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Dear scholars and alumni,
Dear partners and friends of KAAD,

With this newsletter, we are pleased to give you an insight into the work of KAAD. On the following pages, we present selected activities and focus areas of our involvement.

We hope you enjoy reading.

Your KAAD team

NEWS

KAAD Secretary General Dr Nora Kalbarczyk elected to the Central Committee of German Catholics



At its 29th Assembly of Delegates in Ludwigshafen on the Rhine at the end of June, the Assembly of Delegates of the Association of Catholic Organisations in Germany (AGKOD) elected its new representatives to the Central Committee of German Catholics (ZdK). Our *Secretary General, Dr Nora Kalbarczyk*, was elected to the General Assembly of the ZdK. "I look forward to contributing the KAAD's world church perspectives and experiences to the ZdK over the next four years. Educational justice, development issues and the organisation of the many transformations that lie ahead are matters that affect all associations," said *Nora Kalbarczyk* after her election to the committee.

Around 125 Catholic associations, secular institutes, specialised associations, professional associations, spiritual communities and movements as well as initiatives at the inter-diocesan level are active in the AGKOD. The lay organisation represents six million members, debates the common concerns of Catholic organisations in church, state and society and promotes the diverse exchange between its member organisations.

"They really are salt of the earth" – In Kenya, Archbishop Dr Stefan Heße is impressed by the alumni of KAAD

In June, a delegation from the German Bishops' Conference, led by Archbishop Dr Stefan Heße, travelled to Kenya to meet people on the run and draw public attention to a region that often receives too little attention in the Global North. In the run-up to and during the trip, KAAD contributed its expertise and local contacts to the preparations. For example, the Kenyan branch of the KAAD Association of Scholars from East Africa (KASEA) organised an academic symposium on refugees in Kenya. As part of the trip, Archbishop Heße met current and former KAAD scholars. He said of his encounters with them: "I was impressed by the diverse commitment of the KAAD scholars in Kenya. Motivated by their faith, they are committed to social improvements with academic expertise and practical expertise. They are truly the salt of the earth."



Archbishop Dr Stefan Heße with KAAD alumna Caroline Muthoni Njuki
© German Bishops' Conference/Maximilian von Lachner

New Accommodation for KAAD Language Students in Düsseldorf



KAAD President P. Dr. Hans Langendörfer SJ blesses the new common rooms at St. Catherine's Monastery Angermund

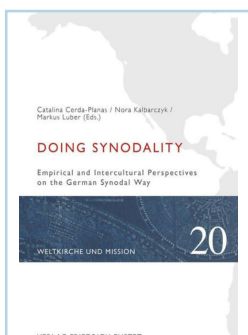
Our new scholars who have arrived in Germany and are taking a German language course before starting their studies have been accommodated at St Catherine's Monastery in Angermund with the Benedictine nuns since this year. "This collaboration is more than just accommodation for the language students – it also gives KAAD a spiritual place," says KAAD Secretary General Dr Nora Kalbarczyk. To celebrate this new collaboration, a ceremony was held in Angermund at the beginning of June, during which our President, Fr Dr Hans Langendörfer SJ, celebrated a church service with Pastor Jan Opiéla and blessed the new premises. Ten KAAD scholars from Egypt, Argentina, Indonesia, Kenya, Colombia, the Philippines, the Palestinian territories and Zimbabwe are currently living with the Benedictine nuns at St Catherine's Monastery.

