

*Vertraut den neuen Wegen und wandert in die Zeit!
Gott will, dass ihr ein Segen für seine Erde seid.
Der uns in frühen Zeiten das Leben eingehaucht,
der wird uns dahin leiten, wo er uns will und braucht.*
Klaus Peter Hertzsch

*(Trust the new ways and walk through time!
God wants you to be a blessing for his earth.
Who breathed life into us in early times,
who will guide us to where he wants and needs us.)*

Dear Scholars, dear Alumni,
Dear Partners and Friends of KAAD,

We are now approaching the end of a year that was linked to new beginnings and challenges not only for KAAD. Overall, we find ourselves in a time in which upheavals can be observed in many respects and at various levels. Above all, some major crises have been and still are defining: be it the global health crisis, which is also resulting in an education crisis, the clearly manifesting climate crisis, or the diverse political crises in different places and regions of the world, such as in our focus countries Myanmar or Ethiopia, or in our immediate neighbourhood in Eastern Europe.

“Trust the new ways”, a hymn written in the last days of the GDR, can accompany us through the present times, as it bears witness to trust in God in times of crisis. But this trust is not to be equated with a resigned acceptance of the circumstances. It rather bears witness to the possibilities of each individual to shape things. For, we ourselves must take the new paths to overcome the global challenges.

At the end of this eventful year, we would like to inform you in this newsletter about the most important developments of the past months – you will find more detailed information on our homepage, in the social networks as well as in our annual report next spring.

We hope you enjoy reading it and look forward to seeing you again in the New Year.

Have a blessed and peaceful Christmas season.

For the KAAD-Team,

Yours

Nora Kalbarczyk
Secretary General

PERSONNEL CHANGES IN KAAD

On the proposal of the KAAD General Assembly, the General Assembly of the German Bishops' Conference appointed its long-time Secretary *Father Dr. Hans Langendörfer SJ* as the new President of KAAD in February 2021.

The Jesuit has remained connected to the international academic world and the promotion of science through involvement in projects and lectures on numerous journeys since his stay at Georgetown University. *Langendörfer* speaks several languages and values KAAD as a service to young, academically highly qualified change agents in the context of the global church.

After the retirement of the long-serving, well-deserved KAAD Secretary General *Dr. Hermann Weber* (see Newsletter 24), *Dr. Nora Kalbarczyk* succeeded him as KAAD's new Secretary General on 1 March. There have also been other personnel changes or changes in the areas of responsibility in the KAAD office in 2021, about which you will be informed in our annual report in spring.

Not only the management of KAAD has changed, but also the Episcopal Commissioner for KAAD. The German Bishops' Conference has appointed Auxiliary Bishop *Dr. Dr. Anton Losinger* from the Diocese of Augsburg as the new Episcopal Commissioner for KAAD at its Autumn Plenary Assembly 2021. *Dr. Dr. Losinger*, who has been a member of Commission



Auxiliary Bishop Dr. Dr. Anton Losinger,
Dr. Nora Kalbarczyk, P. Dr. Hans Langendörfer SJ

VIII for Science and Culture of the German Bishops' Conference since 2015, will succeed Auxiliary Bishop *Wilfried Theising*, who has held this office since 2013.

There is also news from the circle of our liaison lecturers:

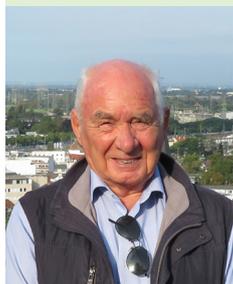
Since summer, *Prof. Dr. Julia Glesner*, Professor in the field of culture and management at the University of applied science in Potsdam, is KAAD liaison lecturer for Potsdam and the surrounding area of Berlin, where she provides advice and support to our scholarship holders.



