



**INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHRISTIANS AND JEWS (ICCJ)**  
**and**  
**COUNCIL OF CENTERS ON JEWISH-CHRISTIAN RELATIONS (CCJR)**

**2016 Annual Conference in Philadelphia: July 10-13, 2016**

**The Dynamics of Religious Pluralism in a Changing World:  
 The Philadelphia, United States, and International Contexts**

hosted by: **Institute for Jewish-Catholic Relations of Saint Joseph’s University,  
 5600 City Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19131**

**PRELIMINARY PROGRAM – UPDATED: JUNE 2, 2016**

**Sunday, July 10**

- 1.00-3.30 p.m.**                    **On-site Check-In for Full Participants at Saint Joseph’s University (SJU)**
- 4.00-6.00 p.m.**                    **OPENING CEREMONIES**  
*(Chapel of Saint Joseph – Michael J. Smith, S.J. Memorial)*  
 Keynote Address:  
 Rabbi David N. Saperstein  
 (United States Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom)  
**“Interreligious Relations in the World Today”**
- 6.00 p.m.**                            **Dinner (SJU “Campion” Building, Doyle Banquet Hall)**
- 8.00 p.m.**                            Buses to Conference Hotel “Hilton Philadelphia City Avenue”

**Monday, July 11**

*Theme*                                    *William Penn’s “Holy Experiment”*  
 “No people can be truly happy, though under the greatest enjoyments of civil liberties,  
 if abridged of the Freedom of their Conscience as to their Religious Profession and Worship.”  
 - Pennsylvania Charter of Liberties, 1701.

- 7.00-7.30**                            **Morning Prayers at the Conference Hotel “Hilton Philadelphia City Avenue”**
- 8.00-8.30**                            **On-Site Check-In for Registered Day Guests at SJU**
- 8.30-10.30**                            **PLENARY SESSION A**
  - 8.30-9.00                            **Meditative Moment**
  - 9.00-10.00                            **“The Christian Majority in the United States: Tolerance, Intolerance, and Competition”**  
*Although Christians were the overwhelming religious majority in the United States since colonial days, the experiences of the diverse Christian subgroups have been quite varied over the centuries because of ethnic origins, theological conflicts, and waves of immigration. This plenary session of Philadelphia-based scholars explores this*

*kaleidoscopic story involving Anabaptists and Quakers, Mainline and Evangelical Christianity, African-American Christians, and Roman Catholics.*

Speakers:

Dr David M. Krueger (Philadelphia / USA)

Dr Kate Oxx (Saint Joseph's University, Philadelphia / USA),

Dr Terry Rey (Temple University, Philadelphia / USA),

Dr David Watt (Temple University, Philadelphia / USA)

10.00-10.30

Buzz Groups / Question and Answer

**10.30-11.00**

Coffee Break

**11.00-12.30**

## **WORKSHOP SESSION A**

### **Workshop A1 A "City of Brotherly Love:" The Origins and Lasting Influence of the Society of Friends in Philadelphia**

Dr Kate Oxx (Saint Joseph's University, Philadelphia / USA)

*The city of Philadelphia and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania have both long been associated with the Quaker religious ideals of their "founder" William Penn. His "holy experiment" also included a number of other Anabaptist and Pietist communities suffering persecution in their homelands. In this discussion, we'll look at these distinctive beliefs and their impact on the ideals and institutions of the city and eventually of the United States.*

### **Workshop A2 The African Religious Experience in the Colonies and the United States**

Dr Terry Rey (Temple University, Philadelphia / USA)

*Religiously-diverse African and Afro-Caribbean people brought as slaves to the European colonies in North America were prevented from practicing their traditions and some were forced to practice the Christianity of their owners. In Philadelphia, there were both slaves and the largest free black community in pre-Civil War America, and the city was where the first African Christian denominations were founded in response to discrimination in white churches. This workshop explores the religious traditions that developed in the African-American communities and the particular expressions of Christianity that developed there.*

### **Workshop A3 American Religious Origins in Mythic Terms**

Dr David Krueger (Philadelphia / USA)

*This workshop will explore the myths the United States as founded as a Christian nation, the myth of Manifest Destiny, competing myths on the European "discovery" of America, and myths of Anglo Saxon origins. These mythic perspectives will all be related to the vision and reality of Penn's "Holy Experiment" of religious freedom.*

### **Workshop A4 The Contours of American Evangelicalism**

Dr David Watt (Temple University, Philadelphia / USA)

*In the United States a variety of Christian traditions have developed that are often sweepingly and confusingly described as "Evangelical" or "Fundamentalist." This workshop examines the origins, tenets, and practices among the different Christian communities that see themselves as distinct from other Protestant and from Catholic and Orthodox Christian traditions.*