"The future belongs to the man of peace": KAAD at the 103rd Katholikentag in Erfurt

The 103rd Katholikentag this year took place in Erfurt – the KAAD was represented here with a group of 45 scholars, staff, management and a stand on the Church Mile. During the Katholikentag, the KAAD offered two seminars in which the scholars attended various discussion forums and events on the topics of "Being a Christian and Christian identity in the minority" and "Mechanisms of extremism and how we break them down – a reflection on radicalisation". Highlights were the events organised by KAAD in cooperation with its partners. Together with Justitia et Pax and Misereor, KAAD organised the panel "Accelerating the socio-ecological transformation – What contribution must the economy make?" with Federal Minister of Economics Dr Robert Habeck, economist Professor Dr Johannes Wallacher, Karin Kortmann (ZdK) and Katharina von Bronswijk. Before the panel discussion began, there was an inspiring meeting between our scholars and the Vice-Chancellor. Other collaborative events also took place, such as the workshop "Hurry up, Inner Peace, I don't have all day! Mental Health – International Perspectives of Young Adults" in collaboration with the Federal Association of Catholic Churches at Universities and the workshop "In the Minority – Here and There" with Muslim and Christian students in Germany, which we organised with the discussion group "Christians and Muslims" at the ZdK.



Publication by KAAD and IWM: Perspectives of the Global Church on the Synodal Path



In order to incorporate the numerous perspectives of the global church into the debate on the „Synodal Path" initiated in 2019, the KAAD and the Institute for Global Church and Mission launched the empirical project „Synodal Way – Global Church Perspectives", the results of which were published in April. The contributions by academics from various regions of the world collected in this publication have emerged primarily from the forum of the international conference. They fit in with the current dynamics of church developments and support efforts to reach an agreement in terms of content at various levels and to develop a culture of dialogue.

„Doing Synodality - Global Church Perspectives" (free PDF by clicking here)

Cooperation between the Archdiocese of Freiburg and KAAD

At the beginning of this year, KAAD and the Archdiocese of Freiburg agreed upon cooperation for scholarships in Peru, the Holy Land and East African countries (primarily Tanzania and Kenya). The first scholarships were awarded in the spring session of 2024.



In the Service of Humanity? Artificial Intelligence at the Centre of our Annual Convention



Panel discussion with Dr Theresa Züger, Professor Jerry John Kponyo, Dr Nora Kalbarczyk, Phidelis Wamalwa, Dr Manuela Lenzen and Dr Christian Stein (from left to right)

Under the title "Artificial Intelligence: Intercultural Reflections from Science and the Church", this year's 37th Annual KAAD Convention focussed on the growing importance of artificial intelligence. 237 participants from fifty countries came together in Bonn to explore the topic from an interdisciplinary and intercultural perspective. The major differences in the perception of the risks and potential benefits of AI as well as new perspectives and approaches in the discourse on its use were explored in five thematic forums as well as in presentations, discussions and in the specialist groups. KAAD President P. Dr Hans Langendörfer SJ emphasised that the "human alertness, intellectual seriousness and spiritual openness" that he experienced in the worldwide KAAD network and especially at the Annual Convention was a "special experience of the church in the world that cannot be taken for granted".

Award of the 13th Prize of the KAAD Foundation Peter Hünemann

This year's KAAD-Foundation Peter Hünemann Prize was awarded to the Ukrainian church historian *Professor Oleh Turiy*. During a musical ceremony organised by KAAD scholars, he was honoured for his academic and ecclesiastical commitment, his efforts in ecumenical encounters in his home country and his commitment to a democratic Ukraine. *Oleh Turiy* holds the Chair of Church History at the Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv and is its Vice-Rector for External Relations. As a representative of the Ukrainian Greek-Catholic Church, he is involved in academic research into church history and ecumenical dialogue. He has been a reliable partner for the KAAD in Ukraine for more than twenty years.