Change in the Academic Council

This autumn, four long-serving members of the Academic Council took leave of their office:

Prof. em. Dr. Heinz Neuser, former Dean of the Faculty of Social Work at Bielefeld University of Applied Sciences, has shaped the work of the Academic Council since its first meeting on 31 October 1985. For 36 years, he provided KAAD with his expertise and rendered great services in working with alumni, especially in Latin America. He connected KAAD alumni with those of the scholarship agency Latin America Germany (ICALA) and managed the social work network LAPSO for more than 20 years. This work has not only resulted



Prof. em. Dr. Heinz Neuser

in the founding of a university in Lima (Peru). *Heinz Neuser* has also developed curricula and accreditation procedures in various countries.

Prof. em. Dr. Dr. Christian Hannick, who was Professor of Slavic Studies at the University of Würzburg from 1993 until his retirement in 2009, is leaving the Academic Council after 24 years. *Hannick* has headed the Würzburg branch of the Southeast Europe Society, which is based at the Eastern Church Institute, since 2009. Through his expertise, particularly in Slavic intellectual and church history, he has helped shape the Eastern Europe programme almost since its formation.



Prof. em. Dr. Dr. Christian Hannick

For 19 years, *Prof. em. Dr. Gerhard Maas*, former Head of the Department of Organic Chemistry I of the Institute of Organic Chemistry at the University of Ulm, also provided his scientific expertise to our Academic Council. In the early 2000s, he supported KAAD in an important project on medical chemistry in cooperation with the EU's Asia Link programme.



Prof. em. Dr. Gerhard Maas

The Political Scientist *Prof. Dr. Hans-Joachim Lauth* reviewed applications from the fields of political science, social science and economics for KAAD over a period of 14 years. *Lauth* holds the Chair of Comparative Politics and German Government at the University of Würzburg since 2008 and has been Deputy Director of the Graduate School of Law, Economics and Society (GSLES) since 2010.



Prof. Dr. Hans-Joachim Lauth

A ceremonial appreciation of the work of the four volunteer evaluators is planned at the upcoming Annual Convention in April 2022.

We are pleased to announce the following four new members for the Academic Council, who were appointed by the Bishops' Conference this autumn:

The Political Scientist *Prof. Dr. Marianne Kneuer*, who has just moved from the University of Hildesheim to the Technical University of Dresden, will take over *Hans-Joachim Lauth's* range of subjects as a reviewer. At the University of Hildesheim, she established the research focus "Internet and Politics" and was co-founder of the Centre for Digital Change. From 2018 to 2021, she was president of the International Political Science Association (IPSA).



Prof. Dr. Marianne Kneuer
(c) M. Kretzschmar

With *Prof. Dr. Thomas Bremer*, Professor for Eastern Church Studies, Ecumenical Theology and Peace Research at the University of Münster, we were once again able to get an expert in Orthodoxy and Slavic philology for our council.



Prof. Dr. Thomas Bremer
(c) Niina Into, Helsinki

The expert in child and adolescent psychology *Prof. Dr. Christoph de Oliveira Käßler*, University of Dortmund, will succeed *Heinz Neuser* by covering a range of psychological and educational subjects. He is also linked to *Heinz Neuser* by his extensive knowledge of the Latin American university landscape.



Prof. Dr. Christoph de Oliveira Käßler

The chemist *Prof. Dr. Nikolaus Korber*, University of Regensburg, will be responsible for reviewing applications in the natural sciences. *Korber* is a member of the selection committees of the Episcopal scholarship organization Cusanuswerk for many years as well as an advisor to Commission VIII Science and Art of the German Bishops' Conference.



Prof. Dr. Nikolaus Korber

In addition, we are pleased to announce that the General Assembly of KAAD, with the consent of the Bishops' Conference, has admitted the following persons to the Association:

P. Martin Maier SJ, the new Chief Executive of the Latin America Relief Organisation Adveniat, and *Dr. Katrin Großmann*, Executive Director of the Department "Education, Culture, Media" at the Central Committee of German Catholics. We are looking forward to the cooperation!

