

# Online Winter School 2025

線上課程

2025年3月9日 / 3月29-30日 / 4月12-13日 / 5月10日

## 環境轉型與社會經濟正義： 靈性資源的新觀點和動力

Environmental Transformation and Socio-Economic Justice.  
Spiritual Resources for New Perception and Motivation

主辦單位：生命和平大學  
University for Life and Peace

合辦單位：LMU

KATHOLISCHE  
PRIVATUNIVERSITÄT LINZ

*University for Life and Peace In Cooperation with the Ludwig-Maximilians-  
University of Munich (LMU), and the Catholic University of Linz, Austria*

## 2025 Online School

March 9 / March 29-30 / April 12-13 / May 10

**Environmental Transformation and Socio-Economic Justice.  
Spiritual Resources for New Perception and Motivation**

Students will receive the Academic Certificates  
after the research papers are reviewed by the Academic Committee from  
Ludwig-Maximilians-University of Munich, Germany, and  
The University for Life and Peace Preparatory Office

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# | Short Biography of the Founder

## Dharma Master Hsin Tao



Dharma Master Hsin Tao is the founder of the Ling Jiou Mountain Buddhist Society, the Museum of World Religions, and the INGO, Global Family for Love and Peace. In Myanmar, he established the LJM Maha Kusala Yama Monastery in Yangon and the Sramanera School in Naung Mon. The Sramanera School takes in and provides education to orphans and underprivileged children.

Born in Myanmar in 1948, Master Hsin Tao was left orphaned and impoverished at the age of four. Witnessing the destruction of homeland and life during wartime implanted in him a longing for peace. He was brought by the army to Taiwan when he was 13.

Master Hsin Tao was ordained at the age of 25. Making a vow to attain enlightenment, he practiced austerities in deserted temples and graveyards for over ten years. During the time he attained deep insight into the meaning of equality and oneness of all beings, and realized that peace of the mind is the only way to the real peace. In 1984, he established the Ling Jiou Mountain Wusheng Monastery to propagate the dharma with an emphasis on “Compassion and Chan” as its lineage style; he also sought to advance peace with the notion of “Loving Earth, Loving Peace.”

Master Hsin Tao has long been concerned about the issue of war and peace. He believes that it is religion' s responsibility and capacity to promote peace. To make possible the real peace, interreligious dialogues should be carried out to the full extent, with a view to shed light on the common ground of love and compassion and the necessity of harmonious coexistence. Subsequently, in 1991, Master Hsin Tao started preparations for constructing the Museum of World Religions as a platform for interfaith exchange and peace-building, together with his effort to spread the message of "respect for all faiths, care for all cultures, and love for all life" all over the world. It took him 10 years to gain support and raise funds from numerous believers for the Museum' s opening ceremony to take place on Nov 9, 2001, attended by many religious leaders and others from around the world.

Master Hsin Tao believes that constant dialogue, listening, and cooperation foster mutual understanding, learning, and trust among different religions. For many years he has been committed to advancing interreligious dialogue internationally. Since 2002, Master Hsin Tao has initiated an ongoing series of the Buddhist-Muslim Dialogue, in the hope to build up religious peace through the Buddhist gentle power. Until 2017, 15 Buddhist-Muslim Dialogues have been organized in different places around the world, including New York, Indonesia, Malaysia, Paris, Iran, Spain, Beijing, Taipei, the UN headquarter, Australia, India and Salt Lake City.

Through these many years, Master Hsin Tao' s dedication to promoting the Dharma, Chan meditation, and interreligious peaceful dialogue, as well as his contribution to a harmonious world and the Earth' s safety has brought him international recognition and encouragement. The awards he received include: "Pt. Motilal Nehru National Award for Peace, Tolerance and Harmony" (2005) from the Interfaith Harmony Foundation, India; "Outstanding Contribution to the Propagation of Buddhism Award" (2006), "Excellence in Teaching Meditation Award" (2010), and "The Highest Meditation Achievement Award" (2014) from the Myanmar Government; "Interfaith Visionary Award" (2010) from the Temple of Understanding, U.S.; "Benefactor of Buddhism Award" (2013) from the Royal Patriarch Temple, Thailand; the 2nd

“World Buddhist Outstanding Leader Award” (2015) from Thai National Office of Buddhism in cooperation with the World Fellowship of Buddhist Youth.

# | Opening Speech

## Dharma Master Hsin Tao

**Dear esteemed advisors, scholars, professors, and participants,  
may you all be blessed with peace and well-being.**

I sincerely appreciate your participation in the Fifth Winter School program, dedicating your time and effort to ecological healing and the creation of a better future.

The purpose of establishing the Winter School is to engage in discussions and reflections, with spirituality as the core, and guided by the principles of respect, inclusivity, and sharing. Through this, we aim to illuminate contemporary ecological issues, understand their underlying causes, cultivate ethical approaches to technology, and explore effective solutions to these challenges. Each of you is an exceptional spiritual seed. Through the teachings and immersion in this program, you will become a transformative force in addressing the ecological crises of our planet.

Governments, corporations, and organizations worldwide are striving for sustainability. The United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP) continues to develop new measures, while various national governments implement environmental policies to curb the worsening crisis and mitigate the looming catastrophe. However, are we truly identifying the root causes of these issues? Can we find the right direction and methods to achieve both ecological and human sustainability?

The rapid advancement of modern technology and the maximization of capital flows have entangled us in a materialistic and desire-driven world. The dominance of anthropocentrism has severed our spiritual connection with all beings, leading us to forget the fundamental respect for life and ecology. Consequently, our world is on the brink of collapse: climate change, environmental destruction, relentless international conflicts and wars, the widespread emergence of novel viruses, and

concerns over AI's impact on our lives all contribute to collective anxiety. To address these crises at their root, we must begin with an inner spiritual awakening, which in turn will transform our external behaviors—only then can we achieve a truly sustainable solution.

Spirituality is the foundation of everything; it is the DNA that forms all existence. The spirituality within us is interconnected with that of all beings. The essence of all things is unified, originating from the same primordial spirit. This unity manifests as a diverse and beautiful world—our differences bring beauty, while our shared essence fosters harmony. Humanity and all ecological beings exist in a relationship of diverse co-existence, interdependence, and mutual support. By adhering to the principles of respecting the intrinsic value of species, accommodating shared spaces for survival, and sharing the collective fruits of life, we can identify the most effective approaches to promote concrete transformative actions, ultimately restoring the Earth's ecological balance and natural cycles.

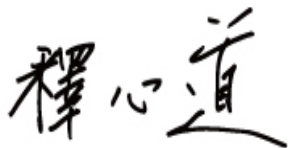
The theme of this year's program is "Environmental Transformation and Socioeconomic Justice: New Perspectives and Dynamics of Spiritual Resources." We will examine the deep-rooted causes of the ecological crisis and explore spirituality as a lens for ecological healing. This theme connects three key dimensions—psychology, technology, and socio-economic structures—to reflect on how to establish the correct perspectives, leverage contemporary technology responsibly, and formulate effective policies that balance civilizational progress and ecological conservation, thereby fostering a positive cycle of social and ecological development. These discussions are both forward-thinking and groundbreaking. Over the next two months, through the resonance of collective wisdom, we are bound to generate constructive and innovative insights.

