

The Faculty of Religious Studies Saint Joseph University of Beirut (USJ)

In partnership with

Notre Dame University, Louaize (NDU) - Department of Religious,
Cultural, and Philosophical Studies (FH)

Katholischer Akademischer Austauschdienst (Catholic Academic
Exchange Service) (KAAD)

Eugen Biser Stiftung (EBS)

Anna Lindh Foundation (ALF)

Cordially invites you to the seminar:

RELIGIONS ACROSS BORDERS: Cultural and Academic Perspectives from Lebanon and Germany

 **Monday, September 21, 2026**
9:30 AM - 5:00 PM

 **Saint Joseph University
of Beirut**
**Multipurpose room,
Building C, CSH**



Program

9:30 AM **Opening Remarks:** Dr. Marguerite Asmar Bou Aoun (USJ)

Welcome notes:

- Mr. Stefan Zinsmeister (EBS)
- Dr. Thomas Würtz (FU)
- Mrs. Lara Farag ALF National Network, Germany
- Prof. Ziad Fahed (NDU and KAAD Lebanon)
- Prof. Lina Iskandar Hawat (USJ)

10:00 AM **Panel 1 - Religions in Lebanon and Germany**

Moderator: Prof. Pascal Monin

Religions in Germany and Their Situation

Prof. Elisabeth Naurath – Universität Augsburg, Germany

Leadership, Authority, and Religion

Dr. Marguerite El Asmar Bou Aoun – USJ, Lebanon

An Example from History: Ibrahim al-Biqā'i's Quotations of the Bible

Dr. Thomas Würtz – FU, Germany

Interpreting Authority: Toward a Relational and Testimonial Hermeneutics of Religious Authority Across Lebanon and Germany

Fr. Georges Antaby – NDU, Lebanon

11:30 AM Coffee Break

12:00 PM **Panel 2 - Interfaith Dialogue and International Exchange**

Moderator: Prof. Roula Talhouk

The Catholic Academic Exchange Service and its Commitment to Interreligious Dialogue

Nils Fischer – KAAD

Religion and Training in Interfaith Dialogue on a Practical Level: The Dictionary of Encounter and Practical Resources

Stefan Zinsmeister – Eugen Biser Foundation, Munich

Can Interreligious Dialogue Save the World?

Prof. Ziad Fahed – Notre Dame University, Louaize

1:15 PM Break

3:00 PM **Panel 3 - Strengthening Interfaith Cooperation in the Euro-Med: National Perspectives, Regional Visions**

Moderator: Dr. Thomas Würtz

- Nayla Tabbara, Co-Founder, ADYAN Foundation and Co-President, Religions for Peace International
- Berge Traboulsi, Professor of History, Religion and Intercultural Studies, Haigazian University, Beirut

4:30 PM **Final Remarks:** Dr. Bou Aoun & Dr. Würtz

5:00 PM Cocktail reception

Attendance is free but registration is mandatory.

Please register here. Places are limited.

