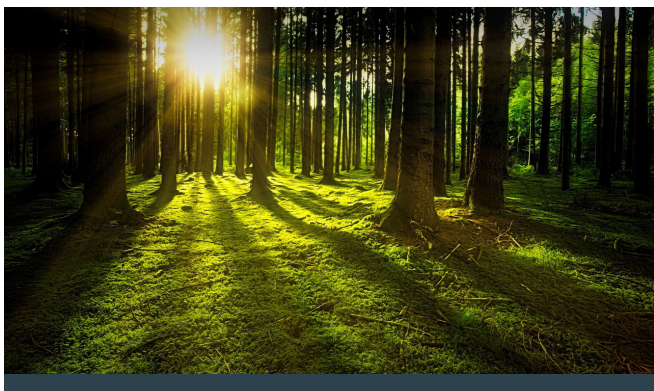


EBERHARD KARLS
UNIVERSITÄT
TÜBINGEN



KENOSIS
AND ITS ETHICS
IN A CONTEMPORARY
AND INTERCULTURAL
PERSPECTIVE

7–8 FEBRUARY 2024
UNIVERSITY OF TÜBINGEN
NEUE AULA, ROOM 236 | ZOOM

ORGANISATION:
DR NORIHITO NAKAMURA

COLLEGE OF FELLOWS



ABSTRACT

Today, we are living in excesses: Information, population, production, and consumption surpass any previous point in our history, and the global movement of people, goods, and money continues to escalate. Since the 19th century, nation states have devoted themselves to increasing their wealth in imperialistic competition and educated people to conform to this nationalistic discipline. However, suffering from multiple crises, our global society seeks for a new, different way of life based not on growth and triumph, but on reduction and renunciation. We need an alternative, "weak" image of the human being capable of humility and negation, rather than a "strong" image oriented toward growth and overcoming.

In this workshop, we aim to explore this "weak" ethical way of life through the concept of "*kenosis*". Derived from the Letter to the Philippians, it refers to the act of humility in which Jesus renounced his immortality and eternity and dared to die a slave. Since Luther, this has been considered as an important motif underlying the "theology of the cross," which emphasizes the finitude of God rather than the "theology of glory," which emphasizes God's omnipotence.

Since the late 20th century, as we have become more aware of the environmental crisis, the threat of nuclear war, the negative consequences of colonialism, and gender inequality throughout human history, *kenosis* has been widely considered beyond the confines of Christian theology. What *kenosis* teaches us is that to survive this crisis we must learn to give up, abandon, be unable, rather than to gain, triumph or overcome. Such a message is not only topical but also traditional. In this workshop, we will investigate contemporary challenges from a foundational vantage point, employing the dialectic of orthodoxy and innovation. Consequently, might not the ideals of *kenosis* empower us to illuminate the essence of past philosophies and religions in a novel light, contextualized within the milieu of the contemporary crisis? Moreover, could this novel interpretation not also unite philosophers from diverse cultural spheres and disciplines within the same hermeneutic horizon, thereby catalyzing the conceptualization of an alternative and ethical mode of existence?

7 FEBRUARY (DAY 1)

14:00 – 14:15 *Welcome*

14:15 – 14:45

Introduction

14:45 – 15:45

Kenosis that matters

as an actual critique of modern society –
Norihito NAKAMURA (Tübingen)

15:45 – 16:00 *Coffee break*

16:00 – 17:00

Towards a Phenomenology of Kenosis:

A Reading of Jean-Luc Nancy –
Nikolaas CASSIDY-DEKETELAERE (Leuven)

17:00 – 18:00

Kenosis: A Dialogue between Nicholas of Cusa
and Nishitani Keiji – Myriam-Sonja HANTKE
(Hannover)

19:00

Dinner

8 FEBRUARY (DAY 2)

9:30 – 10:30

Kenosis: A Theologico-Political Remark –
Saitya Brata DAS (New Delhi)

10:30 – 10:45 *Coffee break*

10:45 – 11:45

A Hidden Japanese Source of Kenosis
in Contemporary Christian Theology? :
Kyoto School, Kazo Kitamori and J. Moltmann
– Yusuke OKADA (Torino)

11:45 – 13:15 *Lunch Break*

13:15 – 14:15

Mystici Corporis: From the Kenotic Christ
to the Kenotic Church – Tobias BARTNECK
(Kyoto)

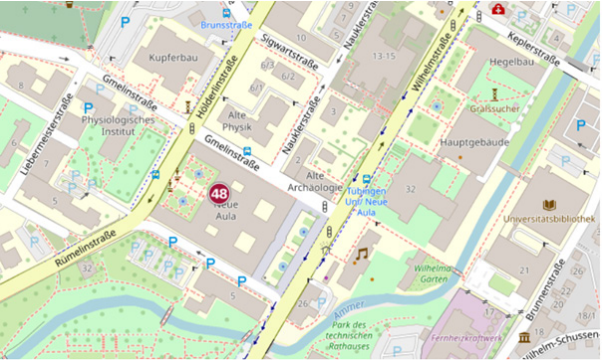
14:15 – 14:30 *Coffee break*

14:30 – 15:30

"Kenosis" of Buddhas in modern
Shin Buddhism – Satoshi URAI
(Kopenhagen / Hokkaido)

15:30 – 16:00

General Discussion



Venue

Neue Aula (Tübingen, Geschwister Scholl Platz) | Room 236 | Zoom

Registration for participation via Zoom:
norihito922@yahoo.co.jp

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COLLEGE OF FELLOWS

Center for Interdisciplinary and Intercultural Studies
Geschwister-Scholl-Platz · Keplerstraße 2 · 72074 Tübingen
Telefon: +49 7071 29-77239
info@cof.uni-tuebingen.de