The success of this program would not have been possible without the dedicated efforts of Michael von Brück and the organizing team. Your long-term commitment and diligence have continuously elevated the quality of our courses. I also extend my deep gratitude to the outstanding faculty and elite participants

from around the world—your involvement fills the future with hope and strengthens our determination to continue this program.

Through this model of learning and discussion, I hope that each of you can awaken your spirituality. When viewed through the lens of spirituality, wisdom and compassion will naturally manifest, and all obstacles and crises will dissolve like melting ice and snow. May the Earth, its ecosystems, and humanity achieve true sustainability.

Thank you all!



Dharma Master Hsin Tao  
Founder, Ling Jiou Mountain Buddhist Society  
Museum of World Religions  
University for Life and Peace



# | Foreword

**Prof. Dr. Michael von Brück**

## **Environmental Transformation and Socio-Economic Justice. Spiritual Resources for New Perception and Motivation**

In continuity with our previous Online (Winter) Schools the University for Life and Peace in cooperation with other academic institutions offers a new Online School with a challenging topic on the basis of interdisciplinary/intercultural analysis. Our intention can be summarized as follows: The ecological transformation of our societies and economies is one of the most urgent tasks of humankind. On the agenda of the United Nations and for the most important scientific think tanks worldwide this issue is one of the top priorities. All over the place we can observe changes taking place. Nevertheless, the speed of action is insufficient in order to avoid major disasters in the future. Many obstacles are there which are hindering appropriate action. In order to act you need motivation. In order to generate motivation you need not only knowledge but also an emotional qualification which goes beyond selfish and immediate gratification. Certainly, in order to master the ecological transformation we need to develop new technologies, production and consumption chains which are sustainable, and new social structures to gain qualitative growth instead of quantitative augmentation of products and waste. But more is required. One most important aspect is that the needed transformation happens in such a way that more and not less justice is generated on all levels of living and social as well as economic organization : Justice in production and distribution, in access to resources and trade, justice in education and communication etc. This requires both, new ways of thinking and other patterns of organizing ourselves and our societies. The number of voices calling for self-restraint and greater emphasis on immaterial values is growing.

But how to implement such attitudes on larger scale? In short: What is required is a change of our mindset.

This is what spirituality is all about. It is the conscious cultivation of consciousness by self-reflectivity. The University for Life and Peace, inspired and founded by Dharma Master Hsin Tao, takes up the challenge of ecology and spirituality under the headline of Spiritual Ecology.

Spiritual Ecology is the realization of interdependence of all forms of life and discovery of mental resources for the ecological transformation. We need to be more aware that success of the ecological transformation depends also on the so called „soft factors “, on intellectual-emotional-social relations. They need to be studied in order to understand their interwoven fabrics. To do so is the aim of the upcoming Online School.

# | Program in Detail

*University for Life and Peace In Cooperation with the Ludwig-Maximilians-University of Munich (LMU), and the Catholic University of Linz, Austria*

Online School March 9 / March 29-30 / April 12-13 / May 10, 2025

Theme :

Environmental Transformation and Socio-Economic Justice.

Spiritual Resources for New Perception and Motivation

## Program

### 1. Background

The two most important ecological issues are probably global warming and the fast destruction of biodiversity. More and more governments, industries, research centers and large civil movements do see the problems and engage in preventing the ecosystems from collapse. But this is not enough. Why do we (human beings in general) not act, though we know basically what needs to be done? How can we enhance and speed up the processes that would lead to a fundamental turn in our behaviour? Why do we not act with sufficient intensity?

The basic question for our Online School are:

- How to create a new perception of reality (*aisthesis*) that enables us to see things and events in their interrelated settings?
- How do we generate individual and collective motivation in order to come to action for the needed ecological and social transformation?
- In which ways are the strive for socio-economic justice and the ecological transformation interrelated?

We can learn to live in harmony within ourselves and with our environment, if we get to a deeper perception and unbiased motivation to act sustainably. Many people (especially indigenous cultures in the forests) do still have a mentality we can learn from. In modern sciences this is being taken up by fascinating research about the life (and sensitivity) of plants and animals: Plants and animals are not objects to our disposal but co-beings, and we humans share our life with them. What does this mean for our communication with other forms of life, and for the development of our technologies which are not tools for using and exploiting nature in destructive ways, but instruments for sharing with nature the fundamental resources of life.

## 2. Purpose

The purpose of this Online School is twofold:

- First we want *to enable our students* as decision makers of the future to understand the mental condition and social restrictions as well as opportunities to master the ecological turn.
- Second we want *to enlarge our network* among universities and strengthen our ties with them and with research institutions around the globe in order to make the contribution of ULP to the transformative processes in view of the ecological turn viable.

In order to foster these goals, the Online School will bring eminent scholars together so as to inspire the participants to test creative ways of thinking, rethinking, stimulating appropriate emotions and organize action.

## 3. Method

The 2025 Online School will focus on the concepts, science and practice of what is being called PERMA culture and how Perma-Culture relates to Spiritual Ecology. What is Perma-Culture? And how it can be implemented locally but within a global perspective

so that sufficiency, justice and ecological balance are achieved?

Within the framework of our previously tested scheme of “Basis-Method-Effect” the online School will follow an educational structure on three levels:

1. *Awareness and Consciousness*

An Introduction to Spiritual Ecology and Consciousness Development

2. Healing the Planet

*Fundamentals, Concepts and Models for a sustainable economic and social life-style* Including Perma-Culture and underlying principles - how they relate to Spiritual Ecology and how they might offer means to foster the ecological transformation on the mental level

3. *Examples of Science and Technology in Action*

Applying Spiritual Ecology and Perma-Culture to mitigate challenges and foster transformation

(Including group projects to create action)

We will discuss the concepts of socio-economic justice in the light of examples from PERMA culture and shall develop our own projects on the basis of these findings and insights.

1. Seminal lectures by outstanding scholars and champions of ecological change will start processes of rethinking with focus on the topics mentioned.
2. Successful Projects of PERMA culture will be presented and discussed in the light of the quest for socio-economic justice and environmental transformation.
3. Virtual projects inspired by (2) will be worked out as group papers, taking the general perceptions gained from these projects and applying their core motivation to new local projects which could be worked out in the vicinity and environment of our students.
4. Under the tuition of experienced professors and alumni of our previous Winter Schools the papers will be made examples for careful study and blueprints for further action in these fields.