Prize Winner Professor Oleh Turiy (front right) with Secretary General Dr Nora Kalbarczyk, KAAD President P. Dr Hans Langendörfer SJ and Dr Hermann Weber (from left to right)

KAAD launches Dialogue Forum as a Contribution to intra-Ethiopian Reconciliation



Bishop Tesfaselassie Medhin (right) in conversation with Dr Manfred Öhm and a scholar

At the end of May, KAAD initiated a forum in Bonn in which twelve Ethiopian students (including six KAAD scholars and six students from the University of Bonn) from different regions of Ethiopia were able to enter into dialogue with *Bishop Tesfaselassie Medhin*. The meeting took place against the backdrop of the KAAD's commitment in Ethiopia and the knowledge that the willingness of those involved to engage in dialogue is an elementary step towards reconciliation and that dialogue can thus contribute to a better understanding of each other. The discussion was moderated by *Dr Marko Kuhn*, KAAD Head of Africa Division; other participants included *Professor Walter Bruchhausen* (University of Bonn), *Professor Christoph Käppler* (Technical University of Dortmund), *Dr Alexandra M. Dias* (NOVA University, Lisbon), *Dr Manfred Öhm* (former Head of Sub-Saharan Africa Division, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung) and

Helen Meier (KAAD). *Marko Kuhn* reflected on the war and emphasised the extent to which the KAAD, with its numerous scholars and its alumni and partner network from and especially in Ethiopia, is emotionally involved in their suffering. *Bishop Tesfaselassie Medhin* reported on the terrible experiences of war in his diocese and his home region and made the young people aware of their position as a unifying element and as multipliers. He reminded them that education is a key element in establishing and maintaining peace and that each one of them is called upon to make peace. Some of the students described their experiences of war in the various regions of their home country, some of which were almost unbearable. They then put questions to the bishop, including about the possibilities of healing trauma, examples of mourning work, the role model function of religious leaders, the role of the media, the possibilities of interreligious dialogue and which institutions would deal with coming to terms with the events of the war. The dialogue, which was characterised by mutual respect and compassion, contributed to shaping a better future in Ethiopia through mutual listening and understanding.

Successful Graduation of our Scholars in Guatemala



to create innovations in academic life through research and publications. In addition, they are often instrumental in the development of local and regional communities.

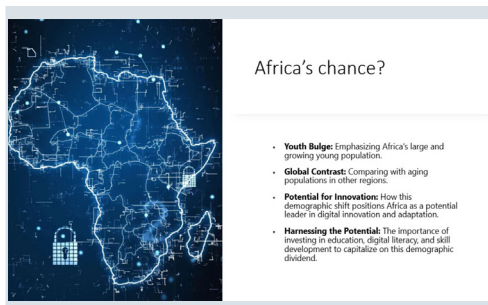
With the support of the KAAD and the Episcopal Action Adveniat, 17 graduates of the second cohort of the Master's programme in Social Pedagogy at our partner university Rafael Landívar completed their studies in April. The KAAD scholarships are substantially financed by the Department of the Universal Church of the Diocese of Rottenburg- Stuttgart, which has maintained close relations with the Guatemalan church for decades. KAAD's commitment to Latin America aims to create a network linking Catholic academics and universities in Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Mexico and Peru. KAAD alumnae and alumni are involved in international social projects, they organise seminars within the worldwide alumni associations they have founded and try

Labour Migration from Asia: between Appreciation and Exploitation

At the beginning of March, 24 scholars from 15 countries met in Berlin to discuss the problems faced by labour migrants from Asia. The discussion focused in particular on labour migration to so-called '3D jobs' ('dirty'/ 'dangerous'/ 'difficult') in the fields of care and domestic work, construction, fishing and agriculture. The KAAD scholars contributed their own experiences on this topic to the discussion. The choice of seminar location also served as a practical examination of the very heterogeneous forms of labour migration from and within Asia: "Vietnamese" Berlin is primarily characterised by the immigrant groups of so-called "Boat People" and contract workers, which is why the participants visited the Association of Vietnamese in Berlin and Brandenburg. The dynamics in the families of immigrant parents and their descendants born in Germany were also discussed. The broad field of migration was also illuminated by these extremely diverse focal points in the approach to the topic with contributions and experience reports from participants from other regions of the world.