## **Workshop A5 Accepting Difference and Teaching Acceptance**

(Organized by the ICCJ International Abrahamic Forum)

Dr Reuven Firestone (University of Southern California, Los Angeles / USA)

Dr Amineh Hoti (Forman Christian College, Lahore / Pakistan)

*With a nine-fold increase in violent extremism all over our shared world, accepting difference and teaching acceptance is crucial to changing mindsets, especially among the young. Social scientists have argued that this is "The Age of Empathy." Since Abrahamic values promote compassion and tolerance, this session explores how through these ideas we can together help heal our fractured world.*

**12.30-2.00 p.m.**

Lunch

**2.00-4.45 p.m.**

### **AN AFTERNOON OF DIALOGUE ON NEW C-J RELATIONS DOCUMENTS**

2.00-2.45 p.m.

#### **Authors' Roundtable**

*Speakers representing the authorship of several recent statements on Jewish-Christian relations will introduce the purpose and intended audience(s) of their document and highlight sentences or portions they consider to be the most important and/or the most difficult to compose. In order of publication:*

Rev. Joyce Shin (Swarthmore Presbyterian Church, Pennsylvania / USA)

*on: Presbytery of Chicago, Presbyterian Church (USA), "'...In Our Time...' A statement on relations between the Presbytery of Chicago and the Jewish community in metropolitan Chicago"*

Mr M. Jean François Bensahel (l'Union libérale israélite de France)

*on: French Jewish Community, "Declaration for the Upcoming Jubilee of Brotherhood: A New Jewish View of Jewish-Christian Relations."*

Rabbi Jehoschua Ahrens (Düsseldorf / Germany)

*on: Orthodox Rabbis, "To Do the Will of Our Father in Heaven: Toward a Partnership between Jews and Christians"*

Rev. Dr Norbert Hofmann (Pontifical Commission for Religious Relation with the Jews, Vatican)

*on: Commission of the Holy See for Religious Relations with the Jews, "'The Gifts and the Calling of God Are Irrevocable' (Rom 11:29): A Reflection on Theological Questions Pertaining to Catholic-Jewish Relations on the Occasion of the 50th Anniversary of Nostra Aetate, No. 4."*

Moderator: Dr Ruth Langer

2.45-3.30 p.m.

#### **Small Group Dialogues**

*Facilitated discussions on document excerpts. The groups will generate questions to be submitted in writing for the ensuing scholarly panel.*

3.30-4.00 p.m.

Coffee Break

4.00-4.45 p.m.

#### **Comments and Responses by CCJR Members**

Dr Adam Gregerman (Saint Joseph's University, Philadelphia / USA)

Dr Matthew Tapie (Saint Leo University, Florida / USA)

**5.00-6.30 p.m.**

### **WORKSHOP SESSION B**

**Workshop B1**

#### **A Different Lens: Understanding the Holocaust in a Multireligious World**

Dr Mehnaz Afridi (Manhattan College, New York / USA)

Dr Victoria Barnett (Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, D.C / USA)

Dr Heather Miller Rubens

*Much post-Holocaust interreligious work has focused on repairing the Jewish-Christian relationship and addressing anti-Jewish teachings in Christianity. Yet, the complex history of the Holocaust has implications for contemporary interreligious conversations. Recent historical research has given us new knowledge of the Holocaust's impact on various faith communities, including Muslim populations throughout Europe and in North Africa, and on the dynamics of religious prejudice and the ways in which nationalism, religion, and ideology intersect. Join us for an informal discussion of the insights from different faith and disciplinary perspectives.*

### **Workshop B2**

#### **Voice, Engage, Support and Act: Interfaith Cooperation on Campus**

(Organized by the ICCJ Young Leadership Council)

Ms Elena Dini (Rome / Italy)

Mr Joe Philipson (Washington D.C. / USA)

*In this workshop, members of the Young Leadership Council will lead participants in a discussion about interfaith cooperation in institutions of higher learning. We will draw on the historical role of faith communities and interfaith dialogue in the context of colleges and universities, and evaluate the current situation of campus ministry, chaplaincy, and interfaith work. The goal of the workshop is to compare and contrast challenges and success stories from interfaith cooperation at colleges and universities around the world, toward concrete takeaways that might build on what participants are already doing at their institutions.*

### **Workshop B3**

#### **Religion as Problem and Solution**

(Organized by the ICCJ Theology Committee)

Dr Pavol Bargár (Charles University, Prague / Czech Republic)

Rev. Dr Michael Trainor (Flinders University, Adelaide / Australia)

Dr Deborah Weissman (ICCJ Immediate Past President, Jerusalem / Israel)

