

Presenter: Reinhold Boschki, University of Tübingen

Title: **“Contribution of Religious Education to the Prevention of Anti-Semitism. An International Empirical Study”**

Panel: Pedagogy

This research project is situated in the European-wide discussion on historical remembrance and the challenges of Anti-Semitism. The specific emphasis of the study is on Holocaust remembrance within religious education (RE). Within this horizon, we are examining the practice of RE by analyzing how the complex topic of Holocaust remembrance and Anti-Semitism is approached and perceived by pupils and teachers in the context of this specific school subject.

The research project asks, by means of an international comparative approach, how the topic of Holocaust remembrance and Anti-Semitism is dealt with within RE in the context of secondary schools in Germany, Austria, and Switzerland. Going beyond the theoretical and mostly normative discourse, the emphasis is set on the empirical investigation of the practice of RE focusing on Anti-Semitism. This was examined in all three countries via an online questionnaire. This approach provides an overview and statistical data about various ways of teaching Holocaust remembrance and Anti-Semitism. Part of the online questionnaire is a qualitative analysis of short texts written by teachers involved, initiated by open questions. Additional interviews provide deeper insight of teachers' experiences, obstacles and achievements in class while conveying the topic of Anti-Semitism.