

Religion: Memory and Innovation info letter

Dear participants, welcome to our summer school and conference in Turku/Åbo on June 11th-15th! We have prepared you a couple of pieces of practical information alongside the updated programme which is attached to this info letter. Hopefully this will be useful once you arrive to the town and when you need to navigate around the venue – and through the program calendar. Should you find some piece of information lacking, we do of course encourage you to be in touch and ask. The map with the directions will also be posted on the website.

We hope all of you have a great trip to Turku and wish you have an excellent conference with exciting new contacts and ideas!

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Short version

Best stop for the bus from Helsinki is University (U-hospital), or Yliopisto (TYKS U-sairaala) in Finnish.

Train stops in Kupittaa.

The main venue of the conference is Aurum at Henriksgatan 2 (Henrikinkatu 2). Registration and info table in lobby.

Summer School get-together on Sunday June 11th at 6pm will be in the round room of Theologicum (Biskopsgatan / Piispankatu 16)



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Summer School dinner on June 12th at 6pm is in Arken's Kårkafé (Fabrikskatan/ Tehtaankatu 2).

Conference dinner on June 14th at 6 pm is in a restaurant boat, Svarte Rudolf (Itäinen Rantakatu 13)

Excursion will be an esoteric walking tour. We start from in front of Donner Institute at Biskopsgatan/Piispankatu 13 at 6 pm. More info: <https://esotericturku.wordpress.com/>

Contact number for the secretary is +358503468575

Map:

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1QP8T0FiG1tt5jKqts6irpyrbzF1O4o8&usp=sharing>

Abstracts and synopses

The abstracts and synopses for the presentations in all workshops and sessions can be found at the website: <https://blogs2.abo.fi/religionsummerschoolandconference/wp-content/uploads/sites/132/2023/06/Program-with-Abstracts.pdf>

Conference website and Keynotes

Conference website:

<https://blogs2.abo.fi/religionsummerschoolandconference/>

Zoom links for the keynotes:

<https://blogs2.abo.fi/religionsummerschoolandconference/keynote-speakers/>

Arriving by bus (from Helsinki, or Helsinki-Vantaa airport)

The buses will drive by the venue before arriving at the Turku Bus Station, so if you are coming straight from the bus, we recommend getting off at the stop called "University (U-hospital)", Yliopisto (TYKS U-sairaala) in Finnish. After this, the next stop will be the Cathedral (Tuomiokirkko) which is the second-best option for finding our venue.

From the University bus stop, you should walk back a little towards where the bus came from. Before the small Hesburger there is a small street with stairs on your left. Take those stairs up to the University Hill, walk straight through the courtyard between the buildings and follow the road down to Henriksgatan/Henrikinkatu, and Aurum will be on your left. . It is about a 6 to 10 minutes' walk from the stop to our main venue.



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From the Cathedral stop, you need to walk around the cathedral until you find the Henriksgatan/Henrikinkatu. Follow the street and Aurum will be on your right. You will pass three roads on the right hand side before you get to Aurum. This is about 10 minutes or 600 m.

Arriving by train (from Helsinki)



The last stop for the train from Helsinki is Kupittaa (Turku). There are a couple of stairs leading up from the platforms, but you should take the ones that have a sign “Joukahaisenkatu/Tykistökatu” above. After climbing the stairs, turn left. There is a map suggesting a route to the University Hill. You can follow its suggestions, but there are some construction and renovation changes in street access. To avoid the construction, walk until you reach an intersection with Lemminkäisenkatu. There will be two

buildings on your left called BioCity and Pharmacy. Turn right onto Lemminkäisenkatu (you need to cross the street you’re on first) and follow the road past the big Hämeentie intersection and all the way to the stairs that take you up on the University Hill. Aurum is on the other side of the hill, so you just keep going straight all the way down to Henrikinkatu/Henriksgatan, and Aurum will be on your left. The walk is about 15 to 20 minutes, or 1.2 km.

