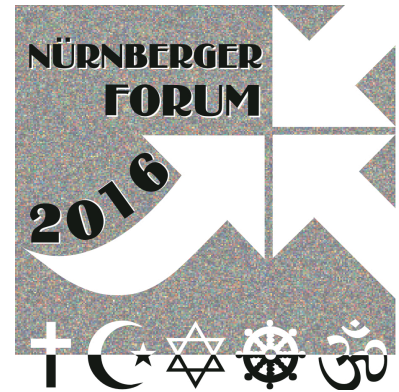


Peter Schreiner

The Comenius-Institute – Promoting Educational Discourse and Practice in the Framework of Public Theology



ABSTRACT

The initiative for founding the Comenius-Institut in 1954 as a Protestant Centre for Research and Development in Education came from teacher associations who identified the need to connect developments in educational science with a Protestant perspective of education. They shared with the Protestant churches a commitment for their own educational activities and also for churches responsibility and commitment for public education and education policy. This was a leading motif for the founding of the institute. From the very beginning projects, research and activities of counseling were organized in the framework of the following related poles and areas:

- ❖ Between education and theology
- ❖ Between theory and practice
- ❖ Between church and society
- ❖ Between religion and secularism
- ❖ Between faith and reason

Manifold research in the areas of church related education and beyond is organized by using historical, empirical and systematic methodologies.

Impulses from the institute's name giver Johann Amos Comenius includes his ideas such as:

- Everything flows by itself; Violence should be far from all things
- *Omnes – omnia - omnium*, teaching everyone everything in a comprehensive way
- School as a workshop of humanity

Today the Comenius-Institute can be characterized by three main features:

- ❖ *A Centre of Competence and Research* for developing Protestant perspectives of education in cooperation with academic partners in education, theology and social science. Main projects deal with the future of religious education in schools, inclusive education, indicator based education reports on elementary education, religious education, adult education, online based learning concepts etc.
- ❖ *A Centre of Science* with a focus on education, religious education and other disciplines with relevance for Protestant Perspectives and commitment in education. The interdisciplinary character of the institute allows contributions to different discourses in the mentioned disciplines.
- ❖ *A Centre for Resources, Services and Impulses* for general issues of Protestant education such as education, inclusive education, gender orientation, sustainable development, online based learning concepts, adult education, Europeanisation in education. The institute cooperates with regional institutes for religious education, universities and other partner organisations on a national, European and international level.