Gender and the Crisis of Care
- Diaconal Science in Current Academic Curricula

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Venue: Diakonie Deutschland, Caroline-Michaelis-Straße, 10115 Berlin

1:00 PM Registration and coffee, Atrium

2:00 PM Opening of the conference (Room: 0.K.01)

[Ulrich Lilie](#), President Diakonie Deutschland (Germany)

[Prof. Dr. Ninna Edgardh](#), Chairperson of ReDi, University of Uppsala (Sweden)

[Prof. Dr. Johannes Eurich](#), on behalf of the conference organising team, DWI Heidelberg (Germany)

2:15 PM Keynote lecture

Globalisation and Justice from a Theological Perspective

[Dr. Isabel Apawo Phiri](#), Associate General Secretary for Public Witness & Diaconia at the World Council of Churches, Geneva (Switzerland)

Response

[Prof. Dr. Stephanie Dietrich](#), Diakonhjemmet University College, Oslo (Norway)

4:00 PM Coffee Break

4:30 PM 1st Round Workshops & paper sessions

Workshop: Ecumenical Diaconia (Room: 0.K.07)

[Dr. Kjell Nordstokke](#), Professor emeritus VID, Oslo (Norway)

Paper Session 1A: Globalization, ecumenism, migration and the mission of diaconia (Room: 0.K.05)

Migrants in Diaconal Institutions and Parishes in Copenhagen: Experiences, Possibilities, and Dilemmas

[Jakob Egeris Thorsen](#), Associate Professor, Department of Theology, School of Culture and Society Aarhus University (Denmark)

Conviviality or hospitality - The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland working with asylum seekers

[Ulla Siirto](#), Lecturer, D. Soc. Sc. Diaconia University of Applied Sciences, Helsinki (Finland)

Prophecy in Context - Empirical and conceptual issues of Diaconia in public spaces

[Prof. Dr. Thorsten Moos](#), Chair for Diaconic Science and Systematic Theology and Ethic, University of Applied Sciences Wuppertal/Bethel (Germany)

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Paper Session 1B: Globalization, ecumenism, migration and the mission of diaconia (Room: 0.K.01)

Globalization and Justice from an Economic and Theological Perspective – Ethics, Economics and Interdisciplinary Competences

[Prof. Dr. rer. pol. Martin Büscher](#), Director of Kirchliche Hochschule Wuppertal/Bethel (Germany)

Theology of Economic Globalization for a Global Diaconia towards Justice

[Jenny Rossy Ch. Purba](#), PhD candidate University of Applied Sciences Wuppertal/Bethel (Germany)

Prolegomena to Defining the Study of Diaconia within a Global Context

[Thomas Renkert](#), Institute of Diaconia Studies, University Heidelberg (Germany)

Poster Presentation

Church asylum as an institution for welfare service distribution in Finland

[Talvikki Ahonen](#), University of Eastern Finland

6:00 PM **End of academic programme**

7:30 PM **Dinner at Berlin City Mission: [Berliner Stadtmission](#), Lehrter Str. 68, 10557 Berlin**

Welcome and insights into the work

[Pastor Joachim Lenz](#), Director, Berlin City Mission (Germany)

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8:30 AM Morning prayer, Chapel

9:00 AM Keynote lecture (Room: 0.K.01)

Precious and precarious: Tensions and possibilities in diaconal economics

[Prof. Dr. Sturla Johan Stålsett](#), Professor of Diakonia, Religion and Society, Norwegian School of Theology, Oslo (Norway)

Response

[Prof. Dr. Ignatius Swart](#), Cape Town, University of the Western Cape (South Africa), VID Specialized University, Oslo (Norway)

10:20 AM Award Ceremony Anders Bäckström Prize

[Dr. Annette Leis-Peters](#), VID Specialized University (Norway)

10:30 AM Coffee Break

11:00 AM 2nd Round of Workshops & paper sessions

Workshop: Old and emerging narratives of diaconia (Room: 0.K.07)

[Dr. Kjell Nordstokke](#), Professor emeritus VID, Oslo (Norway)

[Tony Addy](#), Linz (Austria)/Cesky Tesin (Czech Republic)

[Dr. Kari Latvus](#), Helsinki (Finland)

Paper Session 2A: Diaconia and the challenge of poverty (Room: 0.K.05)

Church poverty relief during the time of crisis – experience from the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland

[Heikki Hiilamo](#), VID Specialized University Oslo (Norway)

