



INVITATION TO PARTICIPATE **ONLINE!**

Liberation Theology Online Seminar:

'living together'

critique & alternatives to the division of society

Thursday, February 25th 2021

18.00 – 20.00 (UK time) and 19.00 – 21.00 (CET)

Friday and Saturday 26th & 27th February 2021

Both days: 09.00 – 11.00 & 13.00 – 15.00 (UK time) and 10.00 – 12.00 & 13.00 – 15.00 (CET)

Link and further details after registration!

Please register per email: cardijnverein@gmail.com

Voluntary Seminar Contribution: 50€

Context:

- The divisions in our societies are growing - in much of Europe, including Austria. The effects and management of Covid 19 show this more clearly than ever.
- The economic crisis caused by Covid 19 and the measures taken to address it exacerbate social and economic divisions
- Feelings of threat and anxiety also spread in the former well-protected middle class. The future is uncertain.
- Neo-liberal and right-wing populist politicians bring these sentiments home by blaming the most vulnerable in society for the threat situation: refugees, migrant workers, people who receive basic state benefits or no benefits, etc.

At the same time, neoliberal capitalist policies promote actual splitting from above: cuts in social benefits, austerity driven budget savings and tighter social security controls, tax breaks for large corporations and private property owners, and continued high freedoms for international financial speculation keep the gap between (super) rich and poor growing, worldwide, in Europe and Austria.

**From a committed, Christian, liberation-theological perspective,
urgent questions arise for us:**

- ? How can we respond in solidarity and commitment to these intensified social & economic developments?
- ? How can we create understanding and conversation across populist divisions?
- ? How can we live well together, today and in the future, and what can we do in concrete terms?

In the seminar we aim to develop a **radical critique** of the divisive forces in our contemporary European societies. We will analyze the effects of the capitalist economy on the basis of Christian principles. This analysis influences our talk of God and the good life for all.

The **role of churches** in contemporary societies and these developments will be critically examined.

In addition to critique and analysis, our seminar will deal with **practical alternatives and strategies for social change**.

Throughout the process we will discuss the contribution that **political theology** can contribute to critique, vision and practice in our society.

Speakers:

Prof. DDr. Nikolaus Dimmel studied law, political science, sociology, worked, as a carpenter, defense lawyer, debt and tenant consultant, social service manager, GmbH - Managing Director etc. and is a university teacher at the University of Salzburg and at a number of colleges. He focuses on poverty / wealth / inequality, social and migration management and special sociology (labor, criminal and legal sociology).

Dr. Julia Lis is a theologian and co-founder of the Institute for Theology and Politics and co-founder of the network Kirchenasyl in Münster. Her work focuses on: church asylum, theology in the context of social movements, flight and migration, church of the poor, crisis protests.

Niall Cooper is director of Church Action on Poverty (CAP) in the UK, an ecumenical network dedicated to tackling the causes of poverty. In campaigns as well as supporting practical action, grassroots groups and projects in church parishes on the ground. CAP deals with unfair policies, reinforces the voices of people affected by poverty in society and calls the Christian churches to their responsibility. The work is aimed at making British society fairer and more equitable in the long term.

"A crisis is the state in which the old dies, but the new cannot yet be born. There are many dangers in such a time of intermediate rule, and all sorts of symptoms can come out - it's the time of the monster. "

(Antonio Gramsci)

"It is right and important that societies help those in need. That alone is not enough. Our projects address the underlying causes. "

(Church Action on Poverty)

Language:

There will be simultaneous interpretation German – English – German in the plenary sessions and language support in one or two groups. We invite participants who can work in either English or German

Timetable and Process Outline

Thursday, February 25th, 2021

19:00 – 21.00 (CET) 18.00 – 20.00 (UK) Gathering & Lecture Discussion

Nikolaus Dimmel

- Analysis and criticism of the (populist) narrative of the division in society.
- Analysis of the question of distribution in conjunction with current populism
- Locating social forces who are committed to a good (together) life. Opposing forces.

Friday February 26, 2021

10.00 – 12.00 (CET) 09.00 – 11.00 (UK)

SEE

Connect with Nikolaus Dimmel's lecture & exchange about experiences and perceptions in one's own context, perceiving similarities and differences in international exchange (group work and plenary)

13:00 – 15.00 (CET) 12..00 – 14.00 (UK)

JUDGE

Theological points of contact with lecture by Julia Lis:

- What is political theology (in the sense of J. B Metz)?
- Liberation Practice Today? What does theology have to bring in? Where do WE interfere?
- What can political theology contribute to successful coexistence?

15.15 (CET) 14.15 (UK)

Spiritual impulse

Saturday February 27, 2021

10.00 – 12.00 (CET) 09.00 – 11.00 (UK)

ACTION 1

Lecture by Niall Cooper, concrete action using the example of church action on poverty, UK; discussion, reflection groups, plenary

13.00 – 15.00 (CET) and 12.00 – 14.00 (UK)

ACTION 2

Evaluation and strategies - deepening theological reflection and action strategies for the future