

Bonn, 06.09.2023

## Crossing Borders: Living Theology in Europe and Beyond

**Ceremony to mark the Luxembourg School of Religion & Society becoming an *An-Institut* of the University of Bonn**

**to be held from 2 pm to 4 pm on Monday, September 25, 2023, followed by a reception in the Grand Hall of the University of Bonn, University Main Building, Am Hof 1**

To aid our planning, we would be grateful if guests could register via this link:

<https://terminplaner.dfn.de/Anmeldung-IPA-Uni>

or by emailing or calling Anne Brown in the office:

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The University of Bonn and the Luxembourg School of Religion & Society (LSRS) have signed a cooperation agreement to make the LSRS an *An-Institut*, a private institution affiliated with the University. Their collaboration in the areas of research and teaching aims to confront the major political, social, cultural and religious challenges of our times and tackle them from a theological perspective. It promotes a theology that is characterized by interdisciplinary exchange and interreligious dialogue and that sets out to enrich the debates of today and tomorrow as a key player of considerable academic and societal relevance.

With this mission in mind, the joint ceremony will feature a panel discussion entitled “Crossing Borders: Living Theology in Europe and Beyond.” Dr. Stefan Attard (Malta), Prof. Dr. João Duque (Braga/Portugal), Prof. Dr. Gusztáv Kovács (Pécs/Ungarn) und Prof. Dr. Aušra Vasiliauskaitė (Kaunas/Litauen) will explore the issue of the transformability of theological discourse and religious practices and debate the question of where and how theology (or theologies) can become relevant to society and to interdisciplinary studies.

“Through its partnership with the LSRS, the University of Bonn’s Faculty of Catholic Theology is opening up new opportunities for collaboration at European level and will be able to raise its international profile even further,” says Prof. Dr. Dr. Jochen Sautermeister, Dean of the Faculty of Catholic Theology. “This is yet another innovative component of our faculty’s Excellence Strategy and will help to increase the importance of theology for academia, the Church and society.”

Prof. Dr. Dr. Jean Ehret, Director of the LSRS, adds: “Collaborating with the University of Bonn—a University of Excellence—is bringing the LSRS’s researchers into contact with some highly prestigious colleagues in the Faculty of Catholic Theology who share their interdisciplinary, international outlook. Becoming established as an *An-Institut* will enable us to work together with all its faculties. Theologies will only be able to remain relevant to society, the Church and academia if they develop in and from dialogue with practitioners from academia, society, politics and the religious community.”

## **The Luxembourg School of Religion & Society**

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The LSRS is a research and educational institution with an extensive international network. Established under public law and supported by the Church, it brings researchers of different religions and from different disciplines together in joint projects. Creative dialogue is fostered by an awareness and understanding of one another's views, encounters on a deep and meaningful level, and an exchange of ideas and opinions in a spirit of trust. It sets out to re-invigorate theological debate and religious practice while remaining conscious of the relevant preconditions and possibilities, without any syncretistic intentions or effects. With its defined intercultural, interreligious and interdisciplinary elements, this theological work serves both to explore one's own religious credibility and to promote social cohesion and international understanding.

## **The Faculty of Catholic Theology at the University of Bonn**

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The Faculty of Catholic Theology at the University of Bonn is one of the most prestigious such faculties in Germany, whose teaching is based on a strong track record of research in the individual theological disciplines. It trains future pastoral ministers and priests as well as religious education teachers for *Gymnasien*, *Gesamtschulen* and *Berufsschulen*. Its new BA degree programs also open up the broad spectrum of study options and potential career paths in the humanities. The faculty enjoys links with many different projects and institutions. Anyone who studies here will benefit from the interdisciplinary and international focus offered by Germany's most successful University of Excellence and the "UN city" of Bonn.

## **Press contacts**

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