

FIND FORUM 2015
Transcultural Encounters
13-15 November 2015, Zagarolo

Differences

FIND Forum Program 2015

The forum will be structured comprising the following themes of discussion:

1. Perception of difference in the West: difference as the historical construction of the cultural (non-Western) other; difference as an internal turning point within Western tradition (deconstruction of metaphysics). (Matthias Flatscher, response by Samuel Buchoul)
2. Western perceptions of *Indian difference* – assumptions, characterization, intelligibility. Two possible directions:
 - a) Classical Indian difference: Hindu religion as the “complementary/incommensurable other” to Christian religion? (Fabrizia Baldissera, response by Dominique Wohlschlag)
 - b) Modern Indian difference: Indian difference as affirmation of identity in the post- colonial context. (Dominique Wohlschlag, response by Fabrizia Baldissera)
3. Internal difference(s) in the Indian context – contemporary questions with intercultural relevance, such as the caste system, assessed through religious and sociological perspectives. (Clemens Jürgenmeyer, response by Rizio Yohannan Raj)
4. Ways and modes of understanding the problem of difference in the Indian context. Can the internal difference be conceived without falling back on Western (radical or non- radical) models of difference? (Rizio Yohannan Raj, response by Adrian Navigante)
5. Is it possible to transgress the Western radicalization of difference through Eastern figures of negativity, such as Buddhist emptiness? Can it be adapted to a new paradigm of thought/experience? (Samuel Buchoul, response by Clemens Jürgenmeyer)
6. Is the notion of difference an obstacle to thinking out the social tissue and collective interactions on a practical level? Which notion of difference could be applied in this context? (Matthias Flatscher in exchange with Adrián Navigante)
7. Is “difference” compatible with “tradition” (Alain Daniélou and the *sanātana dharma* of the Traditionalists)? The problem of authority, negation of authority and subversion of an established order. (Adrián Navigante, response by Sarah Eichner)
8. Difference and deconditioning. Can the identity-difference tension be radically questioned by overcoming all cultural supports of religious constructions of meaning (Krishnamurti)? (Sarah Eichner and Patricia Obermeyer)