

23 October 2016

## **Contemporary Church History/Kirchliche Zeitgeschichte Conference 2016 in Helsinki 26–28 October 2016**

Theme of the meeting: **Ecumenical cooperation and world politics**  
(Ökumenische Zusammenarbeit und Weltpolitik)

*Meeting place:* University of Helsinki, Faculty of Theology, Vuorikatu 3, 5<sup>th</sup> floor (elevator B5), The Faculty room and lecture hall 532.

(Note: Main door is located at the courtyard between Vuorikatu and Fabianinkatu)

### ***Wednesday 26 October***

Early afternoon                      The participants arrive in Helsinki. The accommodation in Töölö Towers.

<http://www.unihome.fi/unihome-for-academics/toolon-tornit/toolo-towers.html>

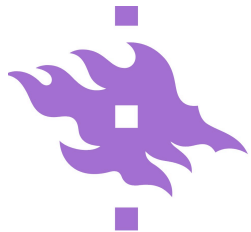
16:40                                      Meeting in the hall of the National Museum of Finland, Mannerheimintie 34.

16:45–18:00                              A guided tour at the National Museum of Finland

<http://www.kansallismuseo.fi/en/nationalmuseum>

About 18:30                              Welcoming dinner at the Ostrobotnia, Restaurant Manala, The Jaeger room (Jääkärisali) Museokatu 10 (very close to the National Museum)

<http://www.ostrobotnia.com/?lang=en>  
<http://www.ostrobotnia.com/premises-and-renting-premises/the-jaeger-room/?lang=en>



**Thursday 27 October** The subtheme of the day: **Ecumenical responsibility – dreams, utopias and realities**

Chair until lunch: **Anders Jarlert**

09:30–09:45

*Opening words by Aila Lauha*

09:45–10:00

*Who are we?*

10:00–10:30

*International Fellowship of Reconciliation as an ecumenical and interfaith forerunner for human rights*  
**Andrea Strübind**

10:30–10:45

Coffee & Tea break

10:45–11:30

*80 Years WCC – Theological, Political and Societal Ambiguities*  
**Gerhard Besier**

11:35–12:15

*George Bell's political engagement in ecumenical context*  
**Gerhard Ringshausen**

12:15–13:00

Lunch

Chair for the afternoon: **Robert Ericksen**

13:00–15:00

*Can the World Council of Churches change the world?  
- Ecumenical action in interchurch aid, international affairs and anti-racism in the Cold War era*

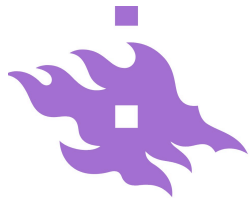
Presentations and a panel discussion. The speakers:  
**Juha Meriläinen, Matti Peiponen and Antti Laine**

15:00–15:15

Coffee & Tea break

15:15–16:00

*Revolutionary Hopes and Global Transformations: The World Council of Churches in the 1960s*  
**Katharina Kunter**



■ 16:15–17:30

**Meeting of the KZG Board, Common room, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor  
Vuorikatu 3**

18:30–22:00

Dinner

***Friday 28 October***

The subtheme of the day: **Ecumenism facing the challenges of nationalism, chauvinism and extremism**

Chair until lunch: **Reijo Heinonen**

9:00–9:30

*The Commission of the Churches on International Affairs,  
Diplomacy and the Eisenhower Administration*  
**Dino Knudsen**

9:40–10:30

*Trends in ecumenical thinking and cooperation in Finland  
since the late 1800s*  
**Aila Lauha**

*Finland – Ecumenical Wonderland?*  
**Mikko Ketola**

10:30–10:45

Coffee & Tea break

10:45–11:30

*Nathan Söderblom and Nationalism - Riga, Uppsala, and  
Ruhr*  
**Anders Jarlert**

11:30–12:15

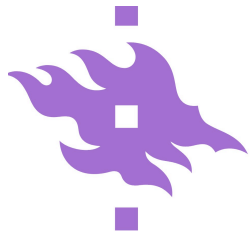
Lunch

Chair for the afternoon: **Katarzyna Stoklosa**

12:15–14:15

*National and international crises from an ecumenical point  
of view – chances or only damage?*  
Three historical examples and a panel discussion

*Religion and politics in Malta during the interwar years:  
between 'Protestant' Britain and the Holy See*  
**Aappo Laitinen**



*Strengthening the Alliance through Church Connections:  
The Church of England and the Russian Orthodox Church  
during the WWII*

**Hanna-Maija Ketola**

*Nordic bishops' meetings during the Cold War*

**Ville Jalovaara**

14:15–14:30	Coffee & Tea break
14:30–15:15	<i>End discussion</i>
15:15–15:30	<i>Closing words</i> by <b>Mikko Ketola</b>

