

# One God? One Mission? The Significance of the Abrahamic Others Today

More Information and Programme



## ABBEY OF MELK

Abt-Berthold-  
Dietmayr-Straße 1, Melk

**February 2nd, 2025**  
**2 p.m. –**  
**February 3rd, 6 p.m.**

## UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA

Deans Office at the Faculty of  
Catholic Theology (Main  
Building)

**February 4th, 2025, 9 a.m. – to**  
**6 p.m.**

## PUBLIC LECTURE:

**H. B. Dr. Lic. Pierbattista  
Card. Pizzaballa**  
**(Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem)**

Franz-König-Saal (Main Building of  
the University of Vienna)

**February 4th, 2025, from 7 – 8 p.m.**

If you are interested, please email [marian.weingartshofer@univie.ac.at](mailto:marian.weingartshofer@univie.ac.at) by 26 January 2024.



Université   
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Religion and Transformation  
in Contemporary Society



Istituto Universitario  
**SOPHIA**  
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# **INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**

**2 – 4 February 2025**

***One God? One Mission? The Significance of the Abrahamic Others Today  
(Part 1: Between Christianity and Islam)***

In view of the many crises that are currently threatening humanity in general and the relationship between Judaism, Christianity, and Islam in particular, this conference aims to focus on the fundamental question that unites these three Abrahamic religions: the possible manifestation of the one God and its corresponding mission. This question not only represents the common center of theological reflection, but is also closely linked to the demand of living according to this mission. Therefore, it also affects the coexistence of members of the religions mentioned, for Judaism, Christianity and Islam each claim that the Torah, Jesus and the Qu'ran respectively have been 'revealed' to them. For this reason, the question of the significance of and the relation to the two others is intrinsically connected to the question of the One God.

The international conference *One God? One Mission?* will consist of two parts: the first bilateral part (Christianity and Islam) will take place in February 2025; the second trilateral part (Judaism, Christianity, and Islam) in February 2027. The last panel of the conference, including inputs from Christian, Muslim, and Jewish scholars, functions as a bridge towards the second trilateral part in 2027. The aim of both parts is to renew and deepen our understanding of what links the three so-called Abrahamic Religions without blurring their differences.

For this occasion, the *Research Center Religion and Transformation in Contemporary Society* of the *University of Vienna*, in cooperation with the *University of Montreal* and the *University of Loppiano*, has invited internationally recognized scholars from all three Abrahamic religions to discuss the significance of the respective other. The underlying thrust of the conference is that it is through the other that one's own tradition can become more profoundly comprehensible.

## PROGRAMME

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2ND, 02:30 PM – 07:00 PM, ABBEY OF MELK

11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.:	Guided tour of the Abbey
12:30 p.m. – 02:00 p.m.:	Lunch
02:30 p.m. – 04:00 p.m.:	Lectures:

<b>Prof. Dr. Dr. Isabella Guanzini</b> (Catholic Private University of Linz/Austria)	<i>Books of Mercy. Revelation and Affection in Christianity and Islam</i>
<b>Prof. Dr. Adnane Mokrani</b> (Pontifical Gregorian University/Rome/Italy)	<i>When the Divine is Manifested/Revealed in the Human: A Qur'anic Perspective</i>
<b>Prof. Dr. Dina El Omari</b> (University of Münster/Germany)	<i>"In the beginning was the Word": Representations of the Lógos in Light of the Koranic Word of Creation</i>

### MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD, 09:00 AM – 06:00 PM, ABBEY OF MELK

09:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.:	Lectures:
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<b>Prof. Dr. Aysun Yaşar</b> (University of Vienna/Austria)	<i>Controversial Attributes of God: Divine Justice and Suffering in Islam</i>
<b>Prof. Dr. Fr. Guy-Raymond Sarkis</b> (Saint Joseph Jesuit University / Beirut / Lebanon)	<i>Perceptions of the Other in Times of Crisis: Sermons by Maronite Patriarch Bechara Rai and Shiite Sheikh Ali Khatib as a Model</i>
<b>Prof. Dr. Regina Polak</b> (University of Vienna/Austria)	<i>'When we open Ourselves to one another in Dialogue, we also open Ourselves to God.'</i> <i>(John Paul II, Madras 1996): Test of Endurance in Christian-Muslim Dialogue after 7 October 2023.</i>

12:00 p.m. – 01:30 p.m.:	Lunch
01:30 p.m. – 06:00 p.m.:	Lectures:

<b>Prof. Dr. Klaus von Stosch</b> (University of Bonn/Germany)	<i>Learning from the Qur'anic Theology of Signs: How to Relate the Unity of Revelation with the Diversity of the Abrahamic Others</i>
<b>Prof. Dr. Roberto Catalano</b> (Sophia University Institute of Loppiano/Florence Italy)	<i>Together in Order to Witness the One God: a Figment of Imagination or a true Possibility?</i>

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<b>Mag. Awi Blumenfeld</b> (University of Vienna/Austria)	<i>One history one G!D! Opportunity and Challenges in Historical Facts. The Land of Israel as Common Bridge to the Future</i>
<b>Prof. Dr. Zekirija Sejdini</b> (University of Innsbruck/Austria)	<i>„If the ocean were ink for the words of my Lord, the ocean would run out, before the words of my Lord run out“ (K 18:109). Beyond Bounds: The Islamic Insight into the Boundless Divine Presence.</i>

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4RD, 09:00 AM – 06:00 PM,  
UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA, DEANS OFFICE AT THE FACULTY OF CATHOLIC THEOLOGY**

09:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.:

Lectures:

<b>Prof. Dr. Dr. Jakob Deibl</b> (University of Vienna/Austria)	<i>Unity of God, Plurality of Imagination</i>
<b>Prof. Dr. Mouhanad Khorchide</b> (University Münster/Germany)	<i>Muslims read the Bible and Christians the Quran. On the way to a hermeneutics of interreligious appropriation of sacred texts.</i>
<b>Prof. Dr. Bernhard Callebaut</b> (Sophia University Institute of Loppiano/Florence Italy)	<i>Sociology and Religions that Behave as 'Brothers'. Exploring an Unprecedented Process of Cultural Change with the Abrahamic Other?</i>

12:00 p.m. – 01:30 p.m.:

Lunch

01:30 p.m. – 06:00 p.m.:

Lectures:

<b>Prof. Dr. Sheikh Mohammad Ali Shomali</b> (Teheran/Iran)	<i>Unity of God and Unity in God? Restoring the Family of Abraham</i>
<b>Prof. Dr. Dr. Kurt Appel</b> (University of Vienna/Austria)	<i>The Quran as Gospel for Christians</i>
<b>Prof. Dr. Dr. Piero Coda</b> (Sophia University Institute of Loppiano/Florence Italy)	<i>Jesus Christ and the Presence of One God in History "Between" Us. A Christian Perspective</i>
<b>Prof. Dr. Patrice Brodeur</b> (University of Montreal/Canada)	<i>Between a Theology of World Religions and Religious Studies: the Case Study of Abrahamic Dynamics</i>
<b>Prof. Dr. Susannah Heschel</b> (Eli M. Black Distinguished Professor of Jewish Studies at Dartmouth College)	<i>The Role of Islam in Judaism's Understanding of Christianity</i>

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**PUBLIC LECTURE:**

**UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA (FRANZ-KÖNIG SAAL), FEBRUARY 4RD, 07:00 AM – 08:00 PM:**

<b>H. B. Dr. Lic. Pierbattista Card. Pizzaballa</b> (Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem)	Public Lecture <i>"Common Life in Jerusalem and Beyond. Judaism, Christianity, Islam"</i>
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