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**UNIVERSITÄT
BERN**

Theologische Fakultät

**Departement für
Christkatholische Theologie**

Call for Papers

**Indian and European Christianity in Dialogue:
Ecumenical Relations between Mar Thoma and Old Catholic Churches as a Source of
Intercultural Learning**

International Conference, 5th/6th May 2017, University of Bern

Abstract Submission Deadline: 8th March 2017

The Department of Old Catholic Theology will hold an international conference on the theme “Indian and European Christianity in Dialogue – Ecumenical Relations between Mar Thoma and Old Catholic Churches as a Source of Intercultural Learning” on the 5th and 6th May 2017 in Bern, Switzerland. The programme will include academic papers, discussions and workshops, as well as speeches and panel discussions for a wider public. A special ceremony with representatives from the Mar Thoma Syrian Church of Malabar as well as the Old Catholic Churches of the Union of Utrecht will take place on the Friday evening.

The conference is part of the process of further reflection on the theological dialogue between the Old Catholic Churches and the Mar Thoma Syrian Church. The documents of this dialogue can be found here: http://www.utrechter-union.org/page/402/the_mar_thoma_syrian_church

Topics of the conference

A. Theological Questions

1. Compatibility of ecumenical dialogues: Do different dialogues represent the same ecclesiological approach?
2. Transitivity of ecumenical relations: If A is in full communion with B, and B in full communion with C, what does this imply for the relationship between A and C?
3. Ecumenical Councils: which councils are accepted as binding, and what is their relevance for ecumenical dialogue today?
4. The contemporary global context as a theological challenge

B. Intercultural and Ecumenical Practice

5. Secularization, social context and their implications for questions of personal or social ethics.
6. Intercultural learning and receptive ecumenism
7. Pastoral challenges, diakonia and mission in the Indian and European context today

Submissions

Submissions should include:

1. Name, address and E-Mail of the submitter
2. Title of the contribution
3. An indication of the topic area(s) mentioned above in which the contribution may fall
4. Abstract (100-200 words)
5. Biographical note of the submitter

Please send your submission by 8th March 2017 to: depcktheol@theol.unibe.ch

Submitters will be informed by the 23rd of March whether their submission has been accepted or not.

Organizer

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