



INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHRISTIANS AND JEWS (ICCJ)

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE – BOSTON 2023
June 18 – 21, 2023

Negotiating Multiple Identities: Implications for Interreligious Relations

IN COLLABORATION WITH

Center for Christian-Jewish Learning, Boston College
Miller Center for Interreligious Learning and Leadership, Hebrew College
Council of Centers on Jewish-Christian Relations

CALL FOR WORKSHOP PROPOSALS

In addition to plenary sessions, keynote papers, and visits to local sites, the ICCJ also puts a great emphasis on the interactive workshops that occur during its annual conferences.

The ICCJ invites proposals for workshops touching on the topics of and issues related to the annual conference theme (see below). Additionally, proposals for workshops on the current state of Jewish-Christian, and Jewish-Christian-Muslim, dialogue on the international or local scenes are also invited.

Proposals containing

- the workshop title and an abstract of no more than 300 words,
- the name(s) of the workshop presenters + short biographical blurb(s), and
- a description of the methodology and pedagogical format of the workshop of no more than 100 words

are due by **January 31, 2023** and are to be sent to the ICCJ staff member Petra Grünewald-Stangl (gruenewald-stangl@iccj.org).

Applicants will be notified of the status of their proposals by March 3, 2023.

Guidelines for preparing workshop proposals:

1. Workshops are expected to be interactive, involving the participants as much as possible. They are not meant to be lectures or academic papers delivered to passive audiences. They can be panel presentations, in which case having Jews and Christians (and Muslims) as discussants is preferred.
2. Workshops are to be conducted in English.
3. Workshop presenters are expected to respect the given time frame (90 minutes).
4. If relevant and/or possible, workshop presenters are encouraged to provide handouts to participants.
5. Workshop presenters are kindly asked to cover their expenses related to the conference as no bursaries are available. Thank you for your understanding.

There is a limited number of workshop slots available. The conference program committee will select from the proposals it receives on the basis of their relevance to the conference theme and/or the significance of the topics proposed.



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CONFERENCE THEME

The work of interreligious relations requires commitments to pluralism and tolerance as well as an understanding of human diversity and complexity. Yet, in our world, these same commitments increasingly foster conflictual dynamics, hostility and power struggles, undercutting the positive gains of dialogue. This reality emerges, for instance, when global movements for racial, gendered, and postcolonial justice employ the concept of “intersectionality” to analyze the expression of overlapping racial, gender, and class identities within complex patterns of power and privilege. Those using an intersectional analysis seek to deepen solidarity between historically marginalized and privileged groups and to forge a new dynamic in which trustworthy companions collaborate to end oppression based on socially constructed identities.

Intersectionality has significant implications for Jewish-Christian and other interreligious relations, especially in debates over the primacy and role of racism with respect to antisemitism. Recent scholarship has shown the centrality of antisemitism to the development of modern racism in the Western imagination. European colonialism and arguments for “manifest destiny” emerged from supersessionist theologies of the triumph of the Church over the Synagogue. The typologies of “spirit” and “flesh” migrate between discourses about Israel and the Church to gender constructions and ideas about Blackness. The current explosive rise in global antisemitism is connected to fears over gender and race, and testifies to the urgent need

for intersectional analysis that can account for both universal and particular dimensions of this prejudice. At the same time, intersectional discourse also often excludes those perceived to be oppressors or allied with them from the discussion, resulting in an anti-Zionist antisemitism.

This conference will explore these dynamics as they shape religious identities today and the relations between religious communities. The global presence of both Christianity and Judaism means that there are many diverse settings in which these debates over identity take place. The ICCJ meeting provides a unique forum for listening to these different stories and ways of engaging and navigating conflicts over identity in different national organizations of Jewish-Christian dialogue.

The conference will coincide with the observance of "Juneteenth" in the United States, the day that commemorates the delayed emancipation of enslaved Black people in Texas in 1865. This provides an opportunity to reflect on the lingering effects of traumatic histories and the resilience of people striving for justice and liberation.

Since it is by recognizing the multiple strands of identity that one can make space for the other's self-understanding and develop the potential for solidarity, our conference will offer presentations and workshops in the following areas:

1. The relationship of antisemitism to other patterns of oppression.
2. Issues in global antisemitism.
3. Strategies of effective collaborations in Jewish-Christian and interreligious relations as this relates to issues of race, gender, class, or colonialism.
4. Perceptions of Judaism in societies without Jewish populations.
5. Intertwined and fluid patterns of identity and belonging in the context of Jewish-Christian relations.

During its three and a half days, the event will offer keynote lectures and plenary sessions on the theme as well as a number of interactive workshops, site visits, and excursions.

The ICCJ Executive Board, the ICCJ General Secretary and the collaboration partners together with the members of the planning committee look forward to welcoming you to Boston, USA in 2023!

Further information will follow on ICCJ's website – www.iccj.org – in due time.

The online-registration for participants will open at the beginning of February 2023.