Venue



Our main venue is in Aurum on Henriksgatan /Henrikinkatu 2. All the workshops, sessions, keynotes, lunches, and coffee breaks will be held here. The lecture halls (Rhodium and Palladium) and auditorium (Argentum) are conveniently located near the entrance and there are signs you can follow. All the Summer School workshops are scheduled to Rhodium, and the conference sessions are at either Rhodium, or Palladium, which are right next to each other.

Once you enter through the main doors, Rhodium and Palladium are to your left, past the janitor’s booth, and Argentum is accessed through the lobby one set of stairs up. The stairs are right in front of the front doors. The lunch is at the cafeteria to the right from the doors, and the coffee breaks will be in the bistro area of the café, next to the stairs. Except our last coffee break, which will be arranged in front of the Auditorium doors at 2nd floor.



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There will be a registration desk in the lobby area visible from the front doors. We wish you will all come in good time in the morning to get your name tags and get oriented, so we can stick to the schedule. You will also receive lunch tickets for each day, so do not lose those.

If no one is attending the registration desk, you can always call or text the secretary, Essi, on +358503468575 (Whatsapp/phone), and there will be someone to help you. The doors of the venue remain unlocked until 2 pm, after which we hope there will be minimal amount of entering the building to avoid the hassle. If you absolutely need to pop out, make sure someone is available to let you in (wave through the glass doors). If no one is available, you can call or text the number above. It will be posted on the front doors too, just in case.

[The Summer School informal get together \(optional\)](#)

The Summer School get-together will be in the round room of Theologikum on June 11th at 6 pm. Theologikum is located on Biskopsgatan / Piispankatu 16 right next to the Cathedral. You may access the courtyard via Biskopsgatan/ Piispankatu. It's the 1st one on your right when coming from the direction of the cathedral. Walk in through the opening and turn right. The door in is at the corner stairs. We will post signs for you to find it easier.

[Summer school dinner](#)

The Summer School dinner is reserved for us on the June 12th at 6 pm in Arken's Kårkafé (Fabriksgatan / Tehtaankatu 2). Arken has a courtyard with a gate that should be open when you arrive. The main building at the back of the courtyard has glass doors which are locked but someone will be there to welcome you and guide you to the clothes storage (to the right from the doors) and the restaurant (left from the doors). If you can't see anyone and/or the gate is locked, please call the contact number. The food is vegetarian, and your special diets have been communicated to the catering.

You don't need to wear anything special for the dinner occasion. We will start quite soon after the last workshop of the day, so there is not much time for changing clothes.

Walking from the venue, cross the street and turn right, the road forks into Ryssänmäenrinne. Follow the path down until Tehtaankatu is on your left. Turn onto Tehtaankatu and follow it until you see our signs and the courtyard to Arken on your right. It is only about 5 minutes long walk, or 400 m.

[Conference dinner](#)

The conference dinner is on June 14th at 6 pm on the restaurant boat, Svarte Rudolf. The address is Itäinen rantakatu 13. It is the second boat from the Aura bridge (on Aurakatu) walking away from the cathedral. The food is vegan and glutenfree, and the restaurant has your special diets.



There is an hour between the last keynote and the dinner, so you have a little time off and a pause to freshen up if you wish. To get to the boat from the venue, you may walk to the cathedral (left from the front doors of Aurum) and turn right to walk past the cathedral. Cross the road at the streetlights to your left and walk along the river until you have passed two more bridges on your right. Svarte Rudolf will be the 2nd boat after the 2nd bridge (3rd bridge after the cathedral). The name Svarte Rudolf is visible on the side of the black boat and there are signs at the entrance. It is about 15 to 20 minutes a walk, or 1,2 km.

Excursion on June 13th

On the 13th of June we will take an esoteric walking tour with some guides. We begin the walk from the front yard of the Donner Institute (Donnerska Institutet on the map), Biskopsgatan/ Piispankatu 13 at 6 pm.

