

2019 Summer School - July 2 - July 8
Moving Forward Together: Christians and Muslims Together in Egyptian Society
Selected Photos and Student Testimonials



Drs. Cornelis Hulsman presents Dr. Kamal al-Buraiqa, General Coordinator of the Center for Dialogue at al-Azhar University and chairman of the Observation and Suggestion Committee in the Bayt al-A'ilah, with copies of two CAWU publications, *From Ruling to Opposition: Islamist Movements and Non-Islamist Groups in Egypt, 2011-2013* (Tectum Verlag, 2017) and *The Sharia as the Main Source of Legislation? The Egyptian Debate on Article II of the Egyptian Constitution* (Tectum Verlag, 2012). (July 3, 2019)

Student Testimonial

“At the beginning, I was only a little interested in joining such a summer school. I thought it would somehow be boring with all the usual lectures. However, I can now say that I have enjoyed and appreciated being a part of this summer school like no other. (...) I am looking forward to repeating this awesome experience and making real life changes. Thank you so much, I really enjoyed every single moment.” - Menna Sobhy



Summer school participants are pictured with Dr. Tariq al-Jawhary, an Egyptian-Muslim scholar who was trained in classical Islamic thought at al-Azhar University and obtained a PhD in religious studies from Princeton University.

Student Testimonial

“Thank you so much for this wonderful opportunity, I learned a lot. And it helps me a lot to understand the Egyptians who I share this country with and to understand others who live around the world. I can today deal with any person around the world even if he is totally different than me, because he is, first of all, a human being and that is enough for me. I don't need anything else to have a positive and deep relationship.” - Amal Dawud



SGP representative Professor Wijbren Jongsma lectures on the nature of true dialogue and the importance of Arab Christians for intercultural dialogue and international affairs. (July 2, 2019)

Student Testimonial

“Attending summer school was a fantastic decision. It was a rare opportunity to be able to listen to such a diverse and accomplished set of speakers. (...) One of the most valuable take-aways that I had from the conference was the necessity of constructive dialogue free of proselytism, and, perhaps even more importantly, free of empty statements that imply that since Christians and Muslims share some beliefs, they are more or less the same. One does not have to equate one’s self with others to avoid conflict.” - Will Crass



Maher Fayeze, a famous Christian musician and oud player in Egypt, performs and leads students in music. (July 3, 2019)

Student Testimonial

“I learned about accepting the other because he is human and not for any other reason. And I gained information about Sufism, Salafism, secularism, and to accept self-criticism. (...) I was very happy with the time of singing with Maher Fayeze.” - Monica Ashraf Romany



Archbishop Mounir Hanna discusses the importance of embracing self-criticism for the future of Christian-Muslim relations. (July 3, 2019)

Student Testimonial

“I think the conference of the summer school has various benefits. For us as Europeans it was especially interesting to participate and we are very thankful for the unique opportunity. Seminars like this are an essential part in peacebuilding and vital for intercultural understanding. The presentations were very interesting and helped me a lot to understand more about Islam and its different interpretations.”

- Lara Stadler



Students and SGP representatives Prof. Wijbren Jongsma and Mr. Henkjan van Schothorst visit the cave church of St. Simon in Muqattam, Cairo. (July 5, 2019)

Student Testimonial

“I appreciate the mission of this conference to promote peace and understanding among sects, religions, cultures, and nationalities through scholarship and respectful discussion. I’m excited for more to come.” - Alexandra Horkava



Summer School participants enjoy an interfaith drum session held at All Saints Cathedral in Cairo. (July 5, 2019).

Student Testimonial

“I’m thankful for my experience with all of these people. I created a new social network which is very helpful. I gained significantly in my knowledge in certain aspects, such as: unity, charity, Salafism, Sufism, and about the differences between the religions for Muslims and Christians and the similarities as well. (...) Additionally, both Kees and Matthew managed to create a good and healthy environment. I’m grateful for dealing with both of them. Generally, it was a great experience for me.” - Sara Seyam



Abuna Yoannis, a Coptic priest, and Shaykh Hamdi Abdelfattah, a Salafi leader, talk to students about their unique working relationship in the village of Qufada, about two hours south of Cairo. (July 8, 2019)

Student Testimonial

“I learned a lot of information about the Islamic religion and also some things I didn’t know about Christianity. Maybe I benefited most from Dr. Tariq al-Jawhary on Sufism, Dr. Richard Gauvain, Dr. Matthew Anderson, and Mr. Kees Hulsman. (...) One of the best times of the conference is hearing the lovely story between Shaykh Hamdi and Father Yoannis. This story corrected my understanding of Salafism. This conference encouraged me to improve my language and also to make a research about interfaith dialogue.” - Ramez Aiad