**Organizers:**

Aila Lauha, Professor in Church History, University of Helsinki,

e-mail: [aila.lauha@helsinki.fi](mailto:aila.lauha@helsinki.fi)

GSM +358503310612

Mikko Ketola, University Lecturer, Adjunct Professor, University of Helsinki,

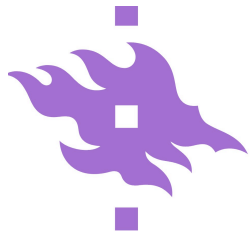
e-mail [mikko.ketola@helsinki.fi](mailto:mikko.ketola@helsinki.fi)

**Coordinator:**

Minni Leivo

e-mail [minni.leivo@helsinki.fi](mailto:minni.leivo@helsinki.fi)

GSM +358503452812



## **Contemporary Church History/Kirchliche Zeitgeschichte Conference 2016 in Helsinki 26–28 October 2016**

### **Introduction of the speakers and chairs**

#### **Gerhard Besier**

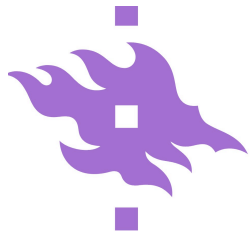
Gerhard Besier is a historian (PhD), theologian (DD and Habilitation) and psychologist (Diploma). In 2009 he received an honorary doctorate from the University of Lund, Sweden. He has held chairs in Contemporary (Church) History and European Studies at the Universities of Berlin, Heidelberg and Dresden, is currently Director of the Sigmund Neumann Institute (Berlin-Dresden-Flensburg), and teaches at Stanford University. He has published widely on the themes of German-Polish antagonisms, transformation processes in Europe since 1945, European dictatorships, confessional controversies in Germany, Europe and the USA, and on stereotypes and prejudices. His book *The Holy See and Hitler's Germany* was published by Palgrave in 2007. This was followed in 2013 by *European Dictatorships: A comparative history of the twentieth century* (Cambridge Scholars Publishing, CSP) co-edited with Katarzyna Stokłosa, and then by *Neither Good Nor Bad. Why Human Beings Behave How they Do* (CSP, 2014). In 2014 there also appeared an anthology on *European Border Regions in Comparison. Overcoming Nationalistic Aspects or Re-Nationalization?* (Routledge), co-edited with Katarzyna Stokłosa. In 2015 he published the correspondence between Bishop George Bell (Chichester) and the General Secretary of the World Council of Churches, Willem A. Visser 't Hooft, 2 vls, 1938-1958 (CSP). In 2016 there will appear *Neighbourhood Perceptions of the Ukraine Crisis. From the Soviet Union into Eurasia?* co-edited with Katarzyna Stokłosa (Routledge).

#### **Robert Ericksen**

Robert P. Ericksen is the author of *Theologians under Hitler: Gerhard Kittel, Paul Althaus and Emanuel Hirsch* (Yale, 1985); *Complicity in the Holocaust: Churches and Universities in Nazi Germany* (Cambridge, 2012); and co-editor with Susannah Heschel of *Betrayal: German Churches and the Holocaust* (Fortress, 1999). He is the Kurt Mayer Chair in Holocaust Studies Emeritus at Pacific Lutheran University, Tacoma, WA, USA, having retired in 2015. He remains Chair of the Committee on Ethics, Religion and the Holocaust at the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC, and is the author of many articles, including most recently "Trump, Christian 'Values Voters,' and the Nazi Comparison," available online in the Huffington Post.

#### **Reijo Heinonen**

Prof Dr. Reijo E. Heinonen began his historical studies at the University of Tübingen on the German Church Struggle (1933-45) with focus on the problems of anti-Semitic indoctrination, continuing with studies on Lutheran Church and Judaism. He is now working on interreligious, intercultural communication in conflict situations. As part of the Roman Herzog initiative he established an international master's program "Islam and the West" 1999- in the Univ. Joensuu. Publications on current history, global ethic and contributions to the UN sustainable development summits in Johannesburg 2002 and Rio 2012. 2002-2003 he was the founding dean of the theological faculty with departments of western and eastern (orthodox) traditions in the Univ. Joensuu.



### **Ville Jalovaara**

Dr. Ville Jalovaara is a Docent in the Finnish and Scandinavian Church History at the University of Helsinki. Topic of his dissertation in 2007 was related to the relations between the President of the Republic Urho Kekkonen and the Finnish Lutheran Church during the Cold War Crises periods. In his studies he has covered wide field of topics in the area of church history. He is a specialist in the Finnish Cold War church history and has in his recent studies covered also topics related to the field Urban History and Finnish Political History.

