

**HAUS
DER
KULTUREN
DER
WELT**

GLOBAL PRAYERS

Redemption and Liberation in the City

Theme Days
23 – 26 February 2012

New religious movements are emerging in the world's metropolises. Novel religious communities are embodied by political, economic and social players who promise redemption or liberation and success or collective healing. This development is changing the world map of denominations along with the architectural appearance of urban spaces and the public domain. Evangelical communities work in the favelas of Rio de Janeiro to prevent drug abuse. In war-torn Beirut, Islamic movements are organizing the reconstruction of the devastated city. Christian Nollywood movies are being made in the film studios of Lagos. Islamic gated communities are sprouting up on the outskirts of Istanbul. In Mumbai, Hindu nationalists are officially part of the municipal government. In Berlin, Christian communities gather in cinemas, cafés and other secular institutions.

Very little serious research has been done on these new movements. Instead, they are often ignored or scandalized. During the Global Prayers Theme Days, international academics and artists highlight religious phenomena and urban settings, strategies, and productions of meaning of religious players from metropolises around the world. In a series of discussions, lectures, sounds, films and photographic works, they explore the links between urban development and religious practices, between promises of spiritual redemption and social liberation.

Studying Global Prayers

Artistic-Academic Forum | English-language
Friday + Saturday | 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Short presentations analyze the relationships between religion, the city and the production of knowledge. The subsequent discussions explore innovative methods of researching new religious movements in the city.

Building the New Religious City

Lectures, Research Reports, Video, Photography
Friday | 3 – 4.30 p.m.

Religious communities create new material spaces in the cities: colossal churches in Lagos, Islamic gated communities in Istanbul and architectural blueprints for a multi-denominational city center in Beirut are just some of the examples. The participants explore forms, blueprints and realizations of urban spaces purportedly pleasing to God and pose questions regarding utopias, heterotopias and topographies in the city.

With **Ayse Cavdar** (Journalist, Istanbul), **Sevgi Ortaç** (Artist, Istanbul), **Joseph Rustom** (Architect, Beirut, Berlin), **Asonzeh Ukah** (Religious Scientist, Bayreuth, Lagos), **Jens Wenkel** (Filmmaker, Berlin, Lagos). Moderator: **Regina Bittner** (Cultural Scientist, Dessau)

Open Studio

Discussions, Cartographic Sketches
Friday + Saturday | 3 – 8 p.m.

On Friday, the journalist and critical cartographer Philippe Rekacewicz (“Atlas of Globalization”) joins participants of the Theme Days to discuss the global networking of new religious movements. Parallel to the day's program, he also sketches maps that address and visualize selected aspects of the Theme Days.

With **Philippe Rekacewicz** (Journalist, Geographer, Paris, Eydehavn)

Conversion

Video, Lectures, Photography, Discussions, Sounds
Friday | 4.30 – 6.30 p.m.

Religious movements transform urban spaces not just through numerous new buildings but also by converting old buildings, such as cinemas or factories, into places of worship. Yet above all, the city changes through the conversion of people who join new religious communities. Two parallel panels and a video installation examine these changes in Berlin, London and Rio de Janeiro.

4.30 – 5 p.m. Raumsausch – video installation about new forms of religious practices in Berlin
5 – 6.30 p.m. Conversion: Focus on London
5 – 6.30 p.m. Conversion: Focus on Rio de Janeiro

With **Sabine Bitter** and **Helmut Weber** (Artists, Vancouver, Vienna), **Amanda Dias** (Ethnologist, Rio de Janeiro), **David Garbin** (Ethnologist, London), **Magdalena Kallenberger** and **Dorothea Nold** (Artists, Berlin, Cairo, Istanbul), **Kristine Krause** (Social Anthropologist, Religious Scientist, Berlin, Göttingen), **Martijn Oosterbaan** (Anthropologist, Utrecht), **David Spero** (Photographer, London). Moderators: **Kathrin Wildner** (Ethnologist, Berlin, Frankfurt-on-Oder), **Stephan Lanz** (Urban Researcher, Berlin, Frankfurt-on-Oder)

Transnational Routes

Sounds, Lecture, Research Reports, Interview
Friday | 6.30 – 9 p.m.

The new urban religious communities are often internationally networked because of the increasing mobility of people, goods and the media: They deterritorialize and reterritorialize themselves in Diaspora communities in globally networked metropolises. Gilles Aubry's soundscapes from Kinshasa, Peggy Levitt's lecture on immigration and new forms of religious architecture in the US and research reports on global Congolese Diaspora underline the significance of the role of religious players.

