

Kongress 2014

Horizonte der Islamischen Theologie

Abstract – Sektion 6, Panel 4

Referent *J. Tanner Lamptey*
Thema *Muslim Theology of Religions: Religious Pluralism in Contemporary Muslim Thought*

The topic of religious diversity is certainly not new in Islamic thought. It has a long and complex history within the tradition, one that starts in the central sources themselves and continues in various genres of theological, juridical and mystical reflection. In contemporary thought, the concern to articulate an Islamic stance on the acceptability and even value of religious diversity endures, yet it has been uniquely shaped by modern contexts of interreligious interaction and by the rise of the field of theology of religions. This has resulted in contemporary perspectives that religions, methods, and models and classifications of theology of religions.

In this paper, I aim to illuminate some of the central questions, trends and trajectories in contemporary Islamic thought on religious pluralism written in English and largely for the United States and European contexts. I will begin with a brief introduction to the historical discourse, which will provide a foundation upon which to understand contemporary preoccupations. Then I will discuss theology of religions and nascent Islamic reconfigurations of a largely and originally Christian discipline. Next, I will provide a critical overview of select contemporary Islamic conceptions of religious pluralism. Finally, I will conclude by briefly discussing my own work, Muslima theology of religious pluralism, as one new trajectory in contemporary Islamic thought that offers both a critique of standard models of theology of religions as well as of contemporary Islamic conceptions of religious pluralism.