

Research Seminar THE THREE MONOTHEISTIC RELIGIONS of the Nordic Network project
***The Religious Roots of Europe: Dynamics in the Formation and Transformation of
Judaism, Christianity, and Islam***

Tallinn, Estonia, April 19-21, 2012, The Institute of Theology of the EELC (Pühavaimu
6, 10123, Tallinn; <http://ui.eelk.ee>).

The keywords: Positive interactions, mission, conversion, oppressive tendencies

1) The papers given by the professors were:

- * Heikki Räisänen, ***Christianity and Islam: The Mutual Intellectual Challenge.***
- * Michael Labahn ***The Book of Revelation - Christian Search for Meaning in Conflict with its Jewish Heritage and Hellenistic Roman Society.***
- * Jaakko Hämeen-Anttila, ***The Birth of Islam.***
- * Bo Holmberg, ***The early Christian - Muslim debate as a literary genre.***

* The text of the paper sent by David Thomas, ***Muslim constructions of Christianity - channels and obstacles to communication*** was read by Prof. J-H. Anttila. Prof. D. Thomas could not attend the seminar by himself but kindly sent the text which he prepared for that occasion.

2) Major presentations by the PhD students were:

- * Maria Pakkala, PhD student, ***Ezra the son of God.***
- * Anna-Liisa Tolonen, PhD student, ***Diyarat - a representation of Muslim construction of Christianity.***

3) There were several minor presentations by the PhD students:

- * Nick Marshall, PhD student, ***Defining the Theurgists.***
- * Soren Sondergaard Jensen, PhD student, ***When did the emergence of Islam take place? - The problem of periodization and the study of early Islam.***

4) The paper given by H. Räisänen provided the seminar with good and broad basis for further discussions. Both religions should be discussed historically and equally from the same starting points. After that more detailed topics were presented like those by J. Hämeen-Anttila and David Thomas, and the two advanced presentations by the PhD students (M. Pakkala and A-L. Tolonen).

All papers and presentations evoked lively discussion. The relation between early Islam from 7th to 10th century with Christianity of that time was much discussed, and the origin of Islam and its formative phases particularly in the 7th century as well. The atmosphere of the seminar was friendly and stimulating. The housing in the same building provided good opportunity for discussions at the breakfast in the morning and also in the evenings.

The convenor of the research seminar was Randar Tasmuth (the Institute of Theology of the EELC, Tallinn).