### **Anders Jarlert**

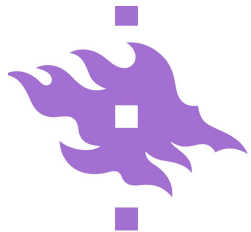
Anders Jarlert is Professor of Church History at Lund University since 1999. His scholarly work is focused on 19th century revivalism, the Churches and National Socialism, Biography, and Early Modern Church History. Since 2001 he is the Chief Editor of the Swedish year-book "Kyrkohistorisk årsskrift". In 2011 he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by the Åbo Akademi University in Turku. He is an active member of several academies. He is the editor of Vol. 3 (Piety and Modernity, 2012) in the project "The Dynamics of religious reform in Northern Europe 1780-1920; Leuven University Press). His biography of the inner life of Queen Victoria of Sweden was in 2013 awarded the Axel Hirsch Prize by the Swedish Academy. In 2015 he was elected President of CIHEC (Commission Internationale d'Histoire et d'Études du Christianisme). He is currently leading projects on the history of the Chapter and Cathedral Council in Lund from Medieval to Modern times, and biographies on the clergy of the diocese of Gothenburg, 1621-1999. His latest text is on Sweden 1650-1720 for the catalogue of the Reformation exhibition at the German Historical Museum in Berlin, 2017. He has supervised 13 doctoral students, and has been on several committees of academic evaluation on different levels in six countries.

### **Hanna-Maija Ketola**

Dr. Theol. Hanna-Maija Ketola made her doctoral studies (Church History) in the Faculty of Theology at the University of Helsinki. At the present, she works at the University of Helsinki as Senior Advisor in Research Administration. In her research she has concentrated on relations between the Church of England and the Russian Orthodox Church during the Second World War and their connection to the Anglo-Soviet Alliance. In June 2016 Ketola held a Mercator scholarship at the Leibniz Institut für Europäische Geschichte in Mainz preparing an article on Anglican visits to Moscow in 1943 and 1956. She is a member of the board of the Finnish Society of Church History. Moreover, she sits on a Committee for Ecumenical Affairs of the Finnish Evangelical-Lutheran Church.

### **Mikko Ketola**

Mikko Ketola is Docent and University Lecturer in Church History at the Department of Church History, University of Helsinki. His doctoral dissertation (2000) was "The Nationality Question in the Estonian Evangelical-Lutheran Church, 1918–1939". After that, he has published a non-fiction book on Opus Dei, and numerous articles on Baltic church history, the history of the Catholic Church in the 20th and 21st centuries, and the Ukrainian Churches after the fall of Communism. He is currently writing a monograph on the Estonian Evangelical-Lutheran Church during the Second World War. He was President of the Finnish Society of Church History in 2007–2013. Since 2010 he is Secretary of CIHEC (Commission Internationale d'Histoire d'Études du Christianisme). He is Editor of the Christian opinion journal Vartija since 2010.



### **Dino Knudsen**

Dino Knudsen is a Postdoc at the History Section, University of Copenhagen. Knudsen has published extensively on non-state actors and informal networks in international politics and diplomacy, in a transnational and transatlantic context, including his recent research monograph “The Trilateral Commission and Global Governance. Informal Elite Diplomacy, 1972–1982” (Routledge, 2016). For more information: [www.dinoknudsen.dk](http://www.dinoknudsen.dk)

### **Katharina Kunter**

Katharina Kunter, Dr. phil. habil., Associate Professor for Modern and Contemporary History (University of Karlsruhe). Her research is focused on international contemporary history of Christianity after 1945. Main publications: “There is no God” – Church and Communism. A History of Conflicts (together with Th. Bremer and N. Beliakova, 2016), Globalization of the Churches. The World Council of Churches and the „Discovery“ of the Third World (together with A. Schilling eds., 2014), 500 Years Protestantism (2011), Broken Dreams and Fullfilled Hopes: Protestant Churches in Germany in Suspense between Democracy and Socialism 1980-1993 (2006), Churches in the Helsinki-Process (2000).

### **Antti Laine**

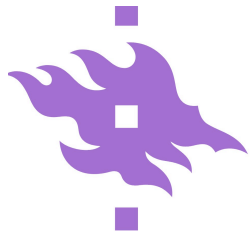
Dr Antti Laine wrote his doctoral dissertation on the anti-racist programme of the World Council of Churches in the late 1960s and early 1970s. During his doctoral studies, Laine was a member of the Finnish Graduate School of Theology and the research project “The Ecumenical Movement and the Cold War Politics”. Currently he is working as a Senior Adviser in the Research Services of the University of Helsinki.

