



Public Lectures at the VU - *Open Colleges*
April / May 2012 (Period 5, „Introduction to Peace Theology“)

Organized by:

THE AMSTERDAM CENTER FOR RELIGION, PEACE & JUSTICE STUDIES
(Doopsgezind Seminarium, VU Faculteit Godgeleerdheid)

In cooperation with:

ACCORD – Amsterdam Center for the Study of Cultural and Religious Diversity

VISOR – Institute for the Study of Religion, Culture, and Society

Vereniging Kerk en Vrede



The Spirit of Nonviolent Peacebuilding in the Theologies of World Religions

The relation of religion and violence is ambivalent, to say the least. In many conflicts – regional as well as global – religion seems to play a role: it provides a group identity, it orients moral behavior in telling its members what is good and what is bad. In its fundamentalist variations religions tend to call for a fight against the „evil“. – Mass media usually show the violent results.

Is this a misuse of religion – for political, economic, and ideological reasons?

This series of lectures intends to make visible the *non-violent* peace-building potential within world religions. The underlying assumption is: Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity and Islam carry within their beliefs and (hi-)stories roots for a spirit of non-violence and peaceful coexistence. Can these roots be lifted up for peace-building and non-violent conflict resolution?

Experts in **Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam** are invited to identify these sources and clarify the particular understanding of peace building as well as discuss among each other.

Program:

Thursday, 05. April 2012, 13.30-15:15

Modern Hindus Reject Violence: Rabindranath Tagore and Mahatma Gandhi on the Use of Violence in Politics

Dr. Victor van Bijlert (lecturer Indian Religions)

Thursday, 12. April 2012, 13.30-15:15

The Concept of *Teshuvah* in Jewish Tradition as a Way Towards Reconciliation

Dr. Rachel Reedijk (Cultural Anthropologist, Amsterdam)

Thursday, 19. April 2012, 13.30-15:15

Nonviolence as the Central Theme of the New Testament – and the Historic Peace Churches

Prof. dr. Fernando Enns (hoogleraar Peace-Theology and Ethics, VU)

Thursday, 26. April 2012, 13.30-15:15

The Dao of Non-Violence: Mutual Interconnectedness as a Way to Peace in Chinese Buddhism

Prof. dr. André van der Braak (bijzonder hoogleraar Boeddhistische Filosofie, VU)

Thursday, 03. May 2012, 13.30-15:15

'The Importance of Religious Communication for Peace in Islam'

Dr. Mohammed Ajouaou (universitair docent Islam, VU)

Tuesday, 15. May 2012, 13.30-15:15

Panel Discussion with all Participating Lecturers

Moderation: Prof. dr. Willie van der Merwe (hoogleraar Godsdienstwijsbegeerte, VU)

Format: 45 min lecture followed by 45 min discussion with audience.

Language: English, Dutch is possible

Location: VU Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

More information and register: seminarium@ads.nl 020-6230914

The lectures will be published afterwards (in English and possibly also in Dutch)