

On the occasion of the fiftieth anniversary  
of its opening in Rome  
the Pontifical Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies (PISAI)

in collaboration with

the Congregation for Catholic Education,  
the Federal Republic of Germany,  
and Georgetown University (Washington, DC)

under the patronage of

the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue  
and the Pontifical Urbaniana University

## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

STUDYING AND UNDERSTANDING THE RELIGION OF THE OTHER  
TOWARDS MUTUAL RECOGNITION BETWEEN RELIGIONS  
AND CULTURES IN TODAY'S WORLD

Pontifical Urbaniana University  
January 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> 2015

## Programme

Thursday, January 22<sup>nd</sup> 2015 from 16.00-21.00

*Celebration of the Jubilee of PISAI and the opening of the conference*

Video on PISAI

Words of welcome

- H.E. Most Rev. Card. Zenon Grocholewski, Prefect of the Congregation for Catholic Education
- H.E. Most Rev. Card. Jean-Louis Tauran, President of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue
- H.E. Most Rev. Card. Fernando Filoni, Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples

Musical interlude (cello solo: Mehdi Elias **Baba-Ameur**)

Words of welcome

- H.E. Mrs Annette Schavan, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Holy See
- Prof. John Borelli, Special Assistant to the President for Interreligious Initiatives, Georgetown University and Coordinator for Interreligious Dialogue, US Jesuit Conference
- Prof. Fr. Valentino Cottini, Rector of PISAI

Musical interlude (cello solo)

Short speeches

- Rev. Dr. Richard Baawobr, MAfr, Vice-Chancellor of PISAI, Sup. Gen. of the Society of Missionaries of Africa and Sr. Carmen Sammut, M.S.O.L.A., Sup. Gen. of the Missionary Sisters of Our Lady of Africa: *The Intuitive Vision of Card. Lavignerie*
- Prof. Maurice Bormans, MAfr, Emeritus PISAI: *Il PISAI da Tunisi a Roma*
- H.E. Most Rev. Michael Fitzgerald, MAfr: *Future Challenges and the Mission of PISAI*

Musical interlude (cello solo)

Presentation of the programme of the conference

- Rev. Dr. Friedrich Bechina, FSO, Undersecretary of the Congregation for Catholic Education, member of the board of the Bologna process

19.15: Cultural evening: "Beyond Borders" Ensemble (Mehdi Elias **Baba-Ameur** and his group)

20.15: Toast to PISAI's jubilee followed by dinner

Friday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> 2015 from 9.00-13.00

Theme: *Studying and understanding Islam in a Christian milieu*

9.00-10.30

Chairperson: Rev. Dr. Miguel Ángel Ayuso Guixot, MCCJ, Secretary of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue

Keynote speaker: Prof. Michel Lagarde, Emeritus PISAI, UNESCO Sharjah Prize for Arab Culture: *Insegnare la religione dell'altro, come educazione alla distanza e all'empatia*

Respondents:

- Prof. David Thomas, University of Birmingham
- Prof. Jerusha Lamprey, Union Theological Seminary, New York

Open debate in conference hall

10.30-11.00: Coffee break

11.00-12.00

Presentation-discussion among experts (best practices)

a) Europe and Mediterranean countries

- Dr. Nayla Tabbara, Director of Cross-Cultural Studies Department, ADYAN Foundation, Lebanon
- Prof. Mohammed S. Dajani Daoudi, Founder and Director of the WASATIA movement of moderate Islam, Jerusalem
- Prof. David Thomas, University of Birmingham

b) Institutes similar to PISAI and Africa

- Fr. Jean Bevand, MAfr, Institut de Formation Islamo-Chrétienne (IFIC), Bamako, Mali
- Rev. Dr. Richard Kyankaaga, MCCJ, Dar Comboni for Arabic Studies, Cairo, Egypt
- Prof. Fatoumata Djibo, former Member of Parliament, Head of Mission at the National Assembly of Niger

12.00-13.00

Round table in the conference hall: challenges ahead

Chairperson: Prof. Daniel Madigan, SJ, Georgetown University

Participants:

- Prof. Thomas Michel, SJ, School of Foreign Service-Qatar, Georgetown University
- Prof. Azyumardi Azra, Director of the Postgraduate Programme, Syarif Hidayatullah State Islamic University, Jakarta, Indonesia
- Prof. Siti Syamsiyatun, Universitas Gadjah Mada, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

13.00-14.00: Lunch break

Friday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> from 14.00-18.00

Theme: *Studying and understanding Christianity in a Muslim milieu*

14.00-15.30

Chairperson: H.E. Most Rev. Michael Fitzgerald, MAfr

Keynote speaker: Prof. Amer Al-Hafi, The Royal Institute for Inter-Faith Studies (RIIFS),  
Amman, Jordan: *Teaching and Understanding Christianity in the Sharia Colleges*

Respondents:

- Prof. Siti Syamsiyatun, Universitas Gadjah Mada, Yogyakarta, Indonesia
- Prof. Daniel Madigan, SJ, Georgetown University

Open debate in conference hall

15.30-16.00: Coffee break

16.00-17.00

Presentation–discussion among experts (best practices):

a) Gulf Region

- Prof. Thomas Michel, SJ, School of Foreign Service-Qatar, Georgetown University
- Prof. Aref Nayed, Libyan Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates

b) Shi'ism and Asia

- Dr. Hajar Alkuhtany, Director of International Forum for Islamic Dialogue, Ilford, UK
- Prof. Mohammad Ali Shomali, Director of the International Institute for Islamic Studies, Qum, Director of Islamic Centre of England, London
- Prof. Kazi Nurul Islam, Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue (CIID), Dhaka, Bangladesh

17.00-18.00

Round table in the conference hall: Challenges ahead

Chairperson: Prof. John Borelli, Special Assistant to the President for Interreligious Initiatives,  
Georgetown University and Coordinator for Interreligious Dialogue, US Jesuit Conference

Participants:

- Prof. Felix Körner, SJ, Gregorian University, Rome
- Prof. George Massouh, University of Balamand, Lebanon
- Prof. Adnane Mokrani, PISAI
- Prof. Akhtarul Wasey, New Dehli, India

Evening free

Saturday, January 24<sup>th</sup> 2015 from 9.00-13.30

*Theme: The socio-political impact of education on understanding the religion of the other*

9.00-11.00

Chairperson: H.E. Mrs Annette **Schavan**, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Holy See

Keynote speaker: Prof. José **Casanova**, Berkley Center for Religion, Peace and World Affairs, Georgetown University

Respondents in a round table:

- H.E. Most Rev. Mario **Zenari**, Apostolic Nuncio in Syria
- Rev. Dr. Friedrich **Bechina**, FSO, Undersecretary of the Congregation for Catholic Education, member of the board of the Bologna process
- Imam Yahya Sergio Yahe **Pallavicini**, Vice-president of CO.RE.IS., the Islamic Religious Community of Italy
- Prof. Aref **Nayed**, Libyan Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates
- Prof. Fatoumata **Djibo**, former Member of Parliament, Head of Mission at the National Assembly of Niger
- Prof. Gianluca **Parolin**, American University in Cairo

Departure for the audience with Pope Francis

12.15: Audience with Pope Francis

*Concluding speech and a look to the future:* H.E. Most Rev. Michael **Fitzgerald**, MAfr

End of the conference