



INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHRISTIANS AND JEWS (ICCJ)

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE – SALZBURG 2024
June 23 – 26, 2023

"Be holy, because I, the Lord, Your God, am holy." (Lev 19:2)
Holiness: Religious Imperative and Moral Obligation?

IN COLLABORATION WITH

Koordinierungsausschuss für christlich-jüdische Zusammenarbeit, Österreich
Paris Lodron Universität Salzburg

CALL FOR WORKSHOP PROPOSALS

In addition to plenary sessions, keynote papers, and visits to local sites, the ICCJ also puts a great emphasis on the interactive workshops that occur during its annual conferences.

The ICCJ invites proposals for workshops touching on the topics of and issues related to the annual conference theme (see below).

Additionally, proposals for workshops on the current state of Jewish-Christian, and Jewish-Christian-Muslim dialogue on the international or local scenes are also invited.

Proposals containing

- the workshop title and an abstract of no more than 300 words,
- the name(s) of the workshop presenters + short biographical blurb(s), and
- a description of the methodology and pedagogical format of the workshop of no more than 100 words

are due by **February 29, 2024** and are to be sent to the ICCJ staff member Petra Grünewald-Stangl (events@iccj.org).

Applicants will be notified of the status of their proposals by **March 22, 2024**.

Guidelines for preparing workshop proposals:

1. Workshops are expected to be interactive, involving the participants as much as possible. They are not meant to be lectures or academic papers delivered to passive audiences. They can be panel presentations, in which case having Jews and Christians (and Muslims) as discussants is preferred.
2. Workshops will be mostly in English, a few will be in German.
3. Workshop presenters are expected to respect the given time frame (90 minutes).
4. If relevant and/or possible, workshop presenters are encouraged to provide handouts to participants.
5. All workshop presenters are expected to cover their travel and housing and to pay conference registration fee. In special circumstances, the conference fee can be reduced or waived; please contact the ICCJ headquarters. Thank you for your understanding.

There is a limited number of workshop slots available. The conference program committee will select from the proposals it receives on the basis of their relevance to the conference theme and/or the significance of the topics proposed.



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BILINGUAL ENGLISH - GERMAN

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CONFERENCE THEME

Everything can be sacralized: music and sports, places and symbols, rituals and objects, and people deemed to have exceptional significance. But are they truly “holy”? The verse from the Book of Leviticus / Sefer Wajikra makes a clear claim: God is holy. In the verse, “holiness” implies a unique relationship - closeness, reconciliation, intimacy - with the God of creation. We experience holiness when we experience God's creative power of life. That is why the people of the Holy God are instructed to be holy themselves.

Holiness gives meaning to specific places, times, and events. The Jewish, Christian, and Muslim traditions have each developed different interpretations and practices for imbuing life with “holiness”. Sabbath and holidays are separated from the other days and sacred spaces are distinguished from the secular. Daily prayer and practice transform mundane acts such as eating into sacred moments. Ethical behavior is another form of holiness. Such times, places, objects, rituals, and actions can connect us to God’s holiness, allowing us to have an immanent experience of the transcendent God.

These different practices and interpretations define each tradition’s uniqueness but also reveal points of contact and similarity. They can connect us in dialogue as we strive to understand one another and can serve as a rich resource to strengthen our own spirituality.

As we listen and learn from each other, we are also keenly aware of the dangers of political abuse and religious fanaticism. History shows that "God" is often invoked for personal interests

and political purposes. We know that extremist understandings of holiness can lead to violence, intercommunal strife, and political intransigence and instability.

How do we prevent the misuse of holiness? What distinguishes between "true" and "false", authentic and instrumentalized holiness? In Wajikra / Leviticus 19:2 the people are called into the holiness of God and the service of life. But the Golden Calf is never far; the challenge of the call is ongoing.

At the 2024 annual conference of the ICCJ in Salzburg we look forward to dialogue about this awe-inspiring and life-giving, dangerous and elusive concept in a spirit of openness and humility.

During its three and a half days, the event will offer keynote lectures and plenary sessions on the theme as well as a number of interactive workshops, site visits, and excursions.

The ICCJ Executive Board, the ICCJ General Secretary and the collaboration partners together with the members of the planning committee look forward to welcoming you to Salzburg, Austria!

*Further information will follow on ICCJ's website – www.iccj.org – in due time.
The online-registration for participants will open at the end of February 2024.*