5. The papers will be evaluated by a team of scholars.

## 6. Program in Detail

### Part 1: Awareness and Consciousness

#### An Introduction to Spiritual Ecology and Consciousness Development

*Sunday March 9, 9 – 11 a.m. and 11.15 – 13.15 p.m. (Munich Time)*

*Sunday March 9, 16:00 -18:00 and 18:15-20:15 PM (Taiwan Time)*

Introduction and Expectation:

*Spiritual Ecology*: Definitions and Dharma Master Hsin Tao' s vision  
(Michael von Brück, Anastasia Zabaniotou)

*Structure, Method and Expectations* of the Online School of ULP. Education  
for Transformation in Global Context (Alexander Benz)

Aspects of Spiritual Ecology

1. *Who are We? Consciousness of the 'Self'* : Awareness of our position on the planet and universe and role, co-existence, oneness, interconnectedness, for changing our relation to earth and universe. The world-soul is no longer part of our collective consciousness. Ecological consciousness is the key to the relationships between people and new technologies with the ecosystems and moreover can be referred to as the experience of 'Self' (Awareness) (Michael von Brück)
2. *Systemic View of Life: Developing a Connect between Spiritual Ecology and Sustainability*  
Anthropogenic-induced environmental change and the domination of the Earth' s ecosystems have reached the overuse of resources endangering the integrity of the fragile ecologies of Planet Earth and its

climate. Moving from the Anthropocentric to an Eco-centric civilization and practice means leaving behind unsustainable production technology and consumption patterns while cultivating an eco-centric ethos that allows living organisms to be in co-existence and symbiosis with their non-living environment. Sustainability through the consciousness of spiritual ecology is related to systemic health and resilience and requires a broader view of the importance of various capitals, their co-existence and mutual symbiosis. Technological progress without sustainability increases the disturbances of ecological systems and the ecological consciousness of people. Reinforcing the significance of a symbiotic relationship between humans and their environment, through responsible ecological behavior is needed. A transformative thinking and action require inner exploration and visualization of desirable future for catalyzing transition to sustainable, equitable, ethical, and resilient societies (awareness lecture) (Anastasia Zabaniotou)

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## Part 2: Healing the Planet

Fundamentals, Concepts and models for a sustainable economic and social life-style:

*Saturday March 29, 9 – 11.00 am and 11.15 – 13.15 p.m. (Munich Time)*

*Saturday March 29, 16:00 -18:00 and 18:15-20:15 PM (Taiwan Time)*

### *Basis*

Introduction (MvB)	10 Min
Meditation (Shifu)	15 Min
Lecture 1	Prof. Dr. Michael Rosenberger (Catholic University, Linz): Opportunities for

Spiritual Ecology in Pope Francis'  
Laudato si 30 Min + 15 Min Discussion

Lecture 2

Prof. Dr. Mary Evelyn Tucker (Yale University): Ecological Civilization and Confucian Spirituality 30 Min + 15 Min Discussion

Break

Panel

11.15 – 11.50

Prof. Dr. Dorothea Greiling (Johannes-Kepler-University, Linz), Prof. Dr. Josef Wieland (Zeppelin University Friedrichshafen): Relational Economics: Shared Value Creation and Environmental Responsibility.

Debate in Groups (random)

50 Min

Debate in Plenary

30 Min: Reports from Groups

*Sunday, March 30, 9 -11.00 am and 11.15 – 13.00 p.m. ( Munich Time)*

*Sunday March 30, 15:00 -17:00 and 17:15-19:00 PM (Taiwan Time)*

Meditation (Shifu)

15 Min.

Lecture 3

Prof. Dr. Markus Vogt (LMU Munich), Spiritual Ecology and Justice – a Perspective of Christian Social Ethics 30 Min + 15 Min Discussion



Part 3: *Examples of Science and Technology in Action*

Applying Spiritual Ecology and Perma-Culture to mitigate challenges and foster transformation (Including group projects to create action)

Lecture 4

Prof. Dr. John Grim (Yale University),  
Indigenous Cosmovision and Spiritual  
Ecology 30 Min + 15 Min. Discussion

Break

Developing Project Themes (Plenary) 60 Min

First Meetings of Projects Groups 60 Min

(During the time between the two units of WS the students will work on their projects guided by their supervisors online.)

*Saturday, April 12, 9 – 11.00 and 11.15 – 13.30 a.m.: (Munich Time)*

*Saturday April 12, 15:00 -17:00 and 17:15-19:30 PM (Taiwan Time)*

*Method*

Meditation (Shifu) 15 Min

Lecture 5

Prof. Dr. Azizan Baharuddin (Universiti  
Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia),  
Ecology & Justice: A Model from the Al-  
Mizan-Covenant for the Earth  
(Document endorsed by the UN  
Environmental Program 2024)  
30 Min + 15 Min. Discussion

Lecture 6

Markus Bogner (Bad Wiessee, Germany):

**PERMA Economy in Southern Germany  
in Worldwide Interconnection. Focus on  
Integrated Project)**

30 Min + 15 Min. Discussion

Discussion in groups 20 Min

Break

**Panel** 11.20 – 11.50

**Prof. Dr. Werner Gamerith (Univ. of  
Passau): Local and Global : Ecological  
Transformation – Constraints and  
Opportunities by Geographical and  
Legal Conditions**

Presentation of Project Proposals 60 Min. (3 groups)

Panel: Response to Projects 20 Min.

*Sunday, April 13, 9 – 11.00 and 11.15 – 13.30 p.m. (Munich Time)*

*Sunday April 13, 15:00 -17:00 and 17:15-19:30 PM (Taiwan Time)*

Meditation (Shifu) 15 Min.

**Lecture 7** **Prof. Dr. Dr. Ernst Pöppel (LMU Munich),  
Spirituality of Perception : Aisthesis and  
Motivation for Action**

30 Min. + 15 Min Discussion

***Effect***

Presentation of Projects 60 Min. (3 groups)

Break

Presentation of Projects 40 Min. (2 groups)

Panel: Response to Projects 60 Min.

Final Summary and Challenges (MvB) 10 Min

Farewell and Closing Remarks (Shifu) 15 Min.

***Saturday May 10, 9 – 11.30 a.m. and 12 – 14 p.m. (Munich Time)***

***Saturday May 10, 15:00 -17:30 and 18:00-20:00 PM (Taiwan Time)***

Final presentation of Projects (6 groups: 30 Min each group)

5 groups (5-7 students in each group). The groups will be guided by

Alexander Benz

Michael von Brück

Peter Edwards

Ernst Pöppel

Anastasia Zabaniotou

## **9 Major Lectures (including Introduction on March 9):**

Prof. Dr. Anastasia Zabaniotou (Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece)

Prof. em. Datuk Dr. Azizan Baharuddin (University Malaya,, Malaysia)

Prof. Dr. Ernst Pöppel (LMU Munich, Germany)

Prof. Dr. John Grim, (Yale University, USA)

Mr. Markus Bogner, Entrepreneur, PERMA Culture (Bavaria, Germany)

Prof. Dr. Markus Vogt (LMU, Munich, Germany)

Prof. Dr. Mary Evelyn Tucker (Yale University, USA)

Prof. Dr. Michael von Brück (LMU Munich, Germany)

Prof. Dr. Michael Rosenberger (Catholic University Linz, Austria)

## **Panelists**

Prof. Dr. Werner Gamerith (University of Passau, Germany)

Prof. Dr. Dorothea Greiling (Johannes Kepler University, Linz, Austria)

Prof. Dr. Josef Wieland, (Zeppelin University, Friedrichshafen, Germany)

## **5. Participation Levels and Course Requirements for Students**

To accommodate the different interests and goals of the participants the Online School will enable three different levels of student participation and respective certificates. Next to an attendance certificate (1 ECTS), students can choose to upgrade their participation level by fulfilling an academic task (i.e. writing a summary or reflecting on a question – 3 ECTS) or they can opt for finishing the Online School, supported by faculty, with a draft of a scientific paper (5 ECTS).