Former President of the KAAD deceased

At the end of September 2021, *Prof. Dr. Albert Franz* passed away at the age of 74 after a long illness. *Albert Franz* held the office of President of KAAD from 2011 to 2016. From 1993 until his retirement in 2012, he was a full Professor of systematic theology at the TU Dresden, where he was also a liaison lecturer for KAAD from 1995 to 2018. As President, his primary concern was to deepen KAAD's self-image and to deal sensitively and openly with the fundamental changes and upheavals in the attitude to life of the new generations of students and academics in Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Middle East and Eastern Europe. The KAAD mourns the loss of a president who always encountered the staff and the scholarship holders with openness and a sense of commitment and who, in turn, took them along with him into his far-reaching theological and philosophical thinking.



Prof. Dr. Albert Franz

KAAD IN TIMES OF THE PANDEMIC

Institutions like ours thrive on personal encounters and long-standing networks. Therefore, the pandemic presented us with great challenges with its accompanying mobility restrictions. However, the technical possibilities that were an exclusive means of communication for a certain period of time can now be used to supplement familiar formats and have proved to be a blessing and enable transregional networking even more than before the pandemic. In addition, we took advantage of this year to begin the renewal of our homepage. The relaunch is planned for spring 2022.

Annual Convention 2021 and ÖKT 2021

At the beginning of 2021 – and thus at the height of the third Corona wave – virtual spaces were the only ones in which meeting and even continuing our work was possible. For example for the first time in KAAD's history, the spring meeting of the Academic Council took place purely digitally, as did our Annual Convention in April: over four



days (22 - 25 April 2021), the 34th KAAD Annual Convention was dedicated to the topic "*Power and Freedom of Language: Identity Politics and Language Biographies*" brought together 320 scholarship holders, alumni and guests from around 50 countries. The highlight of the Convention was a festive event on Friday evening, during which *Auxiliary Bishop Theising*, the Bishop's Commissioner for KAAD, honoured *Dr. Hermann Weber* who entered his well-deserved retirement and then introduced the new

President and the new Secretary General to their offices.

President and the new Secretary General to their offices.

At this year's Annual Convention, we cooperated with the Cusanuswerk for the first time, both in terms of content and participants. In addition, the prizes of the "KAAD Peter Hünemann Foundation" for 2020 and 2021 were awarded. For this, *Prof. em. Dr. Peter Hünemann* personally travelled to Bonn, and the prize winners were connected virtually from Paraguay and Kenya. All programme items, which are traditionally part of a KAAD Annual Convention, were translated into virtual formats. The participants agreed that the spirit of KAAD was also clearly felt in the virtual space.

In a digital way, we were also present at this year's Ecumenical Church Convention and took part in a panel discussion on the topic of "*Corona and International Health Policy*". The then active Federal Foreign Minister *Heiko Maas*, our two alumnae *Dr. Hiyam-Marzouqa* (doctor in Palestine) and *Dr. Assitan Soumaré* (doctor in Mali) discussed the topic with *Dr. Gisela Schneider* from the German Institute for Medical Mission and Bishop Bahlmann, Brazil. The discussion was moderated by *Carolin Kronenburg* from Adveniat.

Our scholarship holders

In contrast to the previous year, our scholarship holders were again able to enter Germany - more or less as usual. Many of our scholarship holders began their time in Germany with an intensive language course in Bonn. Events such as our annual Intercultural Workshop and excursions with this group were possible again from early summer onwards and have bound the group together.

From summer onwards, events outside the virtual space were possible again, and the retreat and the study tour and pilgrimage to Rome could also take place. Our seminars, events and trips will be described in detail in the annual report. At this point, we would like to present exemplarily three events that we were able to offer in addition to the events in our annual programme:

On the trail of Bonn as former German Capital

In August – after the long and exhausting period of isolation, especially for international students – a seminar on the recent history of the city of Bonn took place. Guided by our President *Father Dr. Hans Langendörfer SJ* and our General Secretary *Dr. Nora Kalbarczyk*, as well as spiritually by *P. Prof. Dr. Ulrich Engel OP*, the seminar focused on personal and intercultural exchange.



