



# XVIII<sup>th</sup> European Congress for Theology

## Theology of the Future

September 8–11, 2024 in Heidelberg

Information on the conference and on registration can be found on the conference website:  
<https://www.uni-heidelberg.de/de/theologie-der-zukunft>

\* Lectures to be given in English are marked with an asterisk

18:00–20:00	<p>Sunday, Sept. 08, 2024            Conference Opening            Moderator: Prof. Dr. Jan Chr. Gertz (Heidelberg)</p>	Aula
	<p>Greetings            Prof. Dr. Katja Patzel-Mattern, Prorector, Heidelberg University            Prof. Dr. Heike Springhart, State Bishop            Prof. Dr. Jan Stievermann, Dean of the Theology Faculty            Prof. Dr. Konrad Schmid, President of the Wissenschaftliche Gesellschaft für Theologie</p> <p>Opening Address            Prof. Dr. Hanna Reichel (Princeton): From “What can we know?” to            “What may we hope for?": Towards a Theological Hermeneutic of the Future</p>	
20:00–22:00	<p>Reception by the Theology Faculty and the Wissenschaftliche Gesellschaft für Theologie</p>	Foyer



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	Monday, Sept. 09, 2024	
08:30-08:50	Morning Devotion with Dr. Elisabeth Maikranz (Heidelberg)	St. Peter's
09:00-12:30	<b>Keynote Lectures – The Planetary Dimension of the Future</b> Moderator: Prof. Dr. Daniel Cyranka (Halle)	Aula
	*Prof. Dr. Mayra Rivera (Harvard): The Time that Remains Prof. Dr. Alexander Kenneth Nagel (Göttingen): From Nuclear War to Zombie Invasion: Apocalyptic Conceptions of the Future in Late-Modern Societies *Prof. Dr. Dipesh Chakrabarty (Chicago): The Earth-System as a Matter of Spiritual Concern	
14:30-16:00 OT [AT]	<b>Section Presentations I</b> "Future" as a Theme of Old Testament and Ancient Near Eastern Texts and Traditions	HS04
	Prof. Dr. Annette Schellenberg (Wien): "Let me not hear again the voice of YHWH" (Deut 18:16): On the Factor of Time in Old Testament Statements concerning the Possibility of Knowing God PD Dr. Birgit Christiansen (München): "Do We Have It Under Control?": Hittites Dealings with the Future	
NT	<b>Turn of an Era?! New Research on Apocalypticism in the NT and Its Context</b>	HS01
	Dr. Clarissa Breu (Göttingen): Absent Presence: Authorship as Testimony in the Revelation of John *Prof. Dr. Cecilia Wassen (Uppsala): Halakhah in the Kingdom of God: Jesus's Apocalyptic Teaching in Context	
CH [KG]	<b>Conceptions of the Future from a (Church) Historical Perspectives</b>	HS05
	Prof. Dr. Martin Kießler (Bonn): Title to follow Dr. Philipp Pilhofer (Rostock): The Study of Theology and Its Reform: A Phenomenon of the <i>longue durée</i> ca. 1600 CE and Today Prof. Dr. Karl Pinggéra (Marburg): Apocalypse—Apology—Apocatastasis: Expected Futures in Syriac Christianity under Islamic Rule (7th–14th Centuries)	
ST	<b>Theology of Hope 2.0?</b>	HS07
	Prof. Dr. Hartmut von Sass (Berlin): The Future of Hope: On the Transformation of Future Eschatology Prof. Dr. Matthias Wirth (Bern): The Extension of Life is Not Transformative and Fulfilling? On Transhuman and Theological Hope for the Body	
PT	<b>What is Next for...?</b>	HS08
	Prof. Dr. Ursula Roth (Erlangen) and Emilia Handke (Ratzeburg): What is Next for Church Liturgical Practice? Prof. Dr. Stefanie Lorenzen (Bamberg) and Dr. Henning Hupe (Schwetzingen): What is Next for Positionality in School Religion Classes?	
RS [RW]	<b>"Future Knowledges" – "Polyphony of Epistemologies": Religious Studies and Intercultural Theology in the Future</b>	HS09
	*Prof. Dr. Paul Hedges (Singapore): Intercultural Theology, Decolonising Religion and Epistemological Plurality Prof. Dr. Giovanni Maltese (Hamburg): Non-Western Epistemologies, Decoloniality, and Intercultural Theology: (New) Attractiveness and Problems of Polyphony Metaphors and Pluriversality	