From Aurum, you cross the road, walk left and then right to Agricolankatu. At the next crossroads, cross the road and turn left onto Biskopsgatan/Piispankatu. The Donner Institute, or Humanisticum as it says on the gate, will soon be on your right. It's an orange stone building with a front garden. It's about 5 minutes from Aurum, or 300 m.

The tour will take about 45 minutes, so please wear comfortable shoes. More information about the tour: <https://esotericturku.wordpress.com/>

Contact number (phone/whatsapp)

If anything arises, or you get lost or something, you can get in touch with the secretary, Essi, at +358503468575.

The general emergency number is 112. Only call the emergency number 112 in real emergencies when you need urgent assistance from the authorities (police, paramedics, firefighters, social services).

Map

Here is a map with important locations and walking guides through the city as described above. It will also be available on the conference website.

<https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1QP8T0FiG1tt5jKqts6irpyrbzF1O4o8&usp=sharing>

You can't download the customized map for offline view, but you can save a chosen map view for offline access on your Google Maps application: on Android you click on your account image, and in offline maps you can "select your map" and choose which view you wish to save.



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Program for *Religion: Memory and Innovation* Summer School & Conference 11-15.6.2023

Sunday 11th June

18.00 Informal get-together for Summer School participants (optional):
Theologicum, Polin Institute (Biskopsgatan / Piispankatu 16)

Monday 12th June

10.45-11.00 Summer school opening & Welcome, Room: Argentum

11.00-11.15 Break

11.15-12.45 Workshop 1 (tutors: Björkander & Bongmba)

Room: Rhodium

Blumgrund: “Qualitative study on asylum seekers’ conversion from Islam to Christianity”

Nilsson: The Societal Impact Of Theological Research: Theoretical, Practical And Communication Related Considerations

Nikanne: Perspectives on the asylum migrants’ post 2015 conversions from Islam to Christianity – Narrating conversion in the context of global Finland

13.00-14.00 Lunch: Kårkafé Aurum

14.00-15.30 Workshop 2 (tutors: Devaney & Laato)

Room: Rhodium

Pompeo: Walking in Newness of Life: Memory, History and Innovative Thrust in Contemporary Paulinism

Helenius: “The role of memory and memory resources regarding John Duns Scotus’ life and philosophy, Franciscan educational customs, and the transmission of knowledge”

15.30-15.45 Coffee Break: Kårkafé Aurum Bistro

15.45-17.15 Workshop 3 (tutors: Behar & Hovi)

Room: Rhodium

Dahl: The notion of ‘sameness’ in the Finnish university students’ life-views

Christensen: What we talk about when we talk about Yiddish. Negotiating Jewish identity in Sweden through meta-linguistic practice and speech community

Banyanga: The Identity of Sub-Sahara African Christians in Finland



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18.00 Summer school dinner: Kårkafé Arken (Tehtaankatu 2)

Tuesday 13th June

9.15–10.45 Workshop 4 (tutors: Vikström & Sjö)

Room: Rhodium

Inkilä: World Views behind Forest Policy: Views of Nature and Forest Political Agency in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland

Wickström: The Position of Social Movements within Environmentalism in the Middle East

10.45-11.15 Break

11.15-12.45 Workshop 5 (tutors: Broo & Sakaranaho)

Room: Rhodium

Korpi: “How modern spiritualities in Finland construct collective identities or in-groups’ perceptions of themselves in relation to their temporal and cultural landscapes”

Gebraad: “ways Discordian practice is created by practitioners and the meanings they assign to it”

Elgabsi: Religion, memory, and cultural heritage (“grey areas between religion and culture in the school culture in Swedishspeaking lower secondary schools in Finland”)

13.00-14.00 Lunch: Kårkafé Aurum

14.00-15.30 Workshop 6 (tutors: Kraft & Moberg)

Room: Rhodium

Ray: European Theology meets Asian culture and technology – old meets new in Malaysian worship

CANCELLED: Högberg: “how the menstrual cycle and religious aspects interplay in Protestant Christian women’s lived everyday experience and what theology emerges from these experiences”

Amwe: On Our Way to Appease the Gods: Asserting Gender and Religious Ritual Capitals in the Nigerian Public Sphere