The scholarship holders first compared the history and development of the former capital with the transformation of cities in their home regions. Then they visited various places of interest in Bonn and the region to discover global

political, church political and biographical characteristics of Bonn as former capital of the Federal Republic of Germany. A special highlight after the long pandemic winter was the boat trip on the Rhine together with the language course students and some of the office employees.

As flood relief workers in the Ahr valley

In September, 20 scholarship holders, together with *Ute Baumgart* from the KAAD office, set off for the Ahr Valley to help the victims of the flood disaster with the grape harvest and the gutting of buildings on a voluntary basis. This was an impressive and moving time for our students and scholars.

The Palestinian scholarship holder *Serina al Massu* describes her experience as follows:

„Coming from a country with a history full of death and destruction, I wasn't expecting to see something that could shock me before I travelled to the Ahr Valley. Nei-



ther was I expecting that this experience would change me so much, as I grew up in a situation of war. As we moved from one place to another in the Ahr Valley, I was truly shocked by the amount of damage

nature can do. We got engaged with the work and merged with the people there, talking to the citizens of the destroyed villages, hearing their stories of that night. We saw pictures of the different places before the disaster and pictures of their loved ones who died in the flood. My attitude of 'I have seen worse' broke down in the sight of this catastrophe. I thought a lot about how these peaceful people got so much injured mentally and physically through something that they could not control or prevent. I had expected only depressed people but what I found was motivated spirits wanting to restore what was lost and even improve part of the villages. It appears as if they are preparing for a re-birth from death. [...] It strengthens me to stand against obstacles I will have to face and to take the people of the Ahr valley as an example. It can be a reflection of my country's situation, and the hard work I should do as a contribution to my country's own re-birth."

More impressions can be seen on our homepage.

Meetings at places of study

In recent months, in addition to virtual meetings, physical meetings at study places have also been possible. At the so-called local meetings at least one representative of the office, our scholarship holders, representatives of the university chaplaincies and the liaison lecturers take part. All meetings will be documented in the annual report. In the following, we would like to mention the meeting in Munich. In mid-October, 17 scholarship holders from 12 nations met with the representatives of the Catholic university chap-

laincies of LMU and TU, *Denise Polaczuk*, *Sabine Gerhard* and *Daniela Hamm*, our liaison lecturer at LMU, *Prof. Dr. Markus Vogt*, our president and our general secretary as well as with our desk officer for Latin America, *Renate Flügel*. At this meeting, the group was able to exchange views on the current needs of international students and the challenges they face.



They took part in a guided tour of the White Rose Memorial at the LMU Lichthof. The tour, lively discussions and a service celebrated by our President in the chapel of the LMU, helped the scholarship holders to continue to grow together and shape the community that is KAAD.

Networking in the partner countries

Together with our scholarship holders, alumni and partners, there have been many interesting virtual events and series of events: Framed by a kick-off and closing event, 89 participants met in six working groups in the virtual workshop "KAAD Scholars Envisioning our Post-Pandemic World: Justice and Security" over a period of eight weeks. The focus was on topics such as the psychological consequences and spiritual impact of the pandemic, the problem of unequal vaccine distribution, interfaith commitment and gender-specific aspects during the pandemic. In addition, a climate declaration was prepared under the leadership of *Prof. Mario Delos Reyes* (University of the Philippines). The KAAD Alumni Association of the Philippines initiated this exchange.



The scholarship holders from the Middle East as well as In-Country or Third Country scholarship holders and alumni in the Middle East came together in a total of seven sessions in the virtual workshop series "Welcoming the 'Other' - How to be a perfect stranger". Conducted by *Prof. Dr. Ziad Fahed*, member of our partner committee in Lebanon, this training imparted skills for intercultural and interreligious dialogue.

Other virtual meetings took place in the other regions and continents focusing on issues of ecology and sustainability as well as global health. The working groups also met. The working group ("Fachgruppe") 'Religion in Dialogue', together with the Görres Society, offered an event on "Religion in China" and the working group 'Language', newly founded at the Annual Convention 2021, has met monthly in virtual space and is planning a meeting in Bonn at the beginning of March 2022.