16:00-18:00 OT [AT]	Monday, Sept. 09, 2024  Section Presentations II "Future" as a Theme of Old Testament and Ancient Near Eastern Texts and Traditions	HS04
	<i>Prof. Dr. Ludwig Paul (Hamburg): Future and Past in the Conceptions of Time in Ancient Iran</i> <i>Prof. Dr. Stefan Beyerle (Greifswald): Future from the Past: The Contribution of Apocalyptic Concepts of History to Generating Expectations of the Future</i>	
NT	Turn of an Era?! New Research on Apocalypticism in the NT and Its Context	HS01
	<i>Prof. Dr. Tobias Nicklas (Regensburg): Aspects of Perception in Apocalypses</i> <i>Prof. Dr. Loren Stuckenbruck (München): Horizons of the Future and Past in Early Jewish Apocalypticism and Approaches to New Testament Theology</i>	
CH [KG]	Conceptions of the Future from a (Church) Historical Perspectives	HS05
	<i>*Prof. Dr. Lyndal Roper (Oxford): Rethinking the Reformation in the light of the German Peasants' War 1524–6</i> <i>Prof. Dr. Christian Witt (Tübingen): Where is Church History Going? Historical-Theoretical Considerations on the Future of (/in) a Theological Subdiscipline</i> <i>Prof. Dr. Bruno Bleckmann (Düsseldorf): Concepts of Time and the Future in Ancient and Late Antique Historiography</i>	
ST	Theology of Hope 2.0?	HS07
	<i>*Prof. Dr. Mikkel G. Christoffersen (Copenhagen): Hope and Hopelessness: When Systematic Theology meets Lived Experiences of Pastoral Care</i> <i>Prof. Dr. Rebekka Klein (Bochum): The Regime of Futurity: On the Political Eschatology of Democracy</i>	
PT	What is Next for...?	HS08
	<i>Prof. Dr. Tobias Braune-Krickau (Greifswald) and Dr. Ulf Harder (Ludwigslust): What is Next for Diaconal Activity in Congregational Contexts?</i>	
RS [RW]	"Future Knowledges" – "Polyphony of Epistemologies": Religious Studies and Intercultural Theology in the Future	HS09
	<i>Prof. Dr. Heike Walz (Neuendettelsau): Inter-Dance, Religion, and Spirituality as an Epistemological Challenge</i> <i>Prof. Dr. Anja Middelbeck-Varwick (Frankfurt): Religion as a Resource? On the Profile of a Sustainable Interreligious Theology</i>	
19:00-21:00	Reception by the Evangelical Church in Baden and the Evangelical Church of the Palatinate Greetings by Church President Dorothee Wüst	St. Peter's



	Tuesday, Sept. 10, 2024	
08:30-08:50	Morning Devotion with <i>Dr. Christian König (Heidelberg)</i>	St. Peter's
09:30-12:30	<b>Keynote Lectures I – History of the Future</b> Moderator: Prof. Dr. Christine Gerber (Berlin)	Aula
	<i>Prof. Dr. Charlotte Hempel (Birmingham): The Materiality(-ies) of the Land: Perspectives of "Grounded" Life in the Old Testament and Early Judaism</i> <i>Prof. Dr. Gudrun Guttenberger (Ludwigsburg): Last Generation: The Gospel of Mark and Its Chronotope</i> <i>Prof. Dr. Christoph Marksches (Berlin): "The Announcement of Time": Opportunities and Problems with the Theological Attempt to Keep Time for Society</i>	
14:30-16:30	<b>Keynote Lectures II – Theologies in the University of the Future</b> Moderator: Prof. Dr. Konrad Schmid (Zürich)	Aula
	<i>Prof. Dr. Hanna Liss (Heidelberg): Jewish Biblical Studies as Part of a Jewish Theology</i> <i>Prof. Dr. Mohammed Gharaibeh (Berlin): Text, Congregation, and Society: Islamic Theology from the Perspective of Intellectual History</i>	
16:30-17:30 AT/PT	<b>Joint Sessions</b> <b>Prophetic Discourse as the Task of Theology?</b>	HS07
	<i>Prof. Dr. Christl Maier (Marburg): Prophetic Discourse in a Troubled World: A German Perspective</i> <i>Prof. Dr. Casparus Wepener (Stellenbosch): Prophetic Discourse in a Troubled World: A South African Perspective</i>	
NT/ST	<b>On the Benefits and Disadvantages of Utopia for Life</b>	HS08
	<i>Prof. Dr. Hanna Reichel (Princeton): On the Benefits and Disadvantages of Hope for Life</i> <i>Prof. Dr. Martin Karrer (Wuppertal): The Utopia of Holy Jerusalem in Rev: A Concept and Its Hermeneutical Dilemmas</i>	
KG/RW	<b>"Future Knowledge": The Productivity of Conceptions of the Eschaton and the Future for Religion</b>	HS09
	<i>Prof. Dr. Stanislaw Paulau (Halle): Conceptions of the Future in Ethiopian Christianity</i> <i>Dr. Judith Bachmann (Heidelberg): Conceptions of the Future and Divination in West Afrika</i> <i>Dr. Julian Strube (Wien): Conceptions of the Future in 19th-Century Esotericism</i>	
19:00-21:00	<b>Reception by the City of Heidelberg</b> Greetings by Mayor Prof. Dr. Eckart Würzner	City Hall
	Wednesday, Sept. 11, 2024	
08:30-08:50	Morning Devotion with <i>Dr. Katrin König (Heidelberg)</i>	St. Peter's
09:00-12:30	<b>Keynote Lectures – Future Challenges of Theology: Digitalization, Artificial Intelligence, and Transhumanism</b> Moderator: Prof. Dr. Friederike Nüssel (Heidelberg)	Aula
	<i>Prof. Dr. Saskia Wendel (Tübingen): Caught between Instrumentalized Religiosity and Religious Indifference: Which Theology Has a Future?</i> <i>Prof. Dr. Kristin Merle (Hamburg): "What is this knowledge for?": Knowledge Practices and the Relevance of Theology in Society</i> <i>Prof. Dr. Thorsten Moos (Heidelberg): The Future of Hope: Transhumanism and Religious Rationality</i>	



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