

International and Interdisciplinary Conference

Pentecostalism and Politics

February 1-2, 2013 – Heidelberg, Germany

Conference Theme

In many contexts worldwide, the growth of Pentecostal and Charismatic Christianity has had a lasting influence on the local politics and political cultures. The academic evaluation of this impact, however, is inconclusive at best. There are competing narratives about the political stance of Pentecostals from characterizing them as “apolitical/quietist” to “activist-modern-progressive,” and more. So far, the debate often lack theoretical and methodological reflection, as the plural and politicized phenomenon of Pentecostalism is reduced to a religious category, which is then held up against a secular and essentialist concept of “the political”.

The conference seeks to address precisely these conceptual issues in understanding Pentecostalism and politics from an interdisciplinary point of view. The keynotes will present theoretical insights in how to overcome an essentialist view of “Pentecostalism” and/vs. “politics” from the vantage points of political science, religious studies, and theology. They are grounded in regional expertise and will therefore sketch a new approach to Pentecostal politics by way of concrete examples.

In addition to the keynotes, there will be two parallel sessions with workshops presenting and discussion ongoing research on global Pentecostal and Charismatic movements.

Keynote Presenters and Respondents

Prof. Dr. Allan Anderson, University of Birmingham, Birmingham, UK

Prof. Dr. Luke Bretherton, Duke University, Durham, NC, USA

Prof. Dr. Gastón Espinosa, Claremont McKenna College, Claremont, CA, USA

Prof. Dr. Andreas Heuser, University of Basel, Basel, Switzerland

Prof. Dr. Ruth Marshall, University of Toronto, Toronto, Canada

Prof. Dr. Timothy Steigenga, Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, FL, USA

Prof. Dr. Jan Stievermann, University of Heidelberg, Heidelberg, Germany

Prof. Dr. Rudolf von Sinner, Escola Superior de Teologia, São Leopoldo/Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil

The conference is generously supported by the

 **DFG** Deutsche
Forschungsgemeinschaft

Programme

(Note: the order and setup of panels in the parallel sessions may still be subject to changes.)

1 February 2013 (Friday)

11:30–12:30 Registration and Refreshments

12:45–13:00 Conference Welcome

Jörg Haustein

13:00–14:30 Plenary Session 1

Timothy **Steigenga** – *Pentecostalization, Politics, Religious Change in Latin America: New Insights into Old Questions*

Rudolf von **Sinner** – *Response*

14:30–15:00 Refreshments

15:00–17:30 Parallel Session 1

Panel 1.01: Global Networks & Studies

Room: SHH Downstairs

Hans Geir **Aasmundsen** – *Pentecostalism and Politics: A Question of Compatibility?*

Candy Gunther **Brown** – *About Power: Pentecostal Healing as a Political Practice*

Jelle **Creemers** – *Who May Speak for Pentecostalism? A Critical Analysis of Pentecostal Representation in the International Roman Catholic – Classical Pentecostal Dialogue (1972-2012)*

Gina **Lende** – *What Happens to Pentecostalism When it Becomes Large?*

Yan **Suarsana** – *The Mukti Revival and Pentecostal Historiography*

Panel 1.02: Pentecostalism & Islam

Room: Kiga I

Tomas Sundnes **Drønen** – *Pentecostalism, Globalisation and Islam in Northern Cameroon. Megachurches in the Making?*

Giovanni **Maltese** – *Politics and Society in Filipino Pentecostalism on Negros (Oriental)*

Hans **Olsson** – *A Culture 'Against Culture'? Pentecostal Christianity in Contemporary Zanzibar*

Marcin **Rzepka** – *Speaking in Tongues or Just in Persian? Pentecostalism, Language Policy and the Problem of Identity in the Islamic Republic of Iran*

Panel 1.03: Pentecostalism & Politics in Africa

Room: ÖInst

J. Kwabena **Asamoah-Gyadu** – *Religion and the Politics of Defamation: Charismatic Christianity, the Media and Democratic Elections in Africa*

