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Supported by:



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Venue

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Image Source:
UNO-Archive Geneva

The aim of the Collegium Carolinum's Annual Conference 2026 is to shed light on the role of religious actors and the significance of religious affiliation in migration movements from Eastern Europe from the 1930s to the 1960s. We will focus on religious humanitarian organisations during the migration process, as well as on the role of religion in diaspora communities and their influence on their old and new home lands.



Annual Conference of the Collegium Carolinum
in Cooperation with the German Historical Institute
Rome (Max Weber Foundation) and the Institute
of History of the Czech Academy of Science

Organized by
Marion Aeverbeck-Dotter and Jaroslav Šebek

Believers on the Move from East-Central and South-Eastern Europe:

Religious Migration Regimes
and Diaspora Policies (1930s to 1960s)



Fischbachau
12-15 November 2026

Thursday, 12 November 2026

Arrival

Friday, 13 November 2026

09:00-09:15
Opening and Introduction
Martin Schulze Wessel (Munich)

Marion Averbek-Dotter (Munich) and Jaroslav Šebek (Prague)

09:15-10:30
Forming and Renewing Religious Communities in Emigration and Exile
Moderation: Pavel Kolář (Konstanz)

Rachel Blumenthal (Jerusalem): "I learned my Judaism on the run": Creating a Religious Community in Transit

Ondřej Matějka (Prague): "How to be in the World, but not of the World." Re-emigrants as an "Active Minority" in Czech Protestant Milieu. A Case Study of the Community in Zábřeh na Moravě between 1920s and 1970s

10:30-11:00 *Coffee break*

11:00-12:30
Karina Khasnulina (Leipzig): Russian Orthodox Clergy and Resettlement of the Eastern Europeans after the Second World War: Case Studies of Germany and China (1945–1952)

Nadezhda Beliakova (Bielefeld): Gendering Migration Regimes: Female Faith-Based Agency and the Making of Diaspora Infrastructures from the Former Russian Empire

Anna Bisikalo (Boston): Ukrainian Greek Catholics in Poland's "Recovered Territories" between 1947–1960

12:30-14:30 *Lunch*

14:30-15:45
Developing Religious Migration Regimes through Humanitarianism and Mission
Moderation: Martin Baumeister (Munich)

Eva Vybíralová (Prague): Der St. Raphaels-Verein als eine außergewöhnliche religiöse Hilfsorganisation zum Schutz der Auswanderer

Giuseppe Motta (Rome): Between Reconstruction and Emigration: The Work of the Joint Distribution Committee and the Return to Life of Romanian Jews after World War II

15:45-16:15 *Coffee break*

16:15-17:30
Elena Serina (Rome): 'A Great Work of International Charity'. Catholic Humanitarians, Vatican-UN Entanglements, and Refugee Relief in the Making of the 'Cold War West'

Kim Christiaens (Leuven): Central and Eastern European Perspectives on Catholic Solidarity: Eastern Priests' Aid/Church in Need, 1940s–1960s

Dinner

Saturday, 14 November 2026

09:00-10:15
Activating Believers in Exile for Diplomacy, Politics, and Nationalism
Moderation: Johannes Gleixner (Munich)

Éva Petrás (Budapest): A Silent Partner in Church Diplomacy. The Role of Superior General Vincent Tomek Sch.P. in Mediating between Hungarian Catholic Church, the Holy See and the Hungarian Emigrant Clerics in Rome, 1947–1967

Petar Dragišić (Belgrade): The Role of the Serbian Orthodox Church and the Catholic Church in the Formation and Activities of Serbian and Croatian Political Exile Communities (1945–Late 1960s)

10:15-10:45 *Coffee break*

10:45-12:15
Arūnas Streikus (Vilnius): Living Nation and Religion in a New Environment of Diaspora: Lessons from the History of a Lithuanian Lay Organisation in the 1950s–1960s

Michaela Lenčėšová (Prague): From Fascist Collaboration to Christian Democracy: Slovak Émigrés and the Role of Catholicism in Political Legitimation after 1945

Jaroslav Šebek (Prague): Neue Diskurse des tschechischen katholischen Exils in Rom und die Gegenmaßnahmen der kommunistischen Staatssicherheit in der zweiten Hälfte der 1960er Jahre

12:15-14:30 *Lunch*

Religious Exile Discourses Influencing the Societies in the Old and New Homelands
Moderation: Christiane Brenner (Munich)

14:30-15:45
Václav Zeman (Ústí nad Labem): Strategien zur Bewahrung des Erbes der Deutschen Evangelischen Kirche in Böhmen, Mähren und Schlesien nach 1945

Niklas Zimmermann (Frankfurt): "Volksgruppe" in Exile: The Catholic Ackermann-Gemeinde and its Role in Shaping Sudeten German Discourse

15:45-16:15 *Coffee break*

16:15-17:30
Katarína Džunková (Bratislava): "You Have to Be a Refugee Yourself to Understand the Fears of Emigrants": The Emigration of Slovak Priests and Poets to Rome, 1945–1949

Sławomir Łukasiewicz (Lublin): Situation of the Church in Poland as seen by Cold War Exiles: Monitoring, Expertise, and Assistance

17:30-17:45 *Concluding Remarks*

Dinner

Sunday, 15 November 2026

Breakfast, Departure