

Muslim Chaplaincy: Practice, Research and Recognition Provisional programme

Fribourg, Switzerland, 24 – 26 June 2025

University of Fribourg, Bd. de Pérolles 90, 1700 Fribourg, Switzerland

Tuesday 24 June

From 12.00

Registration

13.30 – 14.00

Welcome and Introduction

Hansjörg Schmid (SZIG/CSIS – University of Fribourg)
Sophie Gilliat-Ray (Cardiff University)

14.00 – 14.45

Keynote 1: Shepherding the Islamic Secular: Hadith-Based Principles for Evaluating Muslim Chaplains

Bilal Ansari (Hartford International University, USA)

14.45 – 15.30

Keynote 2: The question of ‘wasaa’it’ (intermediaries): Ibn Abbaad, shukr (gratitude) and Muslim patients during times of crisis. An empirical study.

Naveed Baig (Oslo University, Norway)

15.30 – 16.00

Break/refreshments

16.00 – 17.30

Panel 1: Training and Competencies of Muslim Chaplains

The training of Imams at German universities: Challenges and Perspectives

Aslıgül Aysel (University of Innsbruck, Austria)

Clinical pastoral education in Muslim chaplaincy education and practice

Daniel Nuzum (University College Cork, Ireland)

Sabia Rehman (Sheffield Teaching Hospitals)

Aziz Patel (Greater Manchester mental health hospitals NHS)

First Steps into Chaplaincy – Themes Arising from Chaplaincy Students’ Placement Experiences

Ruqaiyah Hibell (Markfield Institute of Higher Education, UK)

Panel 2: Approaches to Muslim Chaplaincy

Intersections between Carl Rogers’ humanistic psychology and Islamic teachings

Sondos Kholaki (University of Southern California, USA)

Talking with children about death: Muslim Chaplaincy in Educational Settings from the Perspective of Islamic Theology and Education

Gülbahar Erdem (Paderborn University, Germany)

Navigating the Dialectics of Spirituality and Care: Islamic Spiritual Care

in Muslim-Majority and Minority Contexts
Khairil Husaini Bin Jamil (International Islamic University, Malaysia)

Panel 3: Muslim Chaplaincy Organisations

Muslim Chaplaincy Baden-Württemberg (MSBW) – Structural and Practical Insights
Fatma Aydinli (University of Erlangen, Germany)

Structure for Shura & Suhba: The Association of Muslim Chaplains and Its Contributions to Islamic Chaplaincy in North America
Jaye Starr (University of Michigan Hospital, USA)

Trust and Professionalisation. The Case of a Muslim Chaplaincy Organisation
Hansjörg Schmid (SZIG/CSIS – University of Fribourg)

17.45 – 18.30 **Keynote 3: Muslim chaplaincies in France, between appropriation and instrumentalization by public authorities**
Claire de Galember (Ecole normale supérieure Paris-Saclay – CNRS, France)

Wednesday 25 June

9.00 – 9.45 **Keynote 4: Theological Dimensions in Muslim Chaplaincy – An Attempt at Systematization**
Esma Isis-Arnautovic (SZIG/CSIS – University of Fribourg, Switzerland)

9.45 – 10.30 **Keynote 5: Aging, Spirituality, and A Guide to Islamic Spiritual Care with Elderly**
Nazila Isgandarova (Toronto University, Canada)

10.30 – 11.00 Break/refreshments

Parallel Workshops 1

Working with case reports: Organ donation after sudden infant death – challenges and support for the family
Dilek Uçak-Ekinci (SZIG/CSIS – University of Fribourg, Switzerland)

Integrating Islamic Perspectives in Advance Care Planning: A Chaplain's Approach to Compassionate Care
Sakinah Alhabshi (St. Luke University Health Network, USA)

A Practical Approach for Muslim Chaplains
Mashid Turner (Durham University, UK)

The Use of the STIV/SDAT Model for Providing Spiritual Care to Muslim Patients
Driss Khechaf (UCLouvain, Belgium)

12.15 – 13.30 Lunch (Buffet for all participants)

13.30 – 14.15 **Keynote 6: Breaking Barriers: Muslim Women in Chaplaincy and Pastoral Leadership**
Sophie Gilliat-Ray (Cardiff University, UK)
Ameira Bahadur-Kutkut (Cardiff Metropolitan University, UK)

14.30 – 16.00

Panel 4: Theological Issues in Healthcare Chaplaincy

He's a Muslim, a Chaplain, and an American: Is he really an American Muslim chaplain?