*Some social scientists have argued that in modern, secular society, religion would disappear. But in many parts of the world, religion has made a comeback—some would say, “with a vengeance” because throughout the world religions are involved in violent conflicts. Often these conflicts have political, national, ethnic, social and economic aspects, as well. And so all too often the image of religion in the world today is one of extremism, xenophobia and violence. But is this accurate?*

### **Workshop B4**

#### **Higher Education in Christian-Jewish Relations**

Rev. Dr Lawrence Frizzell (Seton Hall University, South Orange, New Jersey / USA)

Dr Frederek Musall (Hochschule für Jüdische Studien Heidelberg / Germany)

*The development of Jewish-Christian Studies on the Master's and Doctoral levels prepares the next generation for the important work ahead. Exchange of experiences from North America, European and Israeli perspectives will provide a stimulating context for discussion.*

### **Workshop B5**

#### **The Marrakesh Declaration – Muslims in the US and Christians in the Middle East**

(Organized by the International Abrahamic Forum)

Sheikh Ghassan Manasra (Islamic Cultural Center, Nazareth / Israel)

Rev. Dr John Pawlikowski (Catholic Theological Union, Chicago / USA)

Rabbi Dr Burton Visotzky (Jewish Theological Seminary, New York / USA)

**6.30 p.m.**

Dinner

**7.30-9.00 p.m.**

**Evening Programs and Meetings**

## Tuesday, July 12

<i>Theme</i>	<i>The Non-Establishment Experiment</i> "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof ..." - First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States.
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<b>7.00-7.30</b>	<b>Morning Prayers at the Conference Hotel "Hilton Philadelphia City Avenue"</b>
<b>8.00-8.30</b>	<b>On-Site Check-In for Registered Day Guests at SJU</b>
<b>8.30-12.30</b>	<b>PLENARY SESSION B</b>
8.30-9.00	<b>Meditative Moment</b>
9.00-9.45	<b>"The Jewish Experience of the American Experiment"</b> <i>A foremost expert of the history of Jews in the United States will provide an overview of how Jews have fared under the Constitution's "Establishment Clause," which prohibits the government from curtailing the "free exercise" of religious traditions and from preferring one religion over others or none.</i>  Speaker: Dr Jonathan D. Sarna (Brandeis University, Waltham, Mass./ USA)
9.45-10.00	Comments / Responses: Dr Mehnaz Afridi (Manhattan College, New York / USA) Dr Volker Haarmann (Protestant Church of the Rhineland, Düsseldorf / Germany)
10.00-10.30	Buzz Groups / Question and Answer
10.30-11.00	Coffee Break
11.00-11.45	<b>"The Muslim Experience of the American Experiment"</b> <i>The Director of the Holocaust, Genocide and Interfaith Education Center at Manhattan College and an important voice in the national trilateral dialogue surveys the Muslim experience of life in the United States under the Constitution's Establishment Clause.</i>  Speaker: Dr Mehnaz Afridi (Manhattan College, New York / USA)
11.45-12.00	Comments / Responses: Dr Volker Haarmann (Protestant Church of the Rhineland, Düsseldorf / Germany) Dr Jonathan D. Sarna (Brandeis University, Waltham, Mass./ USA)
12.00-12.30	Buzz Groups / Question and Answer
<b>12.30-13.30 p.m.</b>	Lunch
<b>13.30-16.30 p.m.</b>	<b>FIELD TRIPS TO LOCAL SITES</b>
<b>16.30 p.m.</b>	<b>RENDEZVOUS AT THE NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER</b>  Keynote Address: Mr Jeffrey Rosen (National Constitution Center, Philadelphia / USA)  <b>"The Meaning and Legacy of the Establishment Clause"</b>
<b>17.30 p.m.</b>	Free Evening

