Hamburg, 27 Nov 2021

Dear Students and Colleagues,

we are looking forward to invite you to our

First **Mennonite Graduate School in Europe (MenGradEu): 28 – 30 January 2022**

The aim of a joint graduate school for Mennonite PhD candidates, Anabaptist-related and Mennonite-affiliated PhD projects is, on the one hand, to benefit from synergies that result from joint reflection on similar topics, shared interest, internationalization and interdisciplinarity—including History, Theology, Ethics, and Philosophy. On the other hand, it is about building a network to support each other in various activities—for example, publications, conferences, joint projects, funding attempts, etc.

Mennonite doctoral students from the Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland, France, and probably many other European countries—including those Mennonites from abroad who do research in Europe or are connected to an European institute—will gather to discuss, share and connect.

All those aspects you will find represented in the draft program (please see attachment).

Format/Schedule: If the pandemic situation allows, we will meet in *Mennorode* (Elspeet, The Netherlands). We are planning the program in a **hybrid format**, so that international students will get the chance to join some of our sessions via Zoom. If it will not be possible to meet in physical presence, the graduate school will take place online. In that case we will adjust the schedule. We will decide on the final format in the third week of January.

The program combines sessions to get to know and discuss our research projects with sessions to exchange ideas and thoughts on a more general basis. On Saturday morning we will have an input lecture on the topic of "Mennonite Innocence". We will start and end our days with morning and evening prayers.

On Sunday, we will worship together and have a closing meeting to evaluate and plan for the future.

Presenting your Research: To participate, **please prepare a** "**research poster"** to present your project, using for example PowerPoint or similar programs. The goal is to give an overview over your main thesis/ research questions on one page. This method is used generally in natural sciences but gets more and more popular in the humanities too. Please send a digital copy to us by **January 15th!**

Inspiration and examples on structure possibilities and technical framework you will find on several YouTube videos, for example:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AwMFhyH7_5g

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_WnhoIbfcoM

Language: we have become accustomed to use English as 'lingua franca' during our meetings, but we want to try to accommodate also those who speak other languages, as far as possible. Our goal is to be inclusive. Please indicate with your registration, if you need translation from/to English.

Accommodation/Costs:

€ 267,50 per person for the whole weekend (it is a very fine place with great food!).

Please try as much as you can to find your own funding. If participation seems to be impossible because of financial limitations, please contact Alex Noord (NL) or Fernando Enns (D) for financial support possibilities.

Registration

For our planning, it would great to hear from you by **10 January 2022**, if you plan to participate.

With your registration, please let us know

- the topic of your research project with a brief description (3-5 Sentences)
- if you would be willing to do one of the morning/evening prayers (about 15 minutes)
- whether financing your participating in the event is a challenge

Please send your registration message to

Doris.Franzbach@uni-hamburg.de and to

vera.kok@ads.nl

(cc. F.Enns@vu.nl)

Feel free to share this invitation with potential participants that you know of.

Looking forward to meet you in January,
the organizing team at Mennonite Seminary Amsterdam and Centre for Peace Church Theology, Universität Hamburg,

Julia Freund, Andrés Pacheco Lozano, Fernando Enns