



International Programme 2010

Public Announcement

The Fifth International Conference on UNITY AND PLURALITY IN EUROPE

Public Lecture SHAPING UNIVERSITIES IN A RELIGIOUS AND SECULAR EUROPE Guest Speaker: David Ford

The 2nd of August, 2010, at 20:00
Mostar, Hotel Bristol

The Fifth International Conference on Unity and Plurality in Europe will include a public lecture on “Shaping Universities in a Religious and Secular Europe”. The lecture will be held on the 2nd of August, 2010, at the Hotel Bristol in Mostar, to start at 20:00. Guest Speaker will be David Ford.

Europe is renegotiating its ways of handling religion in the public sphere. In this, universities are a key locus. How can they best do justice to the complexly religious and secular character of European society? How can they provide a space where the questions raised by the religions, between the religions, and about the religions can be engaged with thoughtfully and through a range of academic disciplines?

This year, the organisers have invited Professor David Ford, one of the leading thinkers on religious plurality in the world, and explorer of many ways of reformulation of closed communities and the tension between them into living resources of tolerance, solidarity, and wisdom.

David Ford (Cambridge) is Regius Professor of Divinity, and Fellow of Selwyn College, Cambridge. His research interests include: interpretation of scripture and substantive issues in contemporary Christian thought and practice; the direction of inter-faith theology and relations, particularly the issues of inter-faith scriptural interpretation and the relation of faiths to secular cultures, traditions and forces. Among his other research interests are: the shaping of universities and of the field of theology and religious studies within them. Some of his publications are: *Christian Wisdom. Desiring God and Learning in Love* (2007), *The Shape of Theology* (2007), *The Promise of Scriptural Reasoning* (ed., with C. C. Pecknold, with chapter ‘An Inter-Faith Wisdom: Scriptural Reasoning between Jews, Christians and Muslims’) (2006), *Fields of Faith - Theology and Religious Studies for the Twenty-First Century*. (ed. with Ben Quash and Janet Martin Soskice) (2005), *Scripture and Theology: Reading Texts, Seeking Wisdom* (ed., with Graham Stanton) (2003).

The lecture is open to the public and will be in English with consecutive translation.

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