With **Gilles Aubry** (Sound Artist, Berlin), **Filip de Boeck** (Anthropologist, Leuven, Kinshasa), **Gerda Heck** (Migration Sociologist, Berlin), **Peggy Levitt** (Sociologist, Writer, Cambridge), **Alain Okito** (Pastor, Berlin). Moderator: **David Garbin** (Ethnologist, London)

Christian Nollywood

Videos, Lectures, Film
Friday | 9 p.m. – 12 midnight

One particular and extremely successful branch of the gigantic Nigerian film industry, also known as Nollywood, specializes in Christian production. Lectures and films focus on the motif and the significance of the city in these “Born Again Films”. Afterwards, the filmmaker Victor Okhai presents and analyzes the Nigerian film “Unshakable Kingdom” by Muyideen Samsudeen Ayinde.

With **Ferdinand Mbecha** (Media Scientist, Berlin), **Victor Okhai** (Filmmaker, Lagos), **Tobias Wendl** (Anthropologist, Art Historian, Berlin)

How the Other Half Worships

Lecture, Minutes, Discussion
Sunday | 12 noon – 3 p.m.

Over a period of four years, Camilo José Vergara visited churches in the poorest neighborhoods of the US, taking part in Sunday services and choir rehearsals and conducting interviews with the pastors. The result is a sensitive photographic-sociological study of faith practices in urban communities beyond the scope of the predominant religious communities. Vergara concludes the Theme Days by turning our attention once more to methods of researching and presenting religious movements in the cities. Participants present the minutes of their experiences at the Theme Days.

With **Regina Bittner** (Cultural Scientist, Dessau), **Filip de Boeck** (Anthropologist, Leuven, Kinshasa), **Helmut Draxler** (Culture and Art Theorist, Curator, Stuttgart, Berlin), **Philippe Rekacewicz** (Journalist, Geographer, Paris, Eydehavn), **Camilo José Vergara** (Photographer, Sociologist, New York), **Joseph Vogl** (Cultural Scientist, Berlin). Moderator: **Julia Eckert** (Social Anthropologist, Bern)

Redemption and Liberation in the City

Thursday | 7 – 8.30 p.m.

Sounds, Music, Film, Photography, Readings, Positions

In a condensed program, international artists and academics present and comment on new religious spaces, pop cultures, architectural forms and movements from the cities of Istanbul, Cairo, Kinshasa, Lagos, Mexico City, Mumbai, New York and Berlin.

With **Nezar AISayyad** (Architect, Urban Designer, Berkeley), **Gilles Aubry** (Sound Artist, Berlin), **Enrique Dussel** (Philosopher, Historian, Theologian, Mexico City), **Charalambos Ganotis** (Musician, Hamburg), **Magdalena Kallenberger** and **Dorothea Nold** (Artists, Berlin, Cairo, Istanbul), **Michaela Meise** (Musician, Artist, Berlin), **Aernout Mik** (Artist, Amsterdam), **Marcia Pally** (Cultural Scientist, Writer, New York, Berlin), **Hidayet Tuksal** (Islamic Scientist, Istanbul)

Thursday | 8.30 – 10 p.m.

Discussion

An international panel of experts discusses the global links between religion, economics and politics with a special focus on the connections between Catholicism, Pentecostalism, Marxism, Islam and feminism.

With **Nezar AISayyad** (Architect, Urban Designer, Berkeley), **Enrique Dussel** (Philosopher, Historian, Theologian, Mexico City), **Birgit Meyer** (Religious Scientist, Utrecht), **Marcia Pally** (Cultural Scientist, Writer, New York, Berlin), **Hidayet Tuksal** (Islamic Scientist, Istanbul). Moderator: **Andreas Eckert** (Historian, Expert in Africa Studies, Berlin)

Fundamentalist City

Lecture, Discussion
Saturday | 2 – 4 p.m.

How are city politics and societies transformed by the global rise of radical political-religious movements? Thoughts on questions of government in the “religious city”

With **Nezar AISayyad** (Architect, Urban Designer, Berkeley), **AbdouMaliq Simone** (Sociologist, London), **Werner Schifffauer** (Cultural and Social Anthropologist, Berlin, Frankfurt-on-Oder)

City as Religious Stage

Photography, Video, Documentary Film, Reading, Discussions
Saturday | 4.30 – 10 p.m.

