

Preface

The present volume in the book series “Key Concepts in Interreligious Discourses” (KCID) presents the results of a conference on the concept of just war in Judaism, Christianity and Islam held at the Friedrich-Alexander-University Erlangen-Nuremberg (FAU). The conference, which was generously funded by the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD) and the Dr. German Schweiger Foundation at the FAU, took place in Erlangen on September 19–20, 2019. We wish to thank both institutions for their invaluable support.

The Research Unit KCID was replaced in October 2020 by the Bavarian Research Center for Interreligious Discourses (BaFID). The main aim of the Bavarian Research Center for Interreligious Discourses is the investigation of the fundamental ideas and central concepts in Judaism, Christianity and Islam in order to uncover their reciprocal connections and reveal similarities and differences between these three religions. Thus, BaFID is committed to deepening mutual understanding between religious communities by communicating research results.

The conference and book series KCID is one of the main activities of BaFID. It organizes conferences dedicated to the exploration of key concepts in Judaism, Christianity and Islam. A renowned set of researchers from various disciplines come together to study concepts from the viewpoint of each of the three religions. The results of each conference are published in a volume appearing in the above-mentioned book series. Particularly salient selections from each volume are made available online in Arabic, English and German on BaFID’s website.

In this fashion, BaFID fulfills its aspirations not only by reflecting on central religious ideas amongst a small group of academic specialists, but also by disseminating such ideas in a way appealing to the broader public. Academic research which puts itself at the service of society is vital in order to counteract powerful contemporary trends towards a form of segregation rooted in ignorance, and to strengthen mutual respect and acceptance amongst religions. Such a result is guaranteed due to the methodology deployed by the research center, namely the discursive investigation of the concepts, as documented in the present volume on the concept of just war.

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