To enable the students to create papers and finish the assigned tasks after the final presentation, the facilitators will provide group-/individual coaching sessions upon request and need of the students.

In order to complete the course successfully students will have to actively participate in all sessions of the Online School.

## **6. Benefit for Students**

Students of the Online School 2025 will get in touch with some of the most outstanding academic thinkers in the field of ecology as well as activists sharing their experiences. By identifying areas of holistic engagement and developing virtual project papers with colleagues from other fields they will develop their own contribution and academic proficiency as important fundamentals for their further career in the field. Papers will be validated and a Certificate from the

University of Munich will be issued. Usually Universities will acknowledge (1, 3 or 5 ECTS) credit points, but students have to discuss this with the administration of their respective universities themselves.

## **7. Grading Papers**

Papers will be graded by a core group of scholars working as advisors with the different groups (Michael von Brück, Ernst Pöppel, Peter Edwards, Anastasia Zabaniotou, Alexander Benz et al.) and one member of LJM. Depending on the subjects of the papers the core group may ask for support from the pool of professors who are nominated as advisors.

Criteria for grading are:

- a) Originality
- b) Practical Importance and Integrated Methodology
- c) Formal Consistency

## **8. Contact**

Should you have any questions, please contact Ms. Doreen Ng @

[doreen\\_ng@hotmail.com](mailto:doreen_ng@hotmail.com)

## **➤ Technical Information**

**Meeting Space ULP-Online School 2025**

**Time: According to the Program**

**Join the Zoom-Meeting-Space**

<https://lmu-munich.zoom->

[x.de/j/67803505175?pwd=vNjN6NAArvgdmVi4D2h4la9NrUqBG.1](https://lmu-munich.zoom-join/j/67803505175?pwd=vNjN6NAArvgdmVi4D2h4la9NrUqBG.1)

Meeting-ID: 678 0350 5175

Passcode: 547644

➤ **Disclaimer:**

We agree and acknowledge that our images, photos and videos taken during The Online Winter School 2025 may be used in promoting the future University for Life and Peace, or within Ling Jiou Mountain Group or any future non-commercial purposes.

# Program Overview

## Part 1: Awareness and Consciousness

### An Introduction to Spiritual Ecology and Consciousness Development

	Munich TimeTaiwan Time		Sun		
	AM	PM	9-Mar		
W i n t e r  S c h o o l  2 0 2 5	09:00-09:45	4:00-4:45	<b>Introduction and Expectation: Spiritual Ecology : Definitions and Dharma Master Hsin Tao's vision (45 min )</b>	Prof. Dr. Michael von Brueck Prof. Dr. Anastasia Zabaniotou	University of Munich (Germany)
	09:45-10:15	4:45-5:15	Structure, Method and Expectations of the Online School of ULP. Education for Transformation in Global Context (30 min)	Alexander Benz	University of Munich (Germany) Aristotle University Thessaloniki (Greece)
	10:15-11:00	5:15-6:00	<b>Aspects of Spiritual Ecology Who are We? Consciousness of the 'Self': Awareness of our position on the planet and universe and role, co-existence, oneness, interconnectedness, for changing our relation to earth and universe. (45 min )</b>	Prof. Dr. Michael von Brueck	University of Munich (Germany)
	11:00-11:15	6:00-6:15	Discussion 15 min		
	11:15-11:30	6:15-6:30	Break 15 min		
	11:30-12:15	6:30-7:15	<b>Systemic View of Life: Developing a Connect between Spiritual Ecology and Sustainability</b>	Prof. Dr. Anastasia Zabaniotou	Aristotle University Thessaloniki (Greece)
	12:15-12:30	7:15-7:30	Discussion 15 min		
	12:30-12:50	7:30-7:50	Discussion and Question (20 min )	Plenary	
	12:50-13:00	7:50-8:00	Feedback (10 min )	Prof. Dr. Michael von Brueck	University of Munich (Germany)

## Part 2: Healing the Planet

### Fundamentals, Concepts and models for a sustainable economic and social life-style

	Munich TimeTaiwan Time		Sat		
	AM	PM	29-Mar		
W i n t e r  S c h o o l  2 0 2 5	09:00-09:10	4:00-4:10	Introduction (10 min)	Prof. Dr. Michael von Brueck	University of Munich (Germany)
	09:10-09:25	4:10-4:25	Welcome Speech & Meditation (15 min)	Dharma Master Hsin Tao	Founder of Ling Jiou Mountain Buddhist Society and Museum of World Religions
	09:25-09:55	4:25-4:55	<b>Lecture 1 Opportunities for Spiritual Ecology in Pope Francis' Laudato (30 min)</b>	Prof. Dr. Michael Rosenberger	Catholic University, Linz (Austria)
	09:55-10:10	4:55-5:10	Discussion (15 min)		
	10:10-10:40	5:10-5:40	<b>Lecture 2 Ecological Civilization and Confucian Spirituality (30 min)</b>	Prof. Dr. Mary Evelyn Tucker	Yale University (USA)
	10:40-11:00	5:40-6:00	Discussion (15 mi)		
	11:00-11:15	6:00-6:15	Break		
	11:15-11:50	6:15-6:50	<b>Panel Discussion (50 min) Topic: Relational Economics: Shared Value Creation and Environmental Responsibility.</b>	Prof. Dr. Dorothea Greiling , Prof. Dr. Josef Wieland	Johannes-Kepler-University, Linz; Zeppelin University Friedrichshafen (Austria)
	11:50-12:40	6:50-7:40	Debate in Groups (random) (50 min)		
	12:40-13:10	7:40-8:10	<b>Debate in Plenary (30 Min)</b>	Reports from Groups	

## Part 3: Examples of Science and Technology in Action (Lecture 4 to Lecture 7)

Applying Spiritual Ecology and Perma-Culture to mitigate challenges and foster transformation (Including group projects to create action)