The Table of Hope. Table-fellowship as a fundamental form of diaconate

[Dr. P.E.M. Meijers](#), UD Diaconaat Protestantse Theologische Universiteit Groningen (Netherlands)

Top-down versus bottom up approaches in fighting poverty: An empirical study involving development experts in Ghana

[Emmanuel Awiah](#), Doctoral Researcher, Research Unit of Theological and Comparative Ethics, Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (Belgium)

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Paper Session 2B: Diaconia and the challenge of poverty (Room: 0.K.01)

The Kingdom of God and the Poor: Diaconal Reflections on the impacts of globalization and self-empowerment by the poor Christians in Tanzania

[Meshack Edward Njinga](#), PhD Student, Faculty of Theology, Oslo (Norway)

Solidarity as stance on others: Solidarity in context of Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland

[Isto Peltomäki](#), Doctoral Student Theological and Social Ethics, University of Helsinki (Finland)

The Church, Poverty and Development: A Social Justice Approach

[Dr. Jacques Walter Beukes](#), PhD Practical Theology Lecturer in Theology and Ministry Huguenot College and the University of Stellenbosch (South Africa)

12:30 AM Lunch

1:30 PM 3rd Round of Workshops & paper sessions

Workshop: Developing ReDi reports from practice (Room: 0.K.07)

[Tony Addy](#), Linz (Austria)/Gesky Tesin (Czech Republic)

[Ulla Siirto](#), Lecturer, D. Soc. Sc. Diaconia University of Applied Sciences, Helsinki (Finland)

Workshop: New Research About Leadership and Diaconia – Learnings and Future Tasks (Room: 0.K.01)

[Annette Rose Leis-Peters](#), VID Specialized University (Norway)

[Beate Hofmann](#), Institute for Diaconic Science and Diaconic Management, Protestant University, Wuppertal/Bethel (Germany)

[Stephen Sirris](#), VID Specialized University, Oslo (Norway)

Paper Session 3A: Justice, development and the mission of diaconia (Room: 0.K.05)

Mission Drift? Exploring the impact of secular donors on the work, mission and vision of Faith Based Organisations in South Africa

[Prof. Nadine Bowers Du Toit](#), Associate Professor in Theology and Development of Practical Theology and Missiology, Faculty of Theology University of Stellenbosch (South Africa)

Connection of service and justice in Paul's letter to the Roman Christians

[Rev. Dr. Dennis Solon](#), Guest Lecturer, Institute for Diaconic Science and Diaconic Management, Theological Seminary, Protestant University Wuppertal/Bethel (Germany)

Realigning Church social services with the mission of the church: A perspective from a South African church

[Dr. Willie van der Merwe](#), Huguenote Kollege, Wellington (South Africa)

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Paper Session 3B: Diaconia and the challenge of poverty (Room: 0.K.06)

Theology and Social justice: The role of personhood in development

[Prof. Dr. John Klaasen](#), Head of Department of Religion and Theology, University of Western Cape (South Africa)

The Sustainable Development Goals: Towards a re-reading of Diaconal Mission in Latin America

[Rev. Dr. Carlos Emilio Ham](#), Professor of Mission and Diaconia and Principal of the Evangelical Seminary of Theology, Matanzas (Cuba)

Exploring Christian Social Practice in Ghanaian/African Context: methods, theories and practice

[David Stiles-Ocran](#), PhD candidate, Faculty of Theology, University of Oslo (Norway)

3:00 PM

Coffee Break

3:15 PM

General Meeting of ReDi (Room: 0.K.06)

The International Society for the Research and Study of Diaconia and Christian Social Practice

4:45 PM

Panel discussion: What is the study of Diaconia? (Room: 0.K.01)

What are key challenges for the development of Diaconia? What does the study of Diaconia do in this context (critical remarks on »Beyond service towards justice«)

Panellists:

[Prof. Nadine Bowers Du Toit](#), Stellenbosch University (South Africa)

[Heather Roy](#), Secretary General of Eurodiaconia, Brussels (Belgium)

[Regine Buschmann](#), Head of the public relations department of the v. Bodelschwingh-Foundation, Bielefeld (Germany)

[Mikko Malkavaara](#), Principal lecturer of Diaconia and education at Diak, Helsinki (Finland)

Moderation:

[Stephen Sirris](#), VID Specialized University, Oslo (Norway)

[Dr. Dennis Solon](#), Institute for Diaconic Science and Diaconic Management, Protestant University Wuppertal/Bethel (Germany)

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5:45 PM **End of academic programme**

6:30 PM **Conference Dinner at Diakonie Deutschland (Room 0.K.06)**

Music: Christoph Willibald Gluck: Reigen seliger Geister (aus der Oper Orpheus und Eurydike)

Welcome and Opening of the buffet

Music: Franz Schubert: Opus 137, Sonatine I (D-Dur), 1. Satz: Allegro Molto

Dinner Speech

Can Justice be digital?

