



Universität  
Basel

Theologische  
Fakultät

Interdisciplinary Conference

# Religious Environmentalism: A Field of Tensions

May 22 – 24, 2019

University of Basel | Faculty of Theology  
Nadelberg 10, 4051 Basel | Grosser Seminarraum  
(main seminar room, ground floor)

This event is open to the public and free of charge.  
See verso for more information.

# Conference Program

## May 22 – 24, 2019

### Wednesday, May 22

14:00 – 14:30 Welcome

14:30 – 16:00 Intrareligious Tensions I

- *Interpreting contexts and legitimizing institutions: Islamic Organizations and Water Woes in Indonesia*, Sofiah Jamil, The Australian National University, Canberra
- *Biodynamic Agriculture – Contesting Biocentric Environmental Self-understandings*, Stephanie Majerus, University of Fribourg

16:00 – 16:30 Break

16:30 – 18:00 Intrareligious Tensions II

- *From Global Goal to Local Practice: Variants of Religious Environmentalism in Catholic Religious Orders*, Jiska Gojowczyk, Max-Planck-Institute of Societies in Cologne.
- *Not Why Should, but Why Do? Tensions in Christian Communities Acting for the Environment*, Julia Blanc, University of Basel

18:00 – 18:30 Break

18:30 – 19:45 Penal Debate: *Climatestrike! – Does Religion matter?*

Followed by an Apéro riche

### Thursday, May 23

10:15 – 11:45 Religious-Societal Tensions I

- *The Emergence of a Thin Spirituality in Swiss Ecological Public Activism*, Irene Becci, Lausanne University, Christophe Monnot, University of Strasbourg, Salomé Okoekpen, Lausanne University
- *Kosher Electricity and Renewable Energy Transformation: Building Block or Stumbling Stone?*, Lior Herman, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

11:45 – 13:30 Lunch Break

13:30 – 15:00 Religious-Societal Tensions II

- *COP and the Cloth: The Role and Tensions of Religion at the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*, David Krantz, Arizona State University's School of Sustainability
- *How Material is Ecospirituality? Sustainability, Sensorial Skills and the Secular in the Swiss Vineyards*, Alexandre Grandjean, Lausanne University

### Friday, May 24

9:30 – 11:00 Interreligious Tensions

- *Environmentalism in the Religious Field: Established vs. Newcomers*, Fabian Huber, University of Basel
- *What Does Religion Have to Do with Protecting Nature? Cooperation and Conflict in an Interreligious Endeavor to Preserve Nature in Germany*, Carrie B. Dohe, University of Marburg

11:00 – 11:30 Break

11:30 – 12:30 Closing Discussion

# Religious Environmentalism: A Field of Tensions

Religions can play a key role in transformation processes towards more environmentally friendly societies. They shape the worldviews and values of billions of people on earth. By addressing not only the mind but also the heart, religions can motivate people to undertake changes in their lifestyles. Furthermore, religious communities are readily equipped with economic and material resources for the undertaking of environmental projects.

However, religious environmental engagement often involves tensions. It faces resistance, limitations, and conflicts. These tensions sometimes take root in the religious organizations themselves in the form of competition between theological schools. In other cases, rivalry between different religious traditions or the marginalization of religion can thwart the impact of religious environmentalism. This conference explores these manifold tensions through the showcasing of empirical cases of religious environmentalism.

The conference is organized by the SNSF-Project «Urban Green Religions», of the Centre for Religion, Economy and Politics (ZRWP) at the University of Basel.

Team: Prof. Dr. Jens Köhrsen, Dr. Julia Blanc, Fabian Huber, Vera Schaffer, Anabel Da Pra

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