W i n t e r  S c h o o l  2 0 2 5	Munich TimeTaiwan Time		Sun 30-Mar		
	AM	PM			
	09:00-09:15	3:00-3:15	Meditation (15 min)	Dharma Master Hsin Tao	Founder of Ling Jiou Mountain Buddhist Society and Museum of World Religions
	09:15-09:45	3:15-3:45	<b>Lecture 3</b> <b>Spiritual Ecology and Justice – a Perspective of Christian Social Ethics (30 Min)</b>	Prof. Dr. Markus Vogt	University of Munich (Germany)
	09:45-10:00	3:45-4:00	Discussion (15 min)		
	10:00-10:30	4:00-4:30	<b>Lecture 4</b> <b>Indigenous Cosmovision and Spiritual Ecology (30 Min)</b>	Prof. Dr. John Grim	Yale University (USA)
	10:30-10:45	4:30-4:45	Discussion (15 min)		
	10:45-11:00	4:45-5:00	Break (15 min)		
	11:00-12:00	5:00-6:00	Developing Project Themes (60 min)	Plenary	
	12:00-13:00	6:00-7:00	First Meetings of Projects Groups (60 min)	Breakout	
			<b>(During the time between the two units of WS the students will work on their projects guided by their supervisors online.)</b>		

W i n t e r  S c h o o l  2 0 2 5	Munich TimeTaiwan Time		Sat 12-Apr		
	AM	PM			
	09:00-09:15	3:00-3:15	Meditation (15 min)	Dharma Master Hsin Tao	Founder of Ling Jiou Mountain Buddhist Society and Museum of World Religions
	09:15-09:45	3:15-3:45	<b>Lecture 5</b> <b>Ecology &amp; Justice: A Model from the Al-Mizan-Covenant for the Earth (Document endorsed by the UN Environmental Program 2024) (30 min)</b>	Prof. Dr. Azizan Baharuddin	Universiti Malaya, Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia)
	09:45-10:00	3:45-4:00	Discussion (15 min)		
	10:00-10:30	4:00-4:30	<b>Lecture 6</b> <b>PERMA Economy in Southern Germany in Worldwide Interconnection. Focus on Integrated Project) (30 min)</b>	Markus Bogner	Bad Wiessee (Germany)
	10:30-10:45	4:30-4:45	Discussion (15 min)		
	10:45-11:05	4:45-5:05	Discussion in groups (20 min)		
	11:05-11:20	5:05-5:20	Break (15 min)		
	11:20-11:50	5:20-5:50	<b>Panel Discussion (30 min)</b> <b>Topic: Local and Global : Ecological Transformation – Constraints and Opportunities by Geographical and Legal Conditions</b>	Prof. Dr. Werner Gamerith	University of Passau (Germany);
	11:50-12:50	5:50-6:50	Presentation of Project Proposals (60 min) - 3 groups	Plenary	
	12:50-13:10	6:50-7:10	Panel Discussion: Response to Projects (20 min)	Plenary	



W i n t e r 2 0 2 5 S c h o o l	Munich Time		Taiwan Time			Sun	
	AM	PM	13-Apr				
	09:00-09:15	3:00-3:15	Meditation (15 min)	Dharma Master Hsin Tao		Founder of Ling Jiou Mountain Buddhist Society and Museum of World Religions	
	09:15-09:45	3:15-3:45	<b>Lecture 7</b> <b>Spirituality of Perception : Aisthesis and Motivation for Action (30 min)</b>	Prof. Dr. Dr. Ernst Pöppel		University of Munich (Germany)	
	09:45-10:00	3:45-4:00	Discussion (15 min)				
	10:00-11:00	4:00-5:00	Presentation of Projects (60 min) - 3 groups				
	11:00-11:20	5:00-5:20	Break (20 min)				
	11:20-12:00	5:20-6:00	Presentation of Projects (40 min) - 2 groups				
	12:00-13:00	6:00-7:00	Panel Discussion: Response to Projects (60 min)				
	13:00-13:10	7:00-7:10	<b>Final Summary and Challenges (10 min)</b>	Prof. Dr. Michael von Brueck		University of Munich (Germany)	
	13:10-13:25	7:10-7:25	<b>Farewell and Closing Remarks (15 min)</b>	Dharma Master Hsin Tao		Founder of Ling Jiou Mountain Buddhist Society and Museum of World Religions	

W i n t e r 2 0 2 5 S c h o o l	Munich Time		Taiwan Time			Sat	
	AM	PM	10-May				
			Final presentation of Projects (5 groups: 30 Min each group)				
	09:00-09:30	3:00-3:30	Group 1				
	09:30-10:00	3:30-4:00	Group 2				
	10:00-10:30	4:00-4:30	Group 3				
	10:30-10:45	4:30-4:45	Break				
	10:45-11:15	4:45-5:15	Group 4				
	11:15-11:45	5:15-5:45	Group 5				
	11:45-12:00	5:45-6:00	Online Survey				

## | Bios of Teaching Faculty




### **Prof. Dr. Michael von Brück**

#### **Ludwig-Maximilian-University Munich, Germany**

Dr. theol, is Prof. em. of Religious Studies at the University of Munich, Germany, and has been founder and Head of the Interfaculty Program of Religious Studies at the same University; He was also founding member of the Centre for Buddhist Studies in Munich (international PhD Program). He studied Theology, Indology and Comparative Linguistics at Rostock University, Indian Philosophy and Religion at Madras University. He specializes in Advaita Vedânta and Mahâyâna-Buddhism. Besides, he received a four years training in Yoga at the Krishnamacarya Yoga Mandiram in Madras and studied Zen-Buddhism in theory and practice at Tenryu-ji in Kyoto, Japan.

After a visiting professorship at Gurukul Lutheran College in Madras 1980-1985 he became Prof. of Comparative Religion at Regensburg University in 1988 and took over the chair of Religionswissenschaft at the University of Munich in 1991 and became director of this institute. He lectures widely all over the world and has been a visiting lecturer and professor at several German (Hamburg, Tübingen), American (Univ. of Hawaii, Univ. of California (Davis), Rice University, Harvard Center for the Study of World Religion etc.) and Asian Universities (Madras, Bangalore, Chiang Mai). For eight years he has served as the General Editor of the journal "Dialog der Religionen". He is member of the Human Science Centre of Munich University and has been a member of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Goethe Institute and a member of the Advisory Board of Suhrkamp Verlag: Edition World Religions.

