

# List of Contributors

## **Naveed Baig**

Naveed Baig is currently a PhD fellow at the Faculty of Theology, University of Oslo. He has served several years as a hospital chaplain at Rigshospitalet in Copenhagen, and has published on Islamic spiritual care, Islamic theology and Christian-Muslim dialogue in Denmark and beyond. Baig is presently conducting empirical research on Muslim patients' hospitalization with COVID-19 and how they perceive their sickness and tribulations. He teaches Islamic spiritual care at the University of Oslo.

## **Beret Bråten**

Beret Bråten holds a master in sociology and a PhD in political science from the University of Oslo. She is associate professor at the Centre for Gender Research at the University of Oslo and researcher at Fafo – a social science research foundation. She did a postdoctoral project at the Health Services Research Unit (HØKH), Akershus University Hospital, Norway on palliative care in a multicultural society. Hospital chaplaincy services were part of the postdoctoral project. Bråtens research is focused on diversity, inclusion/exclusion and gender equality.

## **Pieter Coppens**

Pieter Coppens is Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Religion and Theology, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. He lectures in the Islam-track of the Spiritual Care Master. His research focuses on the history of Qur'an interpretation and the history of Sufism. His current research project is on the origins, growth and dissemination of Salafi Qur'an interpretation since the 19th century.

## **Anne Hege Grung**

Anne Hege Grung is Professor in Interreligious Studies at the Faculty of Theology, University of Oslo.

She holds a PhD in interreligious studies. In 2019 she was pivotal in establishing the master program "Leadership, ethics and counselling" at the University of Oslo, which provides training in chaplaincy and spiritual and existential care for a religiously diverse student group.

She was the chair of the European Society for Intercultural Theology and Interreligious Studies (ESITIS) 2017–2022 and is presently member of the Steering Committee for the unit Interfaith and Interreligious Studies in the American Academy of Religion.

## **Nazila Isgandarova**

Nazila Isgandarova is Assistant Professor at Emmanuel College of Victoria University in the University of Toronto. She has a Ph.D. from the University of Toronto, a Doctor of Ministry degree in pastoral counselling, marriage and family studies from Wilfred Laurier University, and a Master of Social Work from the University of Windsor. She is a Registered Psychotherapist at the College for Registered Psychotherapists of Ontario and a Registered Social Worker at the Ontario Social Workers and Social Service Workers. Isgandarova is the recipient of the prestigious Forum for Theological Exploration research award for her study on domestic violence against Muslim women, the Canadian Association for Spiritual Care Senior Research Award and the Society for Pastoral Counselling Research Award. Her book, titled *Muslim*

*Women, Domestic Violence, and Psychotherapy: Theological and Clinical Issues*, was published by Routledge in 2018 and *Islamic Spiritual Care; Theory and Practice(s)* by Pandora Press in 2019.

#### **Bikram Lalbahadoersing**

Bikram Lalbahadoersing studied Psychology, Philosophy, and Sanskrit at the University of Groningen. For over 15 years he was chief editor of the radio programs of the Dutch national broadcasting organisation. Since 2010 he is head of Hindu chaplaincy at the Department of Justice.

#### **Stef Lauwers**

Stef Lauwers obtained a Ma in Religion and a Special Degree in Social and Cultural Anthropology at Leuven, postmasters in Chaplaincy at Tilburg and Mindfulness at Nijmegen. He is also a qualified supervisor. He worked as a chaplain in healthcare and as a Buddhist chaplain in several Dutch prisons. For five years, until August 2019, he was coordinator and lecturer of the postmaster program Buddhist Spiritual Care at Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam.

#### **Anke I. Liefbroer**

Anke I. Liefbroer is Associate Professor in Psychology of Religion and Spiritual Care at Tilburg School of Catholic Theology, Tilburg University. She obtained her PhD on 'Interfaith Spiritual Care' at the Faculty of Religion and Theology of the Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam. Before starting her PhD research, Anke I. Liefbroer obtained a MSc in Clinical Psychology at the University of Groningen and a MA in Religious Studies at the University of Amsterdam. She currently conducts research in spiritual care in palliative care.

#### **Cecilia Melder**

Cecilia Melder is Assistant Professor in Psychology of Religion at University College Stockholm. Her research focuses on Existential Public Health. She has a T.D. in Psychology of Religion at Uppsala University, Sweden. Her dissertation title is "Vilsenhetens epidemiologi -en religionspsykologisk studie i existentiell folkhälsa" ["The epidemiology of lost meaning – A study in Psychology of Religion and Existential Public Health in a Swedish context"]. Melder has specialist knowledge of existential health intervention and has created a method for intervention to support existential health and Health-related Quality of Life in general. She is now studying this intervention in different clinical settings. Melder is also a priest in the Church of Sweden since 1992.

#### **Su Yon Pak**

Su Yon Pak is Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean, Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York. Dr. Su Yon Pak holds an Ed.D from the joint program of Teachers College Columbia University and Union Theological Seminary. She has revitalized the curricular and co-curricular work of field education. She was pivotal in creating the new chaplaincy concentration at Union and is the senior advisor to the Chaplaincy Innovation Lab. Her latest publication is a co-authored and co-edited volume, *Sister in Mourning: Daughters Reflection on Care, Loss, and Meaning* (Cascade, 2021). Her research interests include: aging and spirituality, Asian/Asian American women and leadership, integrative education pedagogies, inter-religious chaplaincy education, and poetry as theological reflection.

**Carola Roloff**

Carola Roloff is Permanent Visiting Professor for Buddhism at the Academy of World Religions, University of Hamburg.

She holds a Ph.D. in Philosophy focusing on Tibetan and Buddhist Studies. From 2013 to 2018, she was part of the European Research project “Religion and Dialogue in Modern Societies.” Since 2020, she has taught Buddhist Care Practices at the University of Oslo. Current focal points include Dialogic theology and practice, intra-Buddhist dialogue, and impulses and processes of recognition of Buddhist minorities in Europe.

**Jussra Schröer**

Jussra Schröer is Research Fellow at the Centre for Islamic Theology at the University of Tübingen in Germany. She studied at Jordan University in Amman and at the Catholic University of Applied Sciences in Cologne and has a PhD in the sociology of religion from the University of Cologne.

Since 2020, she has directed the master’s programme “Islamic Practical Theology for Spiritual Care and Social Work”. Her research fields include the significance of practice research and professionalism for Islamic Practical Theology for Chaplaincy and Social Work in Germany. Other research issues include gender and religion (the role of Muslim women theologians in the development of mosque communities in Germany).

**Kosen Gregory Snyder**

Kosen Gregory Snyder is Senior Director and Assistant Professor of Buddhist Studies at Union Theological Seminary in the City of New York.

He is an ordained priest and dharma-transmitted teacher in the Soto Zen Buddhist tradition. In 2016, Snyder was the founding director of the Master of Divinity program in Buddhism and Interreligious Engagement at Union Theological Seminary where he later founded the Thích Nhất Hạnh Program for Engaged Buddhism. He co-founded and is currently the senior resident priest at the Brooklyn Zen Center in Brooklyn, NY, as well as Ancestral Heart Zen Temple, a residential training center in Millerton, NY.

**Gé Speelman**

Gé Speelman was until 2021 Assistant Professor at the Protestant Theological University in Amsterdam, now retired. She taught religious studies and intercultural theology at the PThU, and her research is mainly in the field of Christian-Muslim encounters. Speelman has published on interreligious hermeneutics, dialogue of women and religiously mixed marriages. She is presently in the board of the European Society for Intercultural Theology and Interreligious Studies (ESITIS).

