



The Czech Christian Academy

Faith and Beliefs of “Unbelievers”: Introduction to the Project

The contemporary religious scene changes abruptly. While, in the past, religion has always been an important source of both personal and group identity, today, in many Western countries a growing number of people quit identifying themselves with churches/faith communities, leaving the traditional religious practice and questioning the doctrines. This phenomenon has its deep cultural, political, and moral consequences not only for the church but also for the society at large. It leads, inter alia, to the attenuation of one’s cultural and personal identity in the globally multicultural world. The loss of identity results with many people in the feelings of anxiety and disorientation, making them prone to different kinds of populists, including religious fundamentalists, extremists, and fanatics. Moreover, the media, religious leaders, and public figures often exacerbate the confusion by using superficial views and simplifications.

This working session will introduce the new research project on **Faith and Beliefs of “Unbelievers”** supported by the **John Templeton Foundation** (ID 61385; principal investigator: **Prof. Dr Tomáš Halík**).

The session will focus on:

- *Double secularization of Europe*
- *Research on “nones”: methodologies*
- *Sociology of nonreligiosity (unbelief)*
- *Review of the existing hermeneutical frameworks*

Venue: **The Emmaus Monastery** (Vyšehradská 49, Praha 2)

Date: **10 December 2019, 9:00-17:00**

Emergency contacts:

Cellphone: +420 608 358 533 (Pavol Bargár)
+420 775477 488 (Robert Řehák)

Luggage room on site (PLEASE CHECK OUT FROM YOUR HOTEL IN THE MORNING)



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Program

- 9:00 – 9:20: **Welcome, introduction**
9:20 – 10:00: **Introduction to the project**
Tomáš Halík (Czech Christian Academy/Charles University)
10:00 – 10:30: **Coffee break**

Double Secularization of Europe?

- 10:30 – 10:50: **“Soft Secularization”: Secularization in Western Europe and Its Consequences**
Peter Jonkers (Tilburg University)
10:50 – 11:10: **“Hard Secularization”: Secularization in Eastern Europe and Its Consequences**
András Máté-Tóth (University of Szeged)
11:10 – 12:00: **Discussion**
12:00 – 13:00: **Lunch**

Sociology of Unbelief

- 13:00 – 13:30: **Sociology of Unbelief: Introduction to the Problem**
Jan Jandourek (Czech Christian Academy)
13:30 – 13:50: **“Understanding Unbelief” Project: Interim Findings**
Jonathan Lanman (Queen’s University Belfast)
13:50 – 14:30: **Contextual Perspectives**
Dana Hamplová (Czech Academy of Sciences)
Tony Carroll (Heythrop College)
Kurt Appel (University of Vienna)
14:30 – 15:30: **Discussion**
15:30 – 16:00: **Coffee break**
16:00 – 17:00: **Concluding discussion**



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List of participants:

Kurt Appel (University of Vienna)
William Arfman (Tilburg University)
Pavol Bargár (Czech Christian Academy/Charles University)
Bartosz Bartosik (*Wież* think tank and newspaper, Poland)
Tony Carroll (Heythrop College)
Andrzej Dragula (University of Szczecin)
Dana Hamplová (Czech Academy of Sciences/Charles University)
Tomáš Halík (Czech Christian Academy/Charles University)
Pavel Hošek (Czech Christian Academy/Charles University)
Jan Jandourek (Czech Christian Academy)
Jakub Jirsa (Czech Christian Academy/Charles University)
Peter Jonkers (Tilburg University)
Miroslav Kocúr (Bratislava)
Martin Kočí (University of Vienna)
Jonathan Lanman (Queen's University Belfast)
Anke Liebroer (Tilburg University)
Juraj Majo (Comenius University)
András Máté-Tóth (University of Szeged)
Tatiana Podolinská (Slovak Academy of Sciences)
Robert Řehák (Czech Christian Academy)
Tomáš Sedláček (CSOB)
Markéta Sedláčková (Czech Academy of Sciences/Charles University)
František Štěch (Charles University)
Eberhard Tiefensee (University of Erfurt)
Patrick Todjeras (University of Greifswald)
Ilona Trnková (Czech Christian Academy)
David Václavík (University of Liberec)
Paul Zulehner (University of Vienna)