Harvey Stark (California State University, USA)

Bodies of text: British Muslim hospital chaplains negotiating text and context to provide organ transplantation care

Mansur Ali (Cardiff University, UK)

Associations between religious and social characteristics and the importance of Muslim chaplain presence at the end of life: Insights from a national survey of American Muslims

Samsiah Abdul-Majid (Westchester Medical Center/Association of Muslim Chaplains, USA)

Panel 5: Racism and Gender Issues in Muslim Chaplaincy

Muslim Chaplaincies in French Public Institutions: An Opportunity for Women?

Céline Béraud (EHESS, Paris, France)

Still Challenging: Muslim Women in Chaplaincy in Turkey

Durali Karacan (Eskisehir Osmangazi University, Turkey)

Social Suffering and Muslim Chaplaincy: Navigating Racism and Institutional Barriers

Beyhan Bozkurt (Ruhr-University Bochum, Germany)

Panel 6: Interfaith and Faith-Specific Orientations in Muslim Chaplaincy

Muslim Chaplaincy in Ukraine: Intra-Islamic and Interreligious Experiences Reconsidered

Mykhaylo Yakubovych (University of Freiburg, Germany/Coventry University, UK)

Celebrating Faith-Specific Rituals in the Swiss Army: A Call for Balance

Matthias Inniger (North-West University, South Africa)

Reconciliation: Does It Work with Muslim Prison Chaplaincy in Germany?

Ahmed Arfaoui (Dresden Prison, Germany)

16.00 – 16.30

Break/refreshments

16.30 – 17.15

Keynote 7: Chaplaincy and chaplaincy studies as the context for the development and contribution of Muslim Chaplaincy

Andrew Todd (Anglia Ruskin University, Cambridge, UK)

17.15 – 18.30

Poster session

In Search of a Muslim Chaplaincy in Japan: A Study Group Project

Kenta Kasai and Sachiko Hosoya (Sophia University and International University of Health and Welfare – Japan)

Exploring the Islamic Concept of the Nafs and Its Integration into the Practice of Muslim Pastoral Care in the UK

Safraa Razeek (Markfield Institute of Higher Education, UK)

An ethnographic study to explore barriers and facilitators for terminally ill Pakistani Muslims to access palliative care in England through the lens of Chaplaincy

Maysoon Shafiq (Sheffield Hallam University, UK)

Al-Mujadilah: Center & Mosque for Women

Iman A. Ismail (Bayan Islamic Graduate School, US)

Experiences, good practice and initiatives for people affected through imprisonment

Ferzana Dakri (Her Majesty's Prison and Probation Service, Leicester, UK)

Faith in Action: Chaplaincy and Media Shaping Prison Rehabilitation

Hussain Saqib (Chaplain at HMP Oakwood, UK)

19.00

Dinner (for all speakers)

Thursday 26 June

9.00 – 9.45

Keynote 8: Standards and Accountability for Muslim Chaplains

Ingrid Mattson (Huron University, London, Canada)

10.00 – 11.15

Parallel Workshops 2

Theoretical and theological models supporting Muslim chaplaincy: practitioner perspectives and experiences'

Hanan Basher (Cardiff University, UK) with Mansur Ali and Sophie Gilliat-Ray (Cardiff University, UK)

Islam & Human Organ Transplant: A Scoping Literature Review

Ruqiaya N. Akhtar (Huston Methodist Hospital, USA)
Beth Muehlhausen (Huston Methodist Hospital, USA)