15.30-15.45 Coffee Break: Kårkafé Aurum Bistro

15.45-17.15 Workshop 7 (tutors: Berglund, Kwaku Golo)

Room: Rhodium



Yola: Innovative Use of Pedagogical Strategies as a Means of Sustaining Christianity's Memory among the Youth in Contemporary Cameroon

Tom: Tracing the Epistemological Foundations of African Religions – A decolonial exploration of David Chidester's work

18.00 Excursion: Walking tour starts from in front of Donner Institute (Biskopsgatan 13). Information: <https://esotericturku.wordpress.com/>

Wednesday 14th June

9.00-9.15 Welcome to the conference. Room: Argentum

9.15-10.45 Session 8 – Societal Transformation (chair: Kapinde)

Room: Rhodium

Äystö: The Satanic Panic as a Cautionary Memory: Could it Happen Again?

Hulkkonen: Alternative Spirituality, Well-being and Innovative Understandings of Christianity

Parallel session – Pilgrimage 1 (chair: Ahola)

Room: Palladium

Laato: Virgin Mary and the Birth of Jesus in the Ascension of Isaiah

Devaney: Old Stories and New Stones ("how the combination of the invocation of antiquity and the appeal of novelty functioned both during early modern religious upheavals and today")

10.45-11.00 Break

11.00-12.30 **Keynote 1: Prof. Elias Bongmba (Rice University)**

Room: Argentum

12.30-13.30 Lunch: Kårkafé Aurum

13.30-15.00 Session 9 – Who is remembered (chair: Illman)

Room: Rhodium

Waheed: Body, Place and Memory: Sufism in Egypt throughout the 21st century

Sakaranaho: Religion and 'Irish cultural memory'

Parallel session – Bible: (chair: Tanskanen)

Room: Palladium

Berglund: The Innovation of a Master Wonderworker



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in the Character of Simon Peter

Syreeni: Suppressed, Adopted, and Invented Memories: The Death of Jesus in the Gospel of John

15.00-15.30 Coffee break: Kårkafé Aurum Bistro

15.30-17.00 **Keynote 2: Prof. Ruth Behar (University of Michigan)**

Room: Argentum

18.00 Conference dinner: Restaurant Boat Svarte Rudolf (Itäinen Rantakatu 13)

Thursday 15th June

9.15-10.45 Session 10 – Theology: (chair: Kapinde)

Room: Rhodium

Golo: Christian Panentheism, Indigenous Ecological Knowledge, and Theology of Environmental Sustainability in Ghana

Björkander: Memory and Justice in Post-Genocide Rwanda: A reading of Timothy Longman

White: Missional Church and the Healing of Memories: African Pentecostal Perspective

Parallel session – Pilgrimage 2: (chair: Mahlamäki)

Room: Palladium

Dahlbacka: The Retrieved Altar Cross Of The Luther Church Helsinki – Sacred Waste Transformed Into Sensational Frame

Kuuva: Therapeutic Aspects of Colours Described by Rudolf Steiner: Case Madonna

10.45-11.15 Coffee break: Aurum 2nd floor in front of Argentum

11.15-12.45 Session 11 – Memory construction: (chair: Hovi)

Room: Rhodium

Mikeshin: Russian Baptist Eschatological Tranquility and Memory Construction During the Pandemic

Snellman: *“Laestadianism in the late 1900th century in the north of Sweden”*

Nahnfeldt: *“New wine in new wineskins”. On social innovation in Church of Sweden since 2015.*

Parallel session - How is remembered: (chair: Sjö)

Room: Palladium

Hellsten: Dancing Memory And Innovation



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Raunola: Remembrance of Living on Light – How to Interpret Data with ANT Mapping

12.45-13.45 Lunch: Kårkafé Aurum

13.45-15.15 **Keynote 3: Prof. Siv Ellen Kraft (The Arctic University of Norway)**

Room: Argentum

15.15-15.30 Closing words. Room: Argentum



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