### **Aappo Laitinen**

Dr Aappo Laitinen wrote his doctoral dissertation on the diplomatic relations between the Holy See and Britain during the pontificate of Pius XI, focusing especially on Malta in the late 1920s and early 1930s. His research interests include Vatican diplomacy and international relations in the early 20th Century and the interaction between religion and politics.

### **Aila Lauha**

Aila Lauha is Professor of Church History, specifically Contemporary Church History, in the University of Helsinki since 1997. She was the Dean of the Faculty of Theology in 2004-2014 and she was awarded an honorary Doctorate in Theology at the University of Lund in 2011. She was a member of the Research Council for Culture and Society at the Academy of Finland for six years in 1998–2003 and 2010-2013 (2010-2012 as the chair). Her scholarly work is focused on Contemporary Church History, Churches and the Cold War, the Ecumenical Movement and International Cooperation of the Churches, Churches and National Identity, Nordic Churches after the Second World War and Churches in the 1960s as well as Finnish History of Theology in the 1920s. In 2001–2004 she was the coordinator of the research project Churches and European Integration, financed by the European Union. In 2010-2013 she was leading the research project “The Ecumenical Movement and the Cold War Politics”, financed by the Academy of Finland. In the evaluation of the research at the University of Helsinki in 2011 she was the leader of the research community Contemporary European Church History that was one of the awarded research communities. From 2013 onwards she is a member of the Governing Board of the Conference of European Churches. Aila Lauha has supervised about 15 doctoral thesis in the field of contemporary Church History.



### **Juha Meriläinen**

Dr. Juha Meriläinen is working currently in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland's Commission for the Future. Even though Meriläinen is on an early stage of his academic career, he has already established himself as one of the leading Finnish experts of the American religious life with an interest also in transnational religion and ecumenical movement. He is a former member of the Finnish Ecumenical Council as well as the Academy Club for Young Scientists of the Finnish Academy of Science and Letters. Meriläinen has a Title of Docent in General Church History (adjunct professor) and has won dissertation awards in his field.

### **Matti Peiponen**

Dr. Matti Peiponen is currently working as Theological Advisor to the Archbishop in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland. His doctoral dissertation dealt with the early history of the WCC's Commission of the Churches on International Affairs (CCIA). He wrote his study in the research project "The Ecumenical Movement and the Cold War Politics". He has also worked within the ecumenical movement: 1994-1999 as General Secretary of the Ecumenical Youth Council in Europe and 2004-2008 as Programme Executive for Europe at the World Council of Churches.

### **Gerhard Ringshausen**

Gerhard Ringshausen is Professor of Protestant Theology and Religious Education at Leuphana University, Lüneburg, since 1986. His scholarly work is focused on Contemporary Church History and German Resistance against Hitler. In 2017 there will appear the correspondence of George Bell, Bishop of Chichester, and Gerhard Leibholz, brother-in-law of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, co-edited with Andrew Chandler (London: Bloomsbury). He is now working on the protest of Christian authors during the Third Reich. Apart from his theological interests he published in 2015 a biography of the famous late gothic architect and sculptor Madern Gerthener (Frankfurt/M.: Henrich).

### **Katarzyna Stokłosa**

Katarzyna Stokłosa is Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science and Public Management at the University of Southern Denmark. She finished her PhD at the European University Viadrina in Frankfurt (Oder) and her habilitation thesis at the University of Potsdam. She has published various books and articles on European history, nationalism and state-church relations. Her latest book (with Gerhard Besier) is *Neighborhood Perceptions of the Ukraine Crisis. From the Soviet Union into Eurasia?* (London and New York: Routledge 2017). Stokłosa has been awarded two prizes for her academic work: Viadrina Fördergabe (2000) and Forskeprisen from the Danish BHJ-Fonden (2012).

### **Andrea Strübind**

Prof. Dr. Andrea Strübind, is the Dean of the school of humanities and social sciences at the Carl von Ossietzky University in Oldenburg. Strübind studied protestant theology, history and Jewish studies in Berlin and Jerusalem. She graduated in 1990 with a doctorate from the School of Divinity (Kirchliche Hochschule) Berlin with a thesis on free churches during the Nazi Dictatorship. Following this she habilitated at the University of Heidelberg with a study about the Anabaptist movement in Switzerland during the reformation era. There she taught historical theology and was appointed as assistant professor. In 2006, she began her professorship of church history at the Institute of Protestant Theology and Religious Education, Carl von Ossietzky University of Oldenburg. She is chairwoman of the organizational unit "Intercultural Jewish Studies". Her research interests lie in the church's contemporary history and the history of the reformation. She is a member of the German Ecumenical Study Committee (DÖSTA) and executive editor of the international journal "Contemporary Church History / Kirchliche Zeitgeschichte".