New religious communities and religious-political organizations use the urban space as a stage: with theatrical productions and parades, they demonstrate their presence, for example in Jakarta, Oberammergau and Mumbai. Paola Yacoub und Filip de Boeck react on emerging media-effective funeral rituals in Beirut and Kinshasa against the background of hushed-up mass graves or informal structures of cemetery management. And films and a discussion look at the Iranian revolution as an example of the links between religion and politics.

With **Filip de Boeck** (Anthropologist, Leuven, Kinshasa), **Aryo Danusiri** (Documentary Filmmaker, Ethnologist, Jakarta), **Thomas Gieffer** (Journalist, Filmmaker, Berlin), **Hengameh Golestan** (Photographer, Tehran, London), **George Jose** (Sociologist, Mumbai), **Sandra Schäfer** (Artist, Berlin), **Surabhi Sharma** (Documentary Filmmaker, Mumbai), **Christian Stückl** (Director, Oberammergau), **Paola Yacoub** (Artist, Beirut, Berlin). Moderator: **Jochen Becker** (Curator, Berlin), **Stephan Lanz** (Urban Researcher, Berlin, Frankfurt-on-Oder)



© Veronica Mastroimone 2010. Buenos Aires

Liberation Theology and the New Evangelical Left

Lectures
Saturday | 7 – 8.30 p.m.

Enrique Dussel and Marcia Pally analyze two different left-wing Christian movements in South and North America. What political influence do these movements wield?

With **Enrique Dussel** (Philosopher, Historian, Theologian, Mexico City), **Marcia Pally** (Cultural Scientist, Writer, New York, Berlin). Moderator: **Anne Huffschmid** (Cultural Scientist, Berlin)

The Sounds of Global Prayers

Lecture, Live Hip-Hop, Presentations
Saturday | 9 – 11 p.m.

Succinct sounds render audible how the various religious movements make their presence felt through noise, music and rhythm in Rio de Janeiro, Lagos, Beirut, Cairo or Berlin and occupy the city as an auditory space. One significant by-product is new impressive musical styles.

With **Adé Bantu** (Musician, Lagos), **Big Daddy Fresh** (MC, Kano), **Charalambos Ganotis** (Musician, Hamburg), **Brian Larkin** (Anthropologist, New York), **Martijn Oosterbaan** (Anthropologist, Utrecht), **Protek** and **Special Agent Snypa** (MCs, Lagos). Moderator: **Thomas Burkhalter** (Musical Ethnologist, Journalist, Bern)

All events with simultaneous English-German translation, unless indicated otherwise.

Thu + Sat Admission free
Fri + Sun Day ticket 6 € | 4 €
Two-day ticket 10 € | 7 €
www.hkw.de/tickets

**HAUS
DER
KULTUREN
DER
WELT** John-Foster-Dulles-Allee 10
10557 Berlin
T 030 39 78 71 75

www.hkw.de

Imprint:
The Haus der Kulturen der Welt is a business division of the Kulturveranstaltungen des Bundes in Berlin GmbH.
Director: Bernd M. Scherer (V.i.S.d.P.), Managing Director: Charlotte Sieben

Cover photo: © Sabine Bitter / (H.I.S.d.P.). RCCG (Director: Cherafette Siben)

global
prayers
an international forum

Initiated in 2009 by academics, curators and artists affiliated with the project agency metroZones e.V., global prayers is a joint endeavor of the Haus der Kulturen der Welt and the Europa-Universität Viadrina. As a research project at the Forum Transregionale Studien „global prayers + redemption and liberation in the city“ is widely funded by the Land Berlin. Further project partners are the Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung, the Goethe-Institut, the NGBK Berlin and the Camera Austria Graz. The Theme Days are realised with the support of the Fritz Thyssen Stiftung.

Global Prayers is a project by:
HAUS DER KULTUREN DER WELT | **UNIVERSITÄT WÜRZBURG** | **metroZones** | **Forum Transregionale Studien** | **Fritz Thyssen Stiftung**

In cooperation with:
NGBK | **HEINRICH BÖLL STIFTUNG** | **Goethe Institut** | **Camera Austria** | **LE MONDE**

The Haus der Kulturen der Welt is supported by:
Der Beauftragte der Bundesregierung für Kultur und Medien | **Auswärtiges Amt**