Sarah **Demart** – *Pentecostalism and Politics in Congo (DRC): Pentecotization of the Political Field or Political Liturgies' Legacy?*

Adetunji **Olasunkanmi** – *The Church Has the Figure, But the Politicians Have the People: Examination of the Dichotomy Between Faith and Praxis Among Kenyan Pentecostals*

Michael Perry **Tetty** – *Latent Power and Presence: Pentecostal-Charismatic Engagements in Ghanaian Political Life*

Donatus Pius **Ukpong** – *Nigerian Pentecostalism and the Public Square: A Case Study of Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria*

17:30–18:00 Refreshments

18:00–19:30 Plenary Session 2

Prof. Dr. Ruth **Marshall** – *Speaking in Tongues: Pentecostalism and the Language of Politics*

Prof. Dr. Andreas **Heuser** – *Response*

19:30 Social Gathering

2 February 2013 (Saturday)

09:00-10:30 Plenary Session 3

Prof. Dr. Luke **Bretherton** – *Pentecostalism and Political Witness: Eschatology, Democracy and Political Economy*

Prof. Dr. Allan **Anderson** – *Response*

10:30-11:00 Refreshments

11:00-13:00 Parallel Session 2

Panel 2.01: Pentecostalism & Migration

Room: Kiga I

Allan **Anderson** – *Eritrean Pentecostals as Asylum Seekers in Britain*

Esther **Bolarin** – *Understanding Faith and Culture: African Pentecostal Churches in Ireland. A Case Study of the Redeemed Christian Church of God*

Stian **Eriksen** – *The Migrant Churches in Norway: A Study of Their Spirituality as It Relates to Identity, Worship and Mission*

Elisabeth **Mareels** – *Videira Comes to Europe: Missionaries Across Social Borders, Teaching a Sound Life Style to Brazilian Migrants in Brussels*

Panel 2.02: Pentecostalism & Politics in Eastern Europe and Russia

Room: Kiga II

Torsten **Löfstedt** – *Keeping Pandora's Box Open Just a Crack: Russian Pentecostal and Orthodox Views of Demons*

Vasile **Marchis** – *A Theology of Mission for Romanian Pentecostals: An Integrative Approach*

Štěpán **Ripka** – *Related to Cultural Fathers, Descendants of a Natural God: The Traditionalization of Pentecostal Roma Through the Ideology of Family*

Roman **Poplavsky** – *Pentecostals in Russia: The Need for Inculturation and Perspectives of Political Participation*

Panel 2.03: Pentecostalism & Politics in the Americas

Room: ÖInst

Richard **Buistraan** – *Methodological Reflections on Pentecostalism and Politics from the Jesus People*

Daniel **Frei** – *Pentecostalism and Politics in Chile*

Kijan Bloomfield **Maxam** – *(Re)Defining the "Political"- Pentecostal Witness in Jamaica*

Daniel **Silliman** – *Understanding the Idea of Spiritual Warfare in Contemporary Pentecostal Fiction*

Panel 2.04: Pentecostal Theology & Contextualization

Room: SHH Downstairs

Joseph **Acheampong** – *„Let My People Go“: The Relevance of the Exodus of the Israelites to the Understanding of Salvation Among Pentecostal Versions of Christianity in Ghana. A Critical Reflection from an Akan Perspective.*

Paul **Clark** – *German Pentecostalism: Origin, Development and Structure (1945-2005)*

Sang Yun **Lee** – *The Threefold Blessing as a Contextual Hope in the Korean Pentecostal Context*

Eric **Williams** – *Black Pentecostalism Between Worlds: Ithiel Clemmons and the Critical Tradition of African American Pentecostal Theology*

13:00-14:30 Lunch break

14:30-16:00 Plenary Session 4

Gastón **Espinosa** – *Religion, Politics, and Presidential Elections: Pentecostalism and Politics in the USA*

Jan **Stievermann** – *Response*

16:00-16:30 Conference summary and farewell

Michael **Bergunder**