In the course of the last few months, the heads of our departments were able to travel to Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania and Zimbabwe, as well as to Paraguay and Argentina, where they held alumni seminars and conferences in presence or in a hybrid way. Exemplarily mentioned are the two trips during which a personal exchange with the two Hünemann Award winners 2020 and 2021, who were already virtually honoured at the Annual Convention, was finally possible:

In November, the Secretary General and the Head of the KAAD Africa Department, *Dr. Marko Kuhn*, were able to meet our Hünemann Award winner of 2021, *Dr. Constansia A. Mumma-Martinon*, at the annual meeting of the East African KAAD Alumni Association KASEA on the topic "*Identity and Conflict – The Role of Faith, the Church and of Christian Scholars*" in Entebbe, Uganda. Almost fifty participants, including KAAD alumni, scholarship holders and partners from Uganda, Kenya and Tanzania, exchanged views on the various dimensions of identity in a workshop and discussed the importance of ethnic identity in the East African context. The meeting was rounded off by an excursion to the shrine of the Uganda martyrs and several joint church services.



FLTR: Caroline Owashaba, Dr. Nora Kalbarczyk, Dr. Constansia Mumma-Martinon, Grace Kihagi

Our Head of Latin America Department, *Dr. Thomas Krüggeler*, accepted an invitation from our deserving KAAD alumnus and Peter Hünemann Award winner 2020, *Dr. Lauro Sitzmann Penno*, to Paraguay in November. There, he took a look at *Sitzmann's* impressive work before they both travelled together to Argentina for the hybrid conference "*Global Health and Integral Ecology. Pathways to post-pandemic socio-ecological change*" organised by the KAAD alumni group "Salud Global" at the Catholic University in Santa Fe. In addition to 17 KAAD alumni and scholarship holders, ten guests from KAAD affiliated institutions and programmes participated. Digitally connected were almost fifty alumni and students from various universities in Latin America. The opening lecture was given by the Mexican economist and environmental sociologist *Enrique Leff*, who called for a radical rethinking



of economic activity and social coexistence. In his eyes, the encyclical *Laudato Si'* is a wake-up call by the Pope and thus a decisive contribution of the Catholic Church to the discourse on the future of the planet. The jurist *Alejandro Bonet* (Santa Fe) placed *Laudato Si'* in the broader con-

text of Catholic social teaching and thus paved the way for subsequent discussions. The Heidelberg health scientist *PD Dr. Olaf Horstick*, who has been providing expert support to our Salud Global alumni group for six years, concluded the seminar with his presentation on "*Global Health in the Context of Epidemics*". He emphasised the dangers posed by epidemics in a globalised world and the special responsibility that the industrialised North of the world has for global health.



SEMINARIO INTERNACIONAL: SALUD GLOBAL Y ECOLOGÍA INTEGRAL, HACIA UNA TRANSICIÓN SOCIO-ECOLÓGICA POSTPANDEMIA, SANTA FE, 25, 26 Y 27 DE NOVIEMBRE DE 2021

Hermann Weber Scholarship

On the occasion of the retirement of our long-time Secretary General *Dr. Hermann Weber*, our Colombian alumnus *Prof. Dr. Helmuth M. Gallego-Sánchez* donated the Hermann Weber Scholarship, which is awarded annually to a KAAD doctoral scholarship holder as an award for outstanding academic achievements or for a special commitment to others.

The first scholarship of this kind was awarded to the Brazilian lawyer *Eduardo Luis Kronbauer* from Porto Alegre. He is doing his doctorate at the University of Freiburg on "*Natural Law and Legal Positivism - An Analysis of the Mutual Relationship*", a topic at the interface between law and philosophy. In addition to his outstanding academic achievements and his scientific ties to his home country, his commitment to the Catholic University Community Edith Stein in Freiburg was decisive for the award of the scholarship.