Improving Performance through AI – Questions and Consequences



In January, a seminar organised by the KAAD association KASSA took place in the east of our partner country Zimbabwe. 21 participants discussed the questions and consequences arising from the use of artificial intelligence in various areas of society under the title "Digital transformation and AI: What is our human goal beyond efficiency gains". In their contributions, the participants addressed the use of artificial intelligence for the future of work and the labour market in African countries, the creation of news content using AI and, in particular, false reports in digital media and media deception using videos that appear real but are artificially generated. The focus was also on the question of where machines reach their limits and what constitutes being human in comparison.

Further Events

In addition to these events, there have been numerous other seminars, conferences and meetings in Germany and abroad, including

- a musicians' workshop in preparation for the annual academy
- a digital seminar on the global impact of antibiotic resistance, particularly in the Global South
- two seminars in our digital event series "Connected in Dialogue"
- the visit of our partners, alumnae and alumni in Cairo
- local KAAD Meetings in Goettingen, Frankfurt, Freiburg and Heidelberg
- an interdisciplinary alumni conference on "Changing Identities in Europe" at the Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznan/Polan
- an intercultural workshop for our newly arrived scholars – for the first time at St Catherine's Monastery in Angermund.

PERSONNEL

New Liaison Lecturer in Bochum

Professor Katharina Klöcker is the new KAAD liaison lecturer in Bochum. She succeeds *Professor Thomas Söding*, who retired from active teaching at the end of the winter semester and thus relinquished the office of liaison lecturer. *Katharina Klöcker* is Professor of Theological Ethics at the Faculty of Catholic Theology at Ruhr University Bochum. She studied in Tübingen, Paris and Münster. After graduating in Catholic theology, she completed a traineeship with accompanying training at the Institut zur Förderung publizistischen Nachwuchses (ifp) and worked as an editor at the Katholische Nachrichten-Agentur in Bonn. In 2004, she returned to university and took up a research assistant position at the Department of Moral Theology in Münster, where she gained her doctorate in 2009. Before her appointment in Bochum in 2021, she had already worked at the Faculty of Catholic Theology for five years as a junior professor of theological ethics.



Professor Katharina Klöcker, © David Gorczany

Change at the Office in Bonn

In May, we bid farewell to our colleague *Karin Bialas* on her retirement. *Karin Bialas* had worked in the KAAD's Asia Department since August 1994. During this time, she has supported over 800 scholars. After thirty years, her time as a consultant at KAAD is now coming to an end. We would like to thank her for her decades of commitment to students from and in Asia. Her successor is *Julia Breker*. The graduate translator has been working at KAAD since 2019 and previously worked in the secretariat of the Asia Department. *Sandra Stiel* takes over her duties at the secretariat. She previously worked in KAAD's Eastern Europe Department.



Sandra Stiel (right), *Julia Breker* (centre) and *Dr Anselm Feldmann* (left) together with scholars from the Asia Department

Congratulations on the 95th Birthday of KAAD Honorary President Peter Hünermann



The Honorary President of the KAAD, Professor Peter Hünermann (right) with the President of the KAAD, *P. Dr Hans Langendörfer SJ*

On 8 March, our *Honorary President Professor Peter Hünermann* celebrated his 95th birthday. In 1985, *Peter Hünermann* took over the newly created office of President of the KAAD, which he held until 2002. Since retiring from the office of President in 2002, he has been actively associated with the KAAD as Honorary President; in 2008, he established the KAAD Foundation Peter Hünermann.

Peter Hünermann studied Roman Catholic theology in Rome, where he was ordained a priest in 1955 and received his doctorate in 1958. He habilitated in Freiburg i. Br. in 1967. As Professor of Dogmatics, he taught at the Universities of Muenster and Tübingen from 1971 until his retirement in 1997. He was awarded numerous honorary doctorates at universities in Latin America and Germany.

OUTLOOK

This year's KAAD international academy will take place in Cairo in October. It will focus on the topic of "Public Health and Ethical Issues in the Middle East – Theoretical, Practical and Interreligious Approaches". The focus will be on questions of justice and respect for the self-determination of every human being as well as practical examples, particularly from Egypt.