



The University of Fribourg (Switzerland) and Cardiff University (Wales) are organising an International Conference on Muslim Chaplaincy taking place in Fribourg, on **June 24th – 26th 2025**.

MUSLIM CHAPLAINCY. PRACTICE, RESEARCH AND RECOGNITION

CALL FOR PAPERS, WORKSHOPS AND POSTERS

Context

The growth of Muslim involvement in chaplaincy in numerous Western countries over recent decades has been the catalyst for the emergence of a new international field of research, namely, Muslim Chaplaincy Studies. Although the demography of Muslim communities is variable, as is the economic, political, historic, and social contexts in which they live, there are nevertheless some common issues facing Muslim chaplains as they develop their profession.

This conference brings together leading practitioners and international researchers in Muslim Chaplaincy Studies thereby creating a dialogue at the interface of research and reflective practice. Important current topics will be discussed and perspectives for the further contouring of the research field developed.

Keynotes, parallel panels and workshops

The conference will feature eight plenary lectures by renowned keynote speakers, among them being:

- Bilal Ansari (Hartford International University for Religion and Peace – USA),
- Navid Baig (University of Oslo – Norway),
- Claire de Galembert (University of Paris Nanterre – France),
- Esma Isis-Arnautovic (University of Fribourg – Switzerland),
- Nazila Isgandarova (University of Toronto – Canada),
- Sophie Gilliat-Ray (Cardiff University – Wales),
- Andrew Todd (Anglia Ruskin University – UK).
- Ingrid Mattson (Huron University – Canada).

The conference aims to bring together researchers and practitioners from different academic backgrounds, and we welcome contributions from diverse fields such as Education and Pedagogy, Gender Studies, Interreligious relations, Islamic Studies, Islamic theology, Medicine, Sociology, Philosophy and Ethics, Pastoral care, and Psychology. We invite proposals for **individual academic papers**, as well as **workshops** and **posters from** academics as well as postgraduate researchers. We also extend the invitation to chaplaincy practitioners beyond the academic world who have expertise and precious insights to share (chaplains of

various institutions and domains such as hospitals, prisons, asylum centers, army, schools & universities, youth centers, homes for the elderly, etc.).

Parallel Sessions

The academic papers will be presented in four parallel sessions. We identified three priority topics for papers:

- Gender Issues
- Training and Professionalisation
- Theological and Shari'a Issues
- Further relevant topics within Muslim Chaplaincy Studies are welcome.

Parallel Workshops

Four workshop sessions are planned. The focus should be on **applied** and **practical dimensions**. We encourage case studies and practitioners' experiences. Examples of topics could be: sudden death, Islamic law and institutional policy, and conversion to Islam. The workshops last 75' minutes and should favour active dialogue between participants.

Posters Session

Posters must pertain to research or practical experience within the field of Muslim Chaplaincy. A parallel poster session will be organized, in which poster authors will briefly present their reflections. Posters should be A0 or A1 sized (either portrait or landscape).

Submitting your paper / workshop or poster proposals

Please submit a 1500 to 2000 characters abstracts for your paper, workshop or poster proposal. The proposal should contain the general aim of your contribution, the discipline and the methodology, as well as a biographical note (max. 250 characters).

Submission email address: szig@unifr.ch

Submission deadline: November 15th 2024

Conference fees: 100.- CHF, including two meals and coffee breaks.

Any questions? Please contact the Conference Committee on szig@unifr.ch

For further information consult [the conference website](#).

Conference Committee

Prof. Dr Hansjörg Schmid

Prof. Dr Sophie Gilliat-Ray

Dr Mallory Schneuwly Purdie

Dr Mansur Ali

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