

European Network of Research on Religion, Spirituality and Health

Newsletter 2024-1

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Editorial

Dear colleagues, dear friends

we are looking forward to the 9th European Conference on Religion, Spirituality and Health. Read the most important informations about the event in this Newsletter.

Looking at the ongoing problems in health care obviously the conference's subject is a real urgent issue. As hopeful the the new interest for the connection of spirituality and health is, as carefully we must work for a methodological integration of spiritual issues within medical practice in order to make it concrete.

May you enjoy reading our news!

Kind greetings,

Dr. phil. H.A. Willberg
Scientific member of staff at RISH

9th ECRSH-Conference Salzburg, May 16-18 2024 Spiritual Care Interventions in Health Care

A Spiritual Care Intervention is defined as a therapeutic element within medical treatment. This is the main topic of the 9th European Conference on Religion, Spirituality and Health May 16-18 in Salzburg, Austria. You shall get acquainted with already existing concepts of intervention and their effects and you are invited to participate discussing them.

Lecturers are, among others, the professors Tracy Balboni (Harvard Medical School, USA), Niels Hvidt (University of Southern Denmark, Denmark), Harold G. Koenig (Duke University Medical Center, USA), Stefan Lorenzl and Piret Paal (Paracelsus Medical University, Austria),



Silvia Caldeira (Catholic University of Lisbon, Portugal), Rogiers Honnders (Center for Integrative Psychiatry, Groningen, Netherlands) und Lindsay B. Carey (La Trobe University Melbourne, Australia).

A further element of the event are the symposia. Researchers are invited to present there own projects and findings there.

The conference will be a hybrid-event, which means: You may decide to join it in Salzburg or online.

Main organizer of the conference ist Dr René Hefti with the Research Institute for Spirituality and Health, their part is focussed on the international coordination. Further members of the organisation committee are Prof. Arndt Büssing (University Witten-Herdecke, Germany) as well as Prof. Piret Paal and Prof. Stefan Lorenzl, who belong to the Institute for Palliative Care of Paracelsus Medical University, Salzburg. At this University the conference shall happen.

May 12-15 the Pre-Conference-Workshop with Prof. Harold G. Koenig shall take place, in cooperation with european experts. The invitation for this event means every interested person irrespective of academic titles and areas of work.

For every further information please look at the conference-website.

<https://ecrsh.eu/ecrsh-2024>

You can still register!

Tracy Balboni Keynote Speaker at ECRSH



We are happy to introduce Prof. Tracy Balboni of Harvard Medical School to you as one of the conferences' keynote speakers. Her subject is „Clinical and Research Perspectives on Spirituality, Spiritual Care and Spiritual Care Interventions“. Balboni is specialized for cancer diseases and a primary area of her work ist Palliative Care. She is one of the leading participators at the interdisciplinary *Initiative on Health, Spirituality, and Religion* of Harvard University. It's purpose is promoting the development of a holistic scientific modell resulting from the relationships of spirituality, public health and care.

Further information about the project Health, Spirituality, and Religion at Harvard University see here:

<https://projects.iq.harvard.edu/rshm>

SpECi Initiative for Spiritual Care



Already 2017 a group of experts in the areas of care, medicine, social work, theology and other disciplines has connected for the international initiative abbreviated SpECi, which means *Spiritual Existential Care interprofessionell*. Recently the central European members have developed a curriculum in order to educate workers in health professions. A primary concern of SpECi is an adequate care for people suffering severe diseases and for people at their life's end.

Detailed informations:
<https://speci-deutschland.de/>

Our Magazine Spiritualität & Gesundheit



Meanwhile four issues of „Spiritualität & Gesundheit“ (SuG) have been published. This magazine was started 2022 in the name of *Stiftung Gesundheit, Religion und Spiritualität* (GRS), edited by Dr. René Hefti and Dr. Hans-Arved Willberg. The current issue 2023 2/2 contains three articles about grace and forgiveness from psychological, philosophical and theological perspective. About

the psychological aspects Prof. Everett Worthington has contributed a compact presentation of the research findings and their practical implications. The article is written in English.

If you are interested in Worthingtons article, please contact us or order the issue.

Detailed informations:
<https://www.rish.ch/de/home>

Welcome in our Team! Dr Michael Ackert introduces himself



Dear readers of the newsletter, at the beginning of February 2024, I joined the operational management of the Research Institute for Spirituality and Health and will be involved in all fields as co-director. Briefly about me. I studied psychology at Humboldt University in Berlin and then went to the University of Fribourg in Switzerland for my doctorate. During my time at university, I worked on the measurement and trajectories of general religiosity as well as on the general effectiveness factors in psychotherapy in a clinical context. As I join the RISH in part-time I stay connected with the University of Bern and with my research field there.

My current research project investigates religious biographies throughout life in the light of the multidimensional religiosity model with the dimensions of ideology, intellect, religious experience, private and public religious practice.

The goal is to find the relationship of the religious dimensions among themselves as well as associations with external factors, e.g. life events, health status, life crises etc. In my opinion the research fits well with the current projects within RISH.

I am delighted that you, as readers, are interested in the work at the Research Institute and the surrounding topics, and I would like to thank you for your support of the Institute! With the existing team, we are now continuing our commitment to the task of incorporating spirituality and religiosity into research, further professional training, and the application of evidence-based methods. In this respect, the RISH forms a special island in the German-speaking landscape. My work is aimed at maintaining and expanding this commitment. I am convinced that my previous and ongoing research and management experience will be beneficial to the common goal.

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Dr. Ackert's introduction at Institute of Empirical Religious Research, Universität Bern, containing Curriculum Vitae and Publications:

https://www.ier.unibe.ch/ue-ber-uns/personen/dr_ackert_michael/index_ger.html#pane604050

Imprint

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