	<p>He has written twenty major books and about 300 essays in journals all over the world on theology, Buddhism, Hinduism and the encounter of World Religions (especially Buddhism and Hinduism).</p>
	<p><b>Prof. Dr. Anastasia Zabaniotou</b></p> <p>Anastasia Zabaniotou is Professor at the Chemical Engineering Department of the Faculty of Engineering, at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece. She is also teaching at the Master program on Sustainable Use of Resources and Circular Economy at Ecole Centrale Marseille, France. She holds a PhD and Master from Ecole Centrale de Paris, France. She has been working at the European Commission, at the Direction General for R&amp;I, as an officer and she still works as an expert and evaluator. She participated in evaluation panels for various European Universities evaluation. She is chairperson of Biomass-Bioenergy at the International Renewable Energy Network and Conference (WREN/WREC) and member of the Chinese Network on Energy and Environment (BEE-RCN), member of the International Collaboration Committee at Aristotle University and board member of RMEI (Network of Mediterranean Engineering Schools) that has as mission Sustainable Development Goals and Peace in the Mediterranean region.</p> <p>She is interested in interdisciplinary research and education. Her research focuses on bioresources sustainable use, waste to energy, biofuels, bioeconomy, circular economy, sustainability and resilience, gender equality, involved and coordinated many national and international R&amp;I projects. Her work was awarded for innovation and excellence 14 times. She is author and co-author of 160 papers in international journals and over 250 conference presentations, visited more than 45 countries/Universities worldwide and invited at many international conferences as</p>

	<p>keynote speaker, organized several conferences, workshops, and events. In 2018, she was invited by the WORLD ENERGY FORUM as Keynote speaker, at the International Inter Mongolia Energy Conference 2018, China, awarded for pioneering research on Bioenergy by the WREC (World Renewable Energy Conference, London), and also awarded by Aristotle University for her International collaboration.</p> <p>She participated as a faculty member in the Winter School 2020 in Yangon, Myanmar. She believes that creative and transformative learning deserves a bigger role in education for an awareness that is interrelated with technological achievements and innovations. A long-lasting change in any social or environmental system can be brought by understanding the connection between our consciousness, thoughts and actions, and their impact on the socio-ecological systems. Thus, she is interested in teaching that brings an understanding of the relationships between awareness and actions, in establishing a value-based education through which young scientists could participate to bring sustainable solutions and desired results for peace and wellbeing of the entire world.</p>
	<p><b>Dr. Alexander Benz</b>  <b>Attorney at Law, MBA, Mediator, Trainer and Business Coach</b></p> <p>Alexander Benz is a lecturer and scientific coordinator at the Institute of Medical Psychology of the Ludwig Maximilian University, Munich, Germany. He has been legally trained at the University in Freiburg, Germany and the German University of Administrative Sciences Speyer, Germany. He received his mediation and arbitration training at the University of British Columbia, Vancouver, Canada. He has been a member of the German Bar Association since 1999.</p> <p>He has been working as a business coach and consultant with a variety of local and international businesses like Mercedes-Benz,</p>

Stuttgart, Germany and the FESTO Group, Esslingen, Germany improving strategy and knowledge processes.

In 2006 he started working with Applied-Knowing Project at the Human-Science-Center of the Ludwig Maximilians University, Munich and Prof. Ernst Poeppel to develop new forms of learning and teaching. In 2011 he became a lecturer at the Institute of Medical Psychology. Since then, he coordinates the teaching efforts and teaching innovations of the institute for 850 students every semester.

His research interests revolve around educational psychology with a focus on individualized, explorative or problem based learning. Over the past years sustainability, interdisciplinarity and communication in healthcare complemented his research field. He is the author, co-author or editor of several international reports, articles and handbooks conference presentations.

Over the last decade he has managed a EU-funded multi-national Chronobiological research project (Euclock), has initiated and coordinated quite a few international Erasmus+ -projects with the State Academy for Teacher Training in Esslingen (MC4VEd – Mass Customization for Vocational Education and DESK-Development and Saving Critical Knowledge in Organizations for vocational Education).

He believes that we are living in a knowledge driven society in which sometimes crucial knowledge is lost or forgotten and in which many do not realize that knowledge is quite likely the single resource that increases and grows when you use or even better share it. Therefor the future of science, society and the environment depend on our ability to make better use of all our knowledge and skills and that we all have to co-creatively collaborate and

	<p>communicate better to make this world a better place for us but also for the future generations.</p>
	<p><b>Prof. Dr. theol. Michael Rosenberger</b>  <b>Professor for Moral Theology</b></p> <p><b>Personal data</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Date of Birth 08.03.1962</li> <li>• Place of Birth Würzburg</li> <li>• Languages German, English, Italian (Spanish, French)</li> </ul> <p><b>Education</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• from - until school (university), place, country, degree</li> <li>• 1972-1981 Armin Knab-Gymnasium Kitzingen/ Germany, Graduation Certificate</li> <li>• 1981-1983 Julius-Maximilians-University Würzburg/ Germany, Vordiplom</li> <li>• 1983-1989 Pontifical University Gregoriana Rome/ Italy, License Theology</li> </ul> <p><b>Scholarships and studies abroad</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• from - until scholarships (exchange programme), institution, place, country</li> <li>• 1983-1989 Pontifical University Gregoriana Rome/ Italy</li> <li>• 1981-1989 Bayerisches Hochbegabtenstipendium</li> </ul> <p><b>Professional experience and teaching activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• from - until occupation, employer(institution), place, country</li> <li>• 1989-1995 Pastoral work diocese, Würzburg, Germany</li> <li>• 1995-2002 Assistant Prof. University of Würzburg, Würzburg, Germany</li> <li>• 2002-now Professor at the Private Catholic University Linz, Linz Austria</li> </ul> <p><b>Memberships</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• European society for catholic theology</li> <li>• International Association for Moral Theology and Social Ethics</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Association for Theology of Spirituality (since 2013 president)</li> <li>• Interdisciplinary Working Group for the research of Human-Animal-Relationship (since 2012 speaker)</li> <li>• German Network Nutrition Ethics</li> </ul> <p><b>Editorship of academic book series/ journals</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Linzer WiEGe Reihe. Beiträge zu Wirtschaft – Ethik – Gesellschaft (LiWiRei): <a href="http://www.ku-linz.at/forschung/publikationen/linzer_wiege_reihe_open_access">www.ku-linz.at/forschung/publikationen/linzer_wiege_reihe_open_access</a> Open-Access-E-Publication (since 2008, actually with Lukas Kaelin)</li> <li>• Studien zur Theologie der Spiritualität (STS): <a href="https://theologie-der-spiritualitaet.de/publikationen/studien-zur-theologie-der-spiritualitaet-ab-2017/">https://theologie-der-spiritualitaet.de/publikationen/studien-zur-theologie-der-spiritualitaet-ab-2017/</a> Open-Access-E-Publication (since 2017)</li> <li>• Interdisziplinäre Tierethik/ Interdisciplinary Animal Ethics (ITE/ IAE): book series in Nomos-Verlag Baden-Baden (since 2020, with Herwig Grimm)</li> <li>• Member of the Editorial Board of the journal Acta Universitatis Carolinae Theologica of the Charles University Prague/ Czech Republic: <a href="http://www.theologica.cz/index.php/theologica/index">http://www.theologica.cz/index.php/theologica/index</a> (since 2020)</li> <li>• Member of the Editorial Board of the journal Cuestiones Teológicas of the Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana Medellín/ Colombia: <a href="https://revistas.upb.edu.co/index.php/cuestiones">https://revistas.upb.edu.co/index.php/cuestiones</a> (since 2021)</li> </ul>
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## **Prof. Dr. Mary Evelyn Tucker**

Mary Evelyn Tucker is co-director with John Grim of the Yale Forum on Religion and Ecology. They are affiliated faculty with the Yale Center for Environmental Justice at the Yale School of the Environment. They organized 10 conferences on World Religions and Ecology at Harvard and were series editors for the 10 resulting volumes from Harvard. Her research area is Asian religions and she co-edited Confucianism and Ecology, Buddhism and Ecology, and Hinduism and Ecology.