## Wednesday, July 13

Theme	International Insights
7.00-7.30	<b>Morning Prayers at the Conference Hotel “Hilton Philadelphia City Avenue”</b>
8.00-8.30	<b>On-Site Check-In for Registered Day Guests at SJU</b>
8.30-10.30	<b>PLENARY SESSION C</b>
8.30-9.00	<b>Meditative Moment</b>
9.00-10.00	<b>“International Perspectives on Religious Pluralism: Challenges, Limits, and Possibilities”</b> <i>In dialogue with the previous mornings' plenaries, members of the Executive Board of the ICCJ will discuss how a plurality of religious traditions lives together in their respective national contexts.</i>  Speakers: Ms Liliane Apotheker (Amitié Judéo-Chrétienne de France) Dr Pavol Bargár (Charles University, Prague / Czech Republic) Rabbi Shmuel Sztainhendler (Confraternidad Judeo Cristiana de Chile) Rev. Dr Michael Trainor (Flinders University, Adelaide / Australia) Dr Deborah Weissman (ICCJ Immediate Past President, Jerusalem / Israel)
10.00-10.30	Buzz Groups / Question and Answer
10.30-11.00	Coffee Break
11.00-12.30	<b>WORKSHOP SESSION C</b>
<b>Workshop C1</b>	<b>What Teachers and Students Bring to Their Understanding of the Holocaust: An International, Interreligious Discussion</b>  Josey G. Fisher (Gratz College, Philadelphia / USA) Dr Henri Parens (Psychoanalytic Center of Philadelphia / USA)  <i>This workshop considers the role that one's personal background plays in educating and learning about the Shoah. Depending on individual and familial histories, people will have different questions and concerns: What is it we want to discover? What is the focus of our inquiry? What are the hardest questions that the Shoah raises for us? What role does our religious and national background play? What outcomes might the study produce? The workshop will enrich and inform our thinking about the field of Holocaust education and related disciplines and concerns.</i>
<b>Workshop C2</b>	<b>Day of Judaism / Israel Sunday</b>  Ms Anette Adelman (International Council of Christians and Jews, Heppenheim / Germany) Mr Piotr Dudek (Seton Hall University, South Orange, New Jersey / USA) Ms Sarah Egger (Austrian Coordinating Committee for Christian-Jewish Cooperation, Vienna / Austria)  <i>In several European countries, special days are annually set aside by various churches to celebrate the Jewish tradition and Europe's Jewish heritage. In some Protestant communities this day is called Israel Sunday, while in Catholic dioceses it is named the Day of Judaism. This panel will consider the purposes and nature of these observances with special focus on Austria, Germany and Poland.</i>

**Workshop C3****Prelude to 2017: Luther and the Jews**

Rev. Dr Peter Pettit (Muhlenberg College, Allentown, PA / USA)

Rev. Dr Ursula Rudnick (University of Hanover / Germany)

*The 2017 ICCJ conference will be held in Germany to mark the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation. This workshop introduces many of the themes to be considered next year by highlighting questions and issues in the study of Martin Luther's attitudes and writings about Jews and Judaism.*

Moderator: Ms Liliane Apotheker (Amitié Judéo-Chrétienne de France)

**Workshop C4****Anti-Zionism and Antisemitism: A Distinction without a Difference?**

Ms Elizabeth Harris-Sawczenko (Council of Christians and Jews, London / UK)

Rev. Dr John Pawlikowski (Catholic Theological Union, Chicago / USA)

Rabbi Dr David Sandmel (Anti-Defamation League, New York / USA)

*In today's political and religious discourse the terms "antisemitism" and "anti-zionism" are used by people on all sides. Both of these terms are highly emotive. Some claim that charges of antisemitism are used (or abused) to shut down dialogue or critique of Israel and the policies of the State of Israel, while others hold that one can be anti-zionist without being antisemitic. This presentation will explore the challenges of defining these terms and what is at stake in the debate over their meanings.*

**Workshop C5****Sharia and Halakha in the United States Today**

(Organized by the ICCJ International Abrahamic Forum)

Dr Mustafa Baig (Exeter College / United Kingdom)

Dr Amineh Hoti (Forman Christian College, Lahore / Pakistan)

Dr Jonathan D. Sarna (Brandeis University, Waltham, Mass./ USA)

*The workshop discusses questions such as: What do Jews and Muslims share together in the predominantly Christian society of North America? What particular and common challenges do they face and how can they increase cooperation and respect among them and between them and the majority society?*

**12.30-2.00 p.m.**

Lunch

**2.00-3.30 pm**

**PLENARY: THE UNDERSTANDING OF PAUL'S THEOLOGY AND CHRISTIAN ANTI-JUDAISM**

Keynote Address:

Dr Ed Parish Sanders (Duke University, Durham, North Carolina / USA)

*Nearly forty years ago, E.P. Sanders published a book that revolutionized Pauline studies by situating the Apostle to the Gentiles within a more accurate description of the beliefs and practices of Late Second Temple Judaism. Paul and Palestinian Judaism: A Comparison of Patterns of Religion rapidly became a classic work. In this special plenary session, Prof. Sanders will offer reflections on how Christian understanding of Paul relates to their attitudes toward Judaism.*

Respondents:

Dr Adele Reinhartz (University of Ottawa and Boston College / USA)

Rev. Dick Pruiksma (Protestant Church in the Netherlands)

**3.30-4.00 pm**

Coffee Break

**4.00-5.00pm**

**CONCLUDING SESSION**

*A panel of observers offers reflections on the most important insights and questions they've gleaned over the course of the conference and what topics and challenges need attention and action in the future.*

Rev. Dr John Crossin (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops)

Rev. Friedhelm Pieper (Protestant Church of Hesse and Nassau / Germany)

Rabbi David Straus (National Council of Synagogues)

**7.00 pm**

**CLOSING FESTIVE DINNER**