

Quo Vadis? Christians and Christianity in the Middle East: Conflict, Migration and Future Challenges

VID Specialized University, Stavanger, 1-2 November, 2018

Thursday 1. November, 12.30 – 18.00 (Room 223)

The seminar is organized by VID's research group MIGREL – "Migration, religion and intercultural relations"

12.30 – 12.45 Welcome and introduction by Dr. Kari Storstein Haug, Professor of Missiology, VID Specialized University

12.45 – 13.45 Dr. Fiona McCallum Guiney: «Christians in the Middle East and diaspora: identity, migration and interaction»

Dr. Fiona McCallum Guiney is Senior Lecturer in the School of International Relations at the University of St Andrews in Scotland. Her research expertise is Middle Eastern Christians especially state-church-societal relations, religious leadership and diaspora. She publishes on Middle Eastern Christians including articles in *Middle Eastern Studies*, *Journal of Church and State*, *Journal of Religion and Europe* and *Third World Quarterly*. From 2013-15, she was the Project Leader of the collaborative research project 'Defining and Identifying Middle Eastern Christian Communities in Europe' funded by Humanities in the European Research Area (HERA). She is also the co-founder of the Christians in the Middle East Research Network.



13.45 – 14.00 Break

14.00-15.00 Sven Thore Kloster: «Christians in the Middle East in Norwegian discourse: Aliens, Enemies, Friends, or Victims of Persecution?»

Sven Thore Kloster is a PhD candidate in Systematic Theology at the Faculty of Theology, University of Oslo. He has been a member of the University of Oslo research project *Christians in the Middle East: The struggle for belonging* (Kristne i Midtøsten: Kampen for tilhørighet) and the Oslo Coalition project on missionary activities and human rights. From 2007 to 2014, he worked as an ecumenical officer in Church of Norway Council on Ecumenical and International Relations with the portfolio of Middle East ecumenical and interreligious relations. Latest book: *Global kristendom. En samtidshistorie* (Universitetsforlaget, 2018) co-written with Vebjørn Horsfjord, Gina Lende and Ole Jakob Løland.



15.00 – 15.30 Coffee break

15.30 – 16.00 Kari Fure: "Challenges for Christians in Syria and Iraq, with special focus on the situation of women"

Kari Fure is Editor in the Norwegian Christian Daily newspaper Dagen. Her main interests are religious freedom and the church under pressure. The last ten years she has traveled regularly to the Middle East to write about the plight of the Christians. In 2015, she published the book *Flukten fra Syra og Irak* this October she will publish another book from the area - «*Krigens døtre*» about women in war. She holds a master degree in comparative politics from the University in Bergen.



16.00 – 16.30 Ingrid Løland: "Between Utopia and Dystopia: Syrian refugee narratives on religious coexistence"

Ingrid Løland is a PhD candidate and research fellow at the Centre for Mission and Global Studies, VID Specialized University, Stavanger. She is currently working on a project focusing on Syrian refugees in Norway, looking at the intersection between migration, religion and identity discourses in a conflict-induced Syrian refugee context. The purpose of the study will be to understand, interpret and compare in which ways religious identifications are shaped by conflict and negotiated within forced migratory experiences.



16.30 – 16.45 Q & A

17.00 – 18.00 Panel discussion

Dinner at Mikado Chinese Restaurant – hosted by VID at 19.00

Friday 2. November, 09.00 – 12.30 (Room 223)

09.00 – 11.30 PhD seminar, open invitation

11.30 – 12.30 Lunch – at self-cost

12.30 Departure

The MIGREL seminar on Thursday is an open seminar and does not require registration. For participation at the dinner Thursday evening and in the PhD seminar Friday morning, registration is required. Contact Knut Holter, knut.holter@vid.no