She has authored with Grim, *Ecology and Religion* (Island Press, 2014). They co-edited the *Routledge Handbook of Religion and Ecology* (2017) with Willis Jenkins. They are editors for the series on *Ecology and Justice* from Orbis Books.

They have created six online courses in Religions and Ecology: *Restoring the Earth Community*, which include Indigenous religions, Western religions, and Asian religions. They also edited the books of cultural historian, Thomas Berry, including *Selected Writings* (Orbis 2014). They published *Thomas Berry: A Biography* (Columbia University Press, 2019) with Andrew Angyal.

With Brian Thomas Swimme, they created a multi-media project *Journey of the Universe* that includes a book (Yale, 2011), an Emmy Award winning film on PBS, a series of podcast *Conversations*, and free online courses from Yale/Coursera.

Tucker was a member of the Earth Charter Drafting committee and the International Earth Charter Council. She won the Inspiring Yale Teaching Award in 2015 and has been awarded 7 honorary degrees. With Grim, she has received numerous awards, including a Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature, and Culture.





### **Prof Dr. Dorothea Greiling**

Dorothea Greiling received her habilitation in business administration from Mannheim University. Since 2008 she has been a full professor at the faculty of Social Sciences, Economics and Business at the Johannes Kepler University in Linz, Austria. She is also head of the Institute of Management Accounting. Her main research focuses on public accountability, performance management, sustainability control, sustainability reporting, and SDG activities, mostly but not exclusively of public enterprises and non-profit organisations as well as in regulated industries. Dorothea Greiling serves as editor or editorial board member of several academic journals. She is also president of the Scientific Council of CIRIEC (International Centre of Research and Information on the Public, Social and Cooperative Economy).




### **Prof. Dr. Josef Wieland**

Josef Wieland is Professor of Institutional Economics, Organizational Governance, Integrity Management & Transcultural Leadership at Zeppelin University in Friedrichshafen, Germany, and Director of the Leadership Excellence Institute Zeppelin (LEIZ).

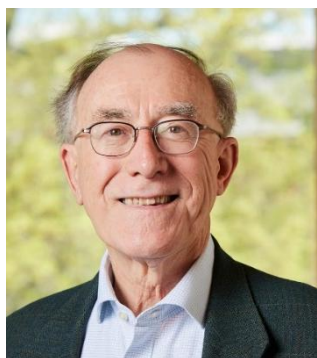
He has been Vice President (Teaching) at Zeppelin University since January 2024 and was Vice President (Research) from 2017 to 2021.

He has been a member of the CSR Forum of the Federal Government (Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs BMAS) and the

Steering Committee since 2012. He was co- head of the working group "Berlin CSR-Konsens" of the German government. From 2012 to 2018

	<p>he was Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the German Network for Business Ethics (DNWE).</p> <p>He is the initiator (1999) and chairman of the "Forum Compliance &amp; Integrity (FCI) - User Council for Values Management"; an association</p> <p>of 30 companies (6 DAX 30) for the development of standards for integrity management and compliance monitoring.</p> <p>He served as an adviser and compliance monitor for the European Bank of Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), and the World Bank.</p> <p>Since June 2024, he has been a member of the International Research Advisory Board of the renowned Gordon Institute of Business Science (GIBS) at the University of Pretoria in Johannesburg, South Africa.</p>
	<p><b>Prof. Dr. Markus Vogt, Dipl. theol. M.A. phil.</b></p> <p>Markus Vogt was born in 1962 in Freiburg i.Br., married, with 3 children; studied Theology and Philosophy in Munich, Jerusalem, and Lucerne; since April 2007 holds the Chair of Christian Social Ethics at the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München. Advisor to the ecological working group of the German Bishops' Conference since 1996; coordinated the Environmental Department at the Council of European Bishops' Conferences from 2000-2006 and since 2023; engaged in various project partnerships in Ukraine since 2010 (National University of Uzhhorod, Catholic University of Lviv); member/spokesperson of the Expert Council on Bioeconomy of the Bavarian State Government since 2016; member of the European Academy of Sciences since 2019; founding member and spokesperson of the Munich Center for Sustainability (MKE) since 2023; recipient of the 2017 Economy and Society Award from the</p>

	<p>Pontifical Foundation "Centesimus Annus Pro Pontifice" (CAPP) for the ecological development of Catholic social teaching.</p> <p>Research focuses on: Social-philosophical and theological foundations of ethics; Human-environment relationships; Business ethics/Justice theories; Political ethics/Peace ethics.</p> <p>Publications on Spirituality, Peace, and Environment (Selection): Christian Environmental Ethics, Boston 2024 (German: Christliche Umweltethik, Freiburg 2021); (with Gustav Schädlich-Buter) Spirituality and Responsibility. On the Christian Way of Life in the Tension between World Distance and World Design (Diakonische Spiritualität 4), Vallendar 2022; Transformation as Opportunity or Catastrophe, Munich: KomplettMedia 2018; (Ed. with Ivo Frankenreiter): Becoming Human. Christian Humanism between Philosophy and Theology, Basel 2024; (Ed. with Maximilian Gigl) Christianity and Modern Life Worlds. A Field of Tension Full of Ambivalences, Paderborn 2022; (Ed. with Arnd Küppers) Proactive Tolerance. The Key to Peace (Studien zur Friedensethik 69), Baden-Baden 2021; (Ed. with Martin Thurner) Theology of Interreligious Dialogue, Münchener Theologische Zeitschrift [MThZ] 70 (2/2018); (Guest ed. with S. Böschen et al.) Resilience. Analytical Tool of Social Transformations?, GAIA 26 (Special Issue 1/2017); (Ed. with Celia Deane-Drummond and Sigurd Bergmann) Religion in the Anthropocene, Eugene/Oregon 2017; (Ed. with Peter Schallenberg) Social Inequalities, Paderborn 2017; Conflict-capable Peace Ethics. Christian Perspectives in View of the War in Ukraine, in: Avvakumov, Yury/Turiy, Oleh (Eds.): The Churches and the War. Religion, Religious Diplomacy, and Russia' s Aggression against Ukraine, Lviv 2024, 221-236.</p>
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## **Prof. Dr. John Grim**

### **Indigenous Peoples' Cosmovisions and Spiritual Ecology**

John Grim is co-director with Mary Evelyn Tucker of the Yale Forum on Religion and Ecology. They are affiliated faculty with the Yale Center for Environmental Justice at the Yale School of the Environment. With Tucker, he organized 10 conferences on World Religions and Ecology at Harvard. They were series editors for the 10 resulting volumes from Harvard. His research area is Native American religions, and he edited *Indigenous Traditions and Ecology*. He also wrote *The Shaman: Patterns of Religious Healing*. He has authored with Tucker, *Ecology and Religion*. They co-edited the *Routledge Handbook of Religion and Ecology* with Willis Jenkins. They are editors for the series on Ecology and Justice from Orbis Books. They also edited the books of Thomas Berry, including *The Great Work* and *Selected Writings*. They published *Thomas Berry: A Biography* with Andrew Angyal. With Brian Swimme, Grim and Tucker created a multimedia project *Journey of the Universe*, which includes an Emmy Award winning film.