[Ulrich Lilie](#), President Diakonie Deutschland (Germany)

Music: Scott Joplin: The Favorite (Ragtime, 1904)

Dessert

Music: Hans-Jürgen Hufeisen: Der Engel von Paris Come together

Music played by [Ulrike Bickel](#) (flute) and [Uwe Streibel](#) (piano)

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8:30 AM Morning prayer, Chapel

9:00 AM 4th Round of Workshops & paper sessions

Workshop: Ethical Issues and Controversies in Diaconia (Room: 0.K.07)

[Dr. Andrew Orton](#), Associate Professor Department of Sociology Durham University (United Kingdom)

Workshop: CODE Research Group & CODE Forum Community Development and Diaconia – Research and Innovation(Room: 0.K.01)

[Prof. Dr. Stephanie Dietrich](#), VID Specialized University, Oslo (Norway)

[Tony Addy](#), Linz (Austria)/Gesky Tesin (Czech Republic)

Paper Session 4A: Diaconia as Social Practice (Room: 0.K.05)

Gendered welfare interventions? Accounting for forcibly displaced women's discourse on the crisis of dignity and care in Africa

[Dr. Barnabé Anzuruni Msabah](#), Research Associate, University of Stellenbosch (South Africa)

The way local parishes are relating to their task to do Diaconia

[Birgitta Lounela](#), Stiftsdiakon, Strängnäs Stift, Church of Sweden

The role of Justice in Christian professional practice

[Ondrej Fischer](#), PhD., Faculty of Protestant Theology, Charles University (Czech Republic)

Paper Session 4B: Diaconia and the challenge of poverty (Room: 0.K.06)

Diaconal welfare providers in the market state: what future do they face?

[Dr. jur. Hans Morten Haugen](#), Professor of international Diaconia, VID Specialized, University of Oslo (Norway)

Between Diaconia and Development – Towards Conceptualising Christian Development

[Deborah Hancox](#), Final year PhD Student, Faculty of Theology University of Stellenbosch (South Africa)

Just access to public health care: building a responsive inner city movement through strategic collaborations

[Wayne Renkin](#), Centre for Contextual Ministry, University of Pretoria Tshwane Leadership Foundation (South Africa)

10:30 AM Coffee Break

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- 11:00 AM** **Keynote lecture (Room: 0.K.01)**
- Welfare, gender and the Crisis of Care**
Prof. Dr. Helma Lutz, Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main (Germany)
- Response**
Prof. Dr. Ninna Edgardh, University of Uppsala (Sweden)
- 12:30 AM** **Closing remarks**
Heather Roy, Secretary General of Eurodiaconia, Brussels (Belgium)
- Closing Prayer**
Prof. Dr. Ninna Edgardh, Chairperson of ReDi, University of Uppsala (Sweden)
- 1:00 PM** **End of Conference**

REGISTRATION

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Registration

Please register for the conference through the following link <https://goo.gl/forms/XzAN3swlwZiATg2C3>.

The registration deadline is 31 July 2018. Your registration will only be completed upon transferring the conference fee (see below).

Questions

For general questions please contact conference@diaconiaresearch.org

Conference Fee

The conference fee of 200 € (150 € for members of ReDi), and 50 € for students and people from the Global South includes all conference material and meals. Travel and accommodations costs need to be covered by the participants. Participants need to arrange their travel and accommodation themselves. Attached you will find a list of hotels close to the venue as well as an area map.

Please transfer the conference fee upon registration to the following account:

Universitätskasse Heidelberg

IBAN: DE 69 6005 0101 7421 5004 36

BIC: SOLADESTXXX

BW-Bank Stuttgart

The property order 78 15 633 must necessarily be specified as the purpose of the transfer.

There is a limited number of bursaries available, if you want to apply for financial support, please contact the organisers for an application form at conference@dw.uni-heidelberg.de

Venue

Diakonie Deutschland, Caroline-Michaelis-Straße, 10115 Berlin, Germany

