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## Interfaith Cooperation in Medieval Times

### Webinar

9th June 2021, 4 – 5.30pm (BST), Online

### Speaker

Prof. Ulrich Berner, University of Bayreuth

Register to join: [centre@cccw.cam.ac.uk](mailto:centre@cccw.cam.ac.uk)



### *Abstract*

At first sight it seems rather unlikely that there was much interfaith cooperation in medieval times, especially with regard at the Middle East during the crusades. A second look, however, reveals that alliances and treaties across religious boundaries were quite common, at least in the field of politics, the most famous example being the treaty between Christian emperor Frederick II and Muslim emperor Al-Kamil – even becoming an inspiration for artists of the modern era. This paper will focus on the question of whether there was a theologically reflected basis for interfaith alliances and treaties that might be described as ‘cooperation’, taking up this concept from evolutionary biology. Finally, the relationship between interfaith cooperation and interreligious dialogue will be discussed, looking at examples from twelfth and thirteenth century theology, philosophy, and literature.

Ulrich Berner is Professor (emeritus) of Religious Studies at the Faculty of Cultural Studies at the University of Bayreuth. He studied Theology, Philosophy, History of Religions, and Indology. Before moving to Bayreuth, he taught at the universities of Göttingen, Hamburg, Bonn, and Bremen. He is an affiliated senior fellow at the Bayreuth International Graduate School of African Studies (BIGSAS). His research interests focus mainly on European religious history from Late Antiquity to the Renaissance and the appropriation of classical mythology and philosophy, and interreligious dialogue in medieval and early modern times.