The second Hermann Weber Scholarship was awarded to the Philippine marine ecologist *Regina Therese Bacalso*. She is a doctoral student at the Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research in Bremen and her doctoral thesis deals with questions about the ecological sustainability of fisheries in her home country, the province of Cebu in the Philippines. *Regina Therese Bacalso* is also distinguished by her great commitment to the church and thus embodies two characteristics of a Hermann Weber scholarship holder: academically outstanding, committed to helping others and dedicated to the holistic development of her home country.



OUTLOOK ON OUR TOPICS IN 2022

The topics that have moved KAAD in the last few years and will be in our focus in 2022 – either in the focus of the sponsored projects of our scholarship holders or in the focus of our events at home and abroad – are the following:

- the preservation of creation and a holistic socio-ecological transformation
- a just and sustainable economic order
- the promotion of peace and the common good
- inter-religious dialogue
- global health issues
- Cultural heritage and being cross-cultural: preservation and transmission of cultural symbols.

In June, the KAAD Educational Commission, consisting of 15 representatives of the scholarship holders, as well as the KAAD management, ten staff members of the office and the spiritual advisor *P. Prof. Dr. Thomas Eggensperger OP*, discussed and decided on the KAAD educational programme for the coming year.



Unsere Bildungskommission 2021

The following seminars are planned:

Regional seminars, i. e. seminars for scholarship holders from a specific region or continent: *Leadership and Governance in Africa - Tradition and Future; Rhetoric of Alienation. Contemporary Processes of Interreligious Coexistence in Asia; Monuments, Heritage Culture and Identity in Latin America; Education in the Middle East - Today and Tomorrow; The EU goes East: The European Union and Eastern Europe - Between Hope and Disappointment.*

Cross-regional, general seminars: *Space and Sustainability: On the Compatibility of Space Research and Social-Ecological Transformation; Learning from German History: Reconciling and Remembering; The Woman Silent in the Church? - Between Paul and Mary 2.0; The deeply felt emoji? Living Emotions in the Digital Age; Mental Health in General and Cross-culturally.*

In addition to these events, the KAAD office offers further workshops and seminars: A workshop for doctoral students, which will take place annually from now on, as well as the Intercultural Workshop for our newly arrived scholarship holders, which has been taking place annually for several years. In addition, for the first time, a seminar will be offered on the topic of walking. Spiritual days and the study trip and pilgrimage to Rome will again be on the programme.

Annual Convention

The Annual Convention 2022 from 28 April to 1 May 2022 will deal with church reforms under the title "*Synodal Church – Global Church Perspectives*". The worldwide KAAD community represents the global church and thus the diversity of the local churches and their concerns. Consequently, KAAD can also be described as a "community of prayer, learning and solidarity", as the German bishops have done in the document "*Evangelisation and Globalisation*" with regard to the global church as a whole. This Annual Convention, which will bring together guests from about fifty countries in Bonn, would therefore like to bring the German church into conversation with the global church, in order to illuminate the inner-German church reform discourse from a global church perspective as well as to take a look at reform debates in other parts of the global church. Please save the date.

The prize of the KAAD Foundation Peter Hünermann will also be awarded during this Annual Convention. After 2018, for the second time, an association of the KAAD network, the partner committee Lebanon, will receive the prize in 2022.

The partner committee consists of the *Professors Dr. Ziad Fahed, Dr. Roula Talhouk, Dr. Souad Slim and Father Dr. Jules Boutros*. In the past years, they have been essential in setting up our third-country scholarship programme for Syrian and Iraqi students as well as Lebanese sector experts – a commitment that must also be seen against the backdrop of Lebanon's current economic and social crises.



Katholikentag

The KAAD will be represented at the 102nd Katholikentag (German Catholic Convention) in Stuttgart with a larger group of scholarship holders and will host several panel discussions on the topic of "*Reforms from a Global Church Perspective*". In addition to the programme items of this main topic, the KAAD group will also visit other events in the context of the global church, take part in central meetings and church services and experience the whole event "Katholikentag" comprehensively. KAAD will also be represented by its own stall, where the work with scholarship holders, networks and alumni will be presented and where questions of visitors can be answered - by the KAAD team as well as by current scholarship holders.