## **PROF. EMERITUS DATUK DR. AZIZAN BINTI BAHARUDDIN P.J.N., J.S.M**

### **Professor**


Emeritus Department of Science and Technology Studies, Faculty of Science, Universiti Malaya UKM-YSD Chair for Sustainability  
Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia


### **Advisor**

Centre for Civilisational Dialogue, Universiti Malaya

### **Fellow**

Academy of Sciences Malaysia (FASc)

	<p>Azizan Baharuddin received her BSc (Hons) in Biology from the University of Tasmania, Australia in 1978, MSc (Univ. College London) in 1979 and PhD in Philosophy of Science (Science &amp; Islam) from University of Lancaster, United Kingdom in 1989. She specialises in several areas such as environmental ethics, religion and sustainable development, Islam and science, bioethics, interfaith/intercivilisational dialogue. She has published more than 200 books, book chapters, monographs, journal articles and newspaper articles in the above-mentioned fields, including books: 1) Islam and Ecology: A Bestowed Trust (2003) co-ed, 2) Environmental Ethics in Islam (2018), 3) Harmony between Religion and Science: An Islamic Perspective (2019), and 4) Islam-Buddhist Eco Dialogue (2023) co-ed. She is active in several governmental and non-governmental organisations connected with her areas of specialisation, as well as being a member of various advisory and consultative committees for various ministries in Malaysia. Currently she is Professor Emeritus at the Department of Science &amp; Technology Studies, Faculty of Science, University of Malaya. She is also Holder of the UKM-YSD Chair for Sustainability at the National University of Malaysia and Member of the Women Interfaith Council of UNEP.</p>
	<p><b>Mr. Markus Bogner</b></p> <p>Markus Bogner is a farmer. At 800 meters above sea level, he runs a farm that, according to conventional wisdom, is far too small to make a living from. Using the principles of permaculture, he has created small closed-loop systems on his farm, demonstrating that small-scale farming can indeed be economically viable. He has proven that ecology and economy do not have to be mutually exclusive. Contrary to the mainstream teachings of a growth-dependent economic system, Bogner's farm works precisely because it is small.</p>

	<p>Over the years, Markus Bogner has learned how simple it is to apply the natural problem-solving mechanisms that nature uses every day to create highly resilient systems. These principles can be applied to all kinds of ecosystems, regardless of who or what is part of them—humans, animals, or plants.</p>
	<p><b>Prof. Dr. Werner Gamerith</b></p> <p>Werner Gamerith studied Geography and Geobotany at the Universities of Salzburg, Innsbruck, Graz and Klagenfurt (Austria). He obtained a Ph.D. with a thesis on the social geography of the ethnic minority with Slovene background in Southern Carinthia, Austria, in 1993. From 1993 to 2004, he was Assistant and Associate Professor at the University of Heidelberg (Germany) where he finished his postdoctoral thesis on the social situation of ethnic minorities in the United States with the main focus on education, educational attainment, and educational failure – primarily in the public sector. From 2004 onwards, Werner Gamerith is holding a position as a professor at the University of Passau (Germany) in Regional Geography. He was Dean of the College of Philosophy at the University of Passau and Chair of the Academic Senate from 2009 to 2011 and from 2013 to 2015 respectively. From 2020 to 2024, he has been the University's Commissioner for Sustainability, and in mid-2024 he was appointed Vice-President of the University of Passau.</p> <p>From 2014 until 2021, Werner Gamerith was President of the German Association of Geography. The remaining time that can be dedicated to research, he spends with a focus on social, cultural, and urban geography in connection to sustainability studies.</p>



## **Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. mult. Ernst Pöppel, ML, MAE**

Ernst Pöppel has studied psychology and biology and he received his PhD degree in Innsbruck (Austria). Early in his academic career he did research on diurnal rhythms in humans (the “circadian clock” ), time perception and visual processing at Max-Planck-Institute in Germany. At the MIT in Cambridge (USA) where he did research for several years he discovered a phenomenon known as “blindsight” . He got a “habilitation” for Sensory Physiology in a Medical Faculty ( “Dr. med. habil.” ), and another “habilitation” in psychology in a Faculty of Science ( “Dr. phil. habil.” ).


In 1976 he became full professor for “Medical Psychology” in the Medical Faculty of Ludwig Maximilian University (LMU), Munich, Germany. On the basis of his interdisciplinary profile he became Board Member the National Research Center Jülich (Germany); here he founded Centers for the Neurosciences, Environmental Research and Mathematical Modeling.

He founded later the “Human Science Center” at LMU, an interdisciplinary center with some 100 members worldwide. Since 2002, he has been a guest professor in the School of Psychological and Cognitive Sciences of Peking University, China. In 2009, he founded the Parmenides Centre for Art and Science and has since been its director.

From 2016 to 2023, he has been Editor-in-Chief of the *PsyCh Journal* published by the Chinese Academy of Sciences and Wiley. He has supervised more than 200 doctoral students from more than 40 countries. He has published more than 400 scientific papers and some 10 books for the general public.

He was elected to the National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina in Germany (ML). He is also member of the Academia Europaea, London, UK (MAE), the European Academy of Sciences and Arts,



	<p>Salzburg, Austria, and the Russian Academy of Education, Moscow, Russia. He received numerous awards like honorary doctoral degrees. On a personal note: Being a victim of World War II, and becoming a refugee, this became his political motto: "Scientists are Natural Ambassadors" . Scientists are the only ones who independent of external constraints (religions, history, political systems, financial opportunities, or gender and age) pursue the path to understand the world around us and the world within us.</p>
	<p><b>Prof. Dr. Peter Edwards</b></p> <p>Peter Edwards studied botany at Cambridge University, and obtained his Ph.D. degree for a thesis on Nutrient cycling in a New Guinea montane forest. Until his retirement in 2017, he was Professor of Plant Ecology, Dean of the Department of Environmental Systems Science at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich (ETH), and subsequently Director of the Singapore-ETH Centre.</p> <p>He is author of around 350 refereed scientific papers and author/editor of several books covering a wide range of ecological and environmental topics. He also has a strong interest in the application of science and technology for better management. He was a founder and first Executive Secretary of the Institute for Ecology and Environmental Management, a professional organization for environmental scientists in the UK. At ETH he was coordinator and member of the executive board of the Alliance for Global Sustainability, a research partnership between several leading universities. He currently chairs the Sustainability Research Initiative of the Swiss Academy of Natural Sciences.</p>