Musings of a Muslim Chaplain

Sondos Kholaki (University of Southern California, USA)

Clinical Pastoral Education as a Methodology in Muslim Chaplaincy Education

Daniel Nuzum (University College Cork, Ireland)
Sabia Rehman (Sheffield Teaching Hospitals)
Aziz Patel (Greater Manchester mental health hospitals NHS)
Mark Newitt (Sheffield Teaching Hospitals and St. Luke's Hospice)

11.15 – 11.45

Break

11.45 – 13.00

Final Roundtable: taking the field forward, research and practitioner priorities

All the keynote speakers

14.30

End of the conference – Optional cultural programme

Practical Information

- Accommodation:** As the conference falls in the summer season, it is strongly recommended that you book your accommodation as early as possible. General information on hotels in Fribourg can be found on <https://fribourg.ch/en/fribourg/hotels/?r=3917>
- Group booking have been made in two different hotels for the participants:
- Hotel Alpha , rue du Simplon 13, 1700 Fribourg ([Alpha Hotel](#))
The hotel is conveniently located in the vicinity of the conference.
Keynotes speakers have been booked in this hotel.
Conférence participants should book directly at the hotel using the reference code : CSIS 2025.
Deadline: 28.02.2025.
Price with breakfast: 180.- CHF (+ 3.- CHF tax).
- Hotel Ibis, Route du Lac 19, 1763 Granges-Paccot ([Hôtel Ibis Fribourg | Fribourg](#)). Conference participants should book directly at the hotel by email (H9925@accor.com) using the reference code (BLOCK 711516) and specifying the type of room needed:
Price with breakfast
Single room : CHF 117.00.- (+ 3.- CHF tax).
Double room : CHF 129.00.- (+ 3.- CHF tax).
- Call for Posters:** The call for posters remains open as there is still some space left in our poster exhibition. Please submit a 1500 to 2000 characters abstracts for your 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
- Food:** The conference fee includes coffee and tea in all breaks as well as lunch on 25/6 (buffet with vegetarian food and fish). There is a cafeteria in the conference building and a canteen right next to it. On the Boulevard de Pérolles there are also plenty of take-aways.
- Conference dinner:** All persons listed in the programme are invited to attend the conference dinner (26/6, 19h). Due to limited space in this restaurant, other participants are requested to make independent arrangements to go to other restaurants.
- Transport:** Fribourg can easily be reached by train from the three international airports (Zurich, Geneva, Basel). The journey takes around 1h30. Travel by international trains is encouraged within Europe. Buses to the conference location from Fribourg train station are nb. 1 (Direction Marly-Gérine), nb. 3 (Direction Charmettes), nb. 9 (Direction Plateau de Pérolles) to bus stop Charmettes. The trip from the station takes about 15 min on foot. Participants who stay at a hotel in the city of Fribourg will receive a free city centre travel card (<https://fribourg.ch/en/fribourg/trains-touristic-transport/fribourgfreiburg-ticket/>). For further information about regional public transport see <https://www.sbb.ch/en/tickets-offers/travelcards/point-to-point-regional-travelcard/fare-networks/fribourg-frimobil-fare-network.html>
- Display table:** There is a table near the entrance of the main conference auditorium where you can display material related to the topic of the conference (books, brochures, leaflets). You may also exhibit an inspection copy of any book in the field. The table is not supervised.

Prayer room: A multi-faith prayer room is available on the conference site. For information about mosques see <https://fids.ch/fr/swissmosque/>.

Cultural programme: All participants are invited to participate in the optional cultural programme (26/12, 14h30-17h30). This includes a one-hour walk through Fribourg's medieval old city including a visit of the cathedral and a stop at a local café. For further information about Fribourg see: <https://fribourg.ch/en/fribourg/let-yourself-be-charmed-by-the-beauty-of-the-old-town-of-fribourg/>

With the support of:

University of Fribourg: Faculty of Humanities and Faculty of Theology
The Swiss National Science Foundation

