Conference Schedule

Anabaptist Roots in North American Landscapes: The Plain People Today

July 2 – 4, 2015 at Leuphana Universität Lüneburg, Germany

Thursday, July 2, 2015 (Glockenhaus in Downtown Lüneburg, Glockenstraße 9)

5:00 p.m.   Registration | Coffee & Tea

6:00 p.m.   Welcome Address by the Conference Organizers and Vice President of Leuphana University, Burkhard Funk

6:30 p.m.   Screening of Silent Light (Stellet Lijcht), a 2007 film starring Miriam Toews (with the dialogue in Plautdietsch, the language of the low-German Mennonites)

8:15 p.m.   Reception

Friday, July 3, 2015 (Glockenhaus in Downtown Lüneburg, Glockenstraße 9)

9:00 a.m.   Late Registration | Coffee & Tea

9:30 a.m.   PANEL 1 (Moderator: Micha Edlich)

- “From Plain People to Plains People: Mennonites on the Canadian Prairies”
  Martin Kuester (Philipps-Universität Marburg) and Julia Michael (Justus-Liebig-Universität Giessen)

- “Towards ‘New Memoir’: Ira Wagler’s Ex-Amish Life Narrative Growing Up Amish”
  Sabrina Voelz (Leuphana Universität Lüneburg)

11:00 a.m.  Keynote Address (Introduction: Maryann Henck)

- “North American Amish and Mennonites in the Quandary of Modernity”
  Donald B. Kraybill, Distinguished Professor and Senior Fellow
  (Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies, Elizabethtown College, PA)

12:00 p.m.  Lunch Break

13:30 p.m.  PANEL 2 (Moderator: Eoin Ryan)

- “The Amish from the 19th Century to the Present: An Economic Perspective”
  Martin Lutz (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)

- “Anabaptist Thinking in North American Life: Where it came from, where it’s been and where it might go next”
  David A. Gilland (University of Aberdeen / Leuphana Universität Lüneburg)
3:00 p.m. Coffee Break

3:30 p.m. Tour of Lüneburg (optional / tickets available at the information desk)

3:30 p.m. Teachers’ Roundtable
“Teaching Amish Life Narratives in Upper Secondary Schools”

- Moderators: Claudia Lillinger (Gymnasium Oedeme, Lüneburg) and Inga Dwenger (Leuphana Universität Lüneburg / Hansa-Gymnasium Bergedorf)

7:00 p.m. Reading with Ira Wagler, ex-Amish and bestselling author of Growing up Amish

Saturday, July 4, 2015 (Leuphana University / Scharnhorststr. 1, Building 12, Room 1)

9:00 a.m. PANEL 3 (Moderator: Anna Trebits)

- “Dinosaurs in the Garden and the Amish at the Creation Museum: Implications and Threats”
  Susan Trollinger and William Trollinger (University of Dayton, OH)

- “An American Dilemma: Preserving Amish Freedom of Religion While Managing the Market”
  Joy Kraybill (National Health Department, Washington D.C.)

- “Recreating a North American-Based Religious Separatism in a Global Context: Beachy Amish-Mennonite Communities on Three Continents”
  Cory Anderson (Ohio State University) and Jennifer Anderson (independent scholar)

10:30 a.m. Coffee Break

11:00 a.m. PANEL DISCUSSION “The Future of the Plain People” (Moderator: Maria Moss)

- Donald Kraybill, Susan Trollinger, Ira Wagler

1:00 p.m. Celebrating North American Studies at Leuphana (Leuphana, Library Grounds)
Welcome: Manfred Strack, Amerikazentrum Hamburg

1:30 p.m. BBQ with the “The Lady of Gospel, Jazz, and the Blues,” Janice Harrington