

One-year Interdisciplinary Cross-Training Project in Psychology for Theologians, Philosophers and Religious Scientists. Application deadline November 15, 2022.

The **team of instructors** is led by *Prof. Markus Quirin* (Psychology, Technical University of Munich) and *Prof. Godehard Brüntrup* (Philosophy of Mind, Munich School of Philosophy).

Participation is free of charge, successful applicants will receive a personal **stipend/scholarship** of up to 10.000 EUR (professors) or up to 5.000 EUR (others).

Location: hybrid format, online and Munich, Germany.

Brief Description of the Project:

The Cross-Training Project (CTP) is aimed at theologians, philosophers and scholars in religious studies who are working on questions of Christian theology and who want to become more competent in dealing with empirical psychological research. The program will be executed under professional supervision in small learning groups within two semesters. Individual supervision might be possible on demand and under certain circumstances. The thematic focus will be on "personality growth". Topics such as self-realization, autonomy, openness, self-determination, emotion regulation, integration, authenticity, and personality systems approaches will serve as bridges between scientific and humanistic questions. Scholars will witness and actively engage in conducting an empirical study on personality growth, which serves as a thematical anchor to acquire knowledge about psychological mechanisms and methods. We will consider to integrate individual research questions of the participating scholars within this framework. Besides shorter workshops in Munich (3 days) at the beginning and at the end, the CTP will take place mostly online. In addition to virtual sessions, there will also be educational multimedia content specifically developed for this project, which will allow for asynchronous access to an e-learning platform. Due to the hybrid format, the cross-training can therefore be provided within a manageable and flexible timeframe even for otherwise very busy applicants.

Who can apply?

The CTP invites applications from established professors and researchers in theology, philosophy and religious studies as well as junior researchers and postdocs primarily from Europe but also from overseas. Specialization will include: pastoral theology, theological anthropology, Christian ethics, practical theology, philosophical psychology, philosophy of mind, metaphysics of the human person (this list is not exclusive). Also, academically qualified (usually PhD) Christian theologians and philosophers who are active as multipliers outside academia (for example, adult education and media) are invited to apply. As an exception, advanced graduate students may be considered if their area of specialization fits the scope of the project.

The John Templeton Foundation states for this project:

"The John Templeton Foundation invites proposals aimed at giving theologians, philosophers of religion, and scholars in religious studies who work in Christian theology (broadly construed) the opportunity to cross-train in psychological sciences. The Foundation's objective is to help theologians, philosophers of religion, and scholars in religious studies better position themselves to conduct research in conversation and collaboration with scientists on topics at the intersection of Christian theology (broadly construed) and the psychological sciences."

Stipend/Scholarship:

The cross-training is free of charge for the participants. We will also cover travel, room and board for the workshops. Professors who successfully apply for the cross-training receive a scholarship of up to 10,000 Euros. All other participants receive a scholarship of up to 5,000 Euros. Receipt of the second half of this stipend is contingent upon completion of a manuscript for publication that references material from the CTP (actual publication is not required because that is not under the control of the participant).

Start: January 12, 2023 – **End:** December 16, 2023.

Format:

Our program encompasses a broad array of activities. Participants will take part and actively engage in *teaching sessions*, as well as *immersive practices*, such as *lab visits*, and *interactive expert talks*. Additionally, they will actively take part in psychological research by “immersing” into *team lab meetings*, *hands-on research activities*, *manuscript discussions*, and *colloquium presentations*. Not least, in-person *workshops* enable participating theologians and philosophers to personally connect with each other, as well as with the instructors and external speakers. Since the goal of the program is to immerse participants into psychological research, participants will engage in all stages of empirical research (i.e., theoretical conceptualization, study implementation, data inquiry, analysis and interpretation, as well as scientific writing and publishing). Instructors will provide intense, personalized support following a clearly structured training model. During these stages, participants will actively co-pilot an empirical study on personality growth, witness data analyzes, and actively take part in the scientific interpretation, presentations, and discussion of the results. In our project we will also discuss the meaning of personality growth by asking participating scholars how they as Christian theologians and philosophers would define this term in their respective Christian tradition. For example, based on Christian convictions on the role of negative and painful experiences (the dimension of the Cross) for spiritual growth, we could emphasize the effects of religious beliefs and practices on the ability to cope with adverse experiences.

Course General Information

An Immersive Research Program on Personality Growth: Psychological Cross-Training for Christian Theologians and Philosophers

2 semesters

2 hrs. online sessions (2-4 sessions per month)

9 modules

<p>Module 1 (2 sessions) Introduction To Psychology Identify Basic Concepts of Different Perspectives of Psychological Theories</p>	<p>Module 6 (1 session) Integrating a Christian Perspective on Personality Growth Contrast Concepts of Personality Growth from Christian Perspective and Psychology</p>
<p>Module 2 (2 sessions)</p>	<p>Module 7 (12 sessions)</p>

Features of Scientific Publications in Psychology Evaluate the Presentation of Scientific Research in Psychology	Introduction to Research Methods in Psychology Explore Research Methods in Psychology
Module 3 (2 sessions) Broad Topics at the Intersection of Psychology and Theology Relate Constructs of Psychology and Theology	Module 8 (2 sessions) Reflection of Methods in Psychology Formulate a Critical Reflection of Research Methods in Psychology
Module 4 (2 sessions) An Introduction to Personality Growth Acquire Psychological Constructs Related to Personality Growth	Module 9 (2 sessions) Scientific Writing and Publishing in Psychology Articulate and Communicate Scientific Findings
Module 5 (2 sessions) Personality Growth and Related Phenomena Examine Phenomena Related to Personality Growth	

Holidays: From June 1 to August 14 (6 weeks)

Languages: English (with the possibility to ask questions in German)

Course capacity: Up to 8 participating scholars

Curriculum: Elective course, no ECTS credits. A certificate of successful completion will be issued.

Immersive practices to be held during the course

- Virtual Visit to an Experimental Laboratory in Psychology (2 virtual visits, 1-hour each)
- Interactive Experts Talks (6 Expert talks, 1-hour each)
- Working in Team Labs (A monthly 1-hour lab meeting, for 9 months)
- Hands-On Research (9 months practicing different research activities)
- Attending Discussions on Manuscript Publication in Psychology (2 discussions, 1-hour each)
- Presentation of Psychological Research in Colloquia (1 presentation at final workshop)

Applicants should **send their application** in **one** PDF-file to

personality-growth@hfph.de

By November 15, 2022. The decision will be made by December 1, 2022.

The application must include:

- Brief motivation letter (indicating why you are interested in the CTP)
- Academic curriculum vitae
- All applicants who are not professors must provide sufficient proof of their academic achievements. This might include copies of transcripts with grades, diplomas, list of publications, and two names (and email addresses) of established scholars who are willing to testify on your behalf.

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