

## **Translation – Transgression – Transformation**

The “European Society of Women in Theological Research” (ESWTR) explores borderline situations in biblical, ethical and interreligious terrain.

Women in Europe have been and continue to be border crossers concerning religion. Voluntarily or involuntarily they leave their familiar environment and dare to venture into the unknown. These border crossings by female migrants (wanderers) are an impulse for movement and change of traditional thinking patterns and habits within the European societies and among religions. To “translate” something from one time and culture into another means to widen horizons and that contains undreamt potentials of hope. But “translation” is also risky: Borderlands can become a place for the experience of God as well as for the remoteness of God.

The ESWTR’s (“European Society of Women in Theological Research”) congress questions the inclusions and exclusions that are connected to the transformation processes in a religiously plural Europe. With its deliberately *theological* perspective it wants to make a contribution to the public debate on migration in Europe.

Within the process it marks **three borderlands**, which are to be sounded out and explored through border crossings:

- 1.) **Biblical** border crossings: Translation as bridge building between the familiar and the foreign.
- 2.) **Ethical** border crossings: Migration as a borderline experience.
- 3.) **Interreligious/interdenominational** border crossings: Dialogue between the religions and denominations as impulse for change.

**Location:** Vienna, Kardinal-König-Haus

<http://www.kardinal-koenig-haus.at/index.php?m=485&l=en>

**Time:** 23 to 26 August 2017

**Contact person:** Ao. Univ. Prof. Dr. Agnethe Siquans, Department of Biblical Studies, University of Vienna

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## Program

Wednesday, 23 August, 2017, 17:00: Meeting of the contact-women

18:00 Dinner

### Key note speaker: Regina Polak

#### Das utopische Potential von Migration: Grenzerfahrungen, Träume und Sehnsüchte von Migrantinnen

Wednesday, 23 August, 19:00

### Thursday, 24 August, 2017: Interreligious and interconfessional “Crossing of Borders”

09:00-10:00	<b>Judith Gruber</b> Can women in interreligious dialogue speak? On the (im)possibility of authentic representation – artistic reflections and theological implications
10:00-11:00	<b>Catherine Cornille</b> The Role of Humility in a Theology of Interreligious Dialogue
11:00-11:30	<i>Break</i>
11:30-13:00	Subject groups (see call for papers)
13:00-15:00	<b>Lunch</b>
14:00-15:00	Preparatory meetings for the General Assembly
14:00-15:00	<b>Poster presentations from doctoral and post-doctoral students</b>
15:00-16:30	<b>„Crossing Borders“ in Interreligious Dialogue</b> 30 minute presentations followed by discussion with the audience
	<p><b>1. Jewish-Christian Dialogue</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Birgit Klein: Goddess and God in the World: Conversations in Embodied Theology</li> <li>• Irmtraud Fischer &amp; Edith Petschnigg: Über die Notwendigkeit für ChristInnen, den Dialog mit JuedInnen zu suchen und zu führen</li> </ul> <p><b>2. Jewish-Muslim Dialogue</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ursula Bsees: Wives, slaves, business women? – Women’s lives in late antique and early medieval Egypt</li> <li>• Merav Rosenfeld-Hadad: The Work of Ḥakham Yosef Ḥayim of Baghdad: Rethinking Feminism and Jewish Muslim Relations</li> </ul>

	<p><b>3. Christian-Muslim Dialogue</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Zilka Spahić Šiljak: Biblical and Qur’anic Impetus for Dialogue through the Image of Mary/Maryam</li> <li>• Anja Middelbeck-Varwick: „And the angel of God called to Hagar out of heaven“ (Gen 21,17) – Entangled traditions and the necessity of a (new) Christian theological view on Islam</li> </ul>
17:00	Meeting of country groups
18:30	<b><i>Dinner</i></b>
20:00	<b>A Saraitic-Hagaritic-Magdalenic Encounter with the afternoon presenters</b>
21:15	Ritual
<b>Friday, 25 August, 2017: “Crossing Borders” in Biblical Literature</b>	
21:15	Ritual
09:00-10:00	<p><b>Madhavi Nevader</b> “Pray God and Keep Walking”: Exile and the Gendering of Religion in the Hebrew Bible</p>
10:00-11:00	<p><b>Agnethé Siquans</b> Gender and Agency: Moses' Nativity Story and its Transformations in Patristic and Rabbinic Texts</p>
11:00-11:30	<i>Break</i>
11:30-13:00	<p><b>1. Social and Religious Changes in Biblical Studies I</b></p> <p>Mercedes Navarro Puerto: “Cambiar para permanecer”. Exégesis y hermenéuticas bíblicas Carmen Bernabé-Ubieta: La riqueza del texto y la sucesión de métodos</p> <p><b>2. Social and Religious Changes in Biblical Studies II</b></p> <p>Silke Petersen und Marlis Gielen: Die Genderthematik in aktuellen Bibelübersetzungen und in der exegetischen Beschäftigung mit den Bibeltexten</p> <p><i>Two parallel sessions, each session with two women in conversation with each other</i></p>
13:00-14:30	<b><i>Lunch with time for either individual encounters or larger meetings</i></b>

14:30-16:15	<b>General assembly, members only</b>
ab 16:30	Cultural and Social Events

<b>Saturday, 26 August, 2017: “Crossing borders” in Ethics</b>	
8:30	Ritual
09:00-10:00	<b>Marta López Alonso</b> El Cuidado: Generador de traslación, y consolidador de transformación
10:00-11:00	<b>Valeria Ferrari Schiefer</b> Grenzerfahrungen und Wahrung der Menschenwürde in der Palliative Care
11:00-11:30	<i>Break</i>
11:30-13:00	<p><b>1. Defining Borders in Bio-ethics</b></p> <p>Angelika Walser: Mensch Sein an der Grenze – Verletzlichkeit als Herausforderung für theologische Ethik heute</p> <p>Shirin Naef: Anfang und Ende des Lebens aus der Sicht islamischer Theologie</p> <p><b>2. Transformation in Bodies</b></p> <p>Gertraud Ladner: Our body – the final religion? Der Körper – die endgültige Religion?</p> <p>C.A.M. van den Berg: Transformation in Bodies: Shaving Jesus: Conchita Wurst and the Christlike body in trans*formation</p> <p><i>Two parallel sessions, each session with two women in conversation with each other</i></p>
13:00-15:00	<b>Lunch</b>
15:00-16:30	Subject groups (see call for papers)
17:00	Closing ritual Festive dinner Party

**Sunday, 27 August, 2017 Departure**