

Conference Program

The Basel Mission in India: Social, Economic, and Religious Entanglements
with the Swiss-German World

23-25 November 2023

Mission 21, Missionstrasse 21

4009 Basel, Switzerland

Room: Alpha & My (located in the restaurant building next to the Mission House/Hotel Odelya on the first floor)

**For more information, contact:
Mukesh Kumar- mukesh.kumar@gmw.gess.ethz.ch**

Day 1 : 23 November 2023

11.00-11.30 : Introduction by Mukesh, Amal and Ella

Welcome Address: Magdalena Zimmermann, Deputy Director Mission 21.

11.30-13.00 : **Keynote speech by Felicity Jensz (University of Münster)**

13.00-14.30 : Lunch break

14.30-16.00 : **Panel 1 : Gender and the Basel Missionaries in India**

Chair: Judith Becker (Humboldt University)

Discussant: Elena Valdameri (ETH Zurich)

Parinitha Shetty (Mangalore University) : Translating Matriliney through the Interpretative Structures of Colonial/Missionary Patriarchy

Sandra Langhop (University of Oldenburg) : On Indigenous Women Becoming Christian – Reflections on the Bible women of the Basel Women's Mission in 19th/20th century India

16.00-16.30 : Coffee Break

16.30-18.00 : **Panel 2 : The Basel Mission and its Impact on Children**

Chair: Felicity Jenz (University of Münster)

Discussant: Nithin Donald (University of Lucerne)

Divya Kannan (Shiv Nadar University): Constructing 'Model' Christians: Basel Mission Orphanages in Colonial South India

Dagmar Konrad (University of Basel) : “Western Mothers, Eastern Nannies and the Children in-between”

18.00-18.30 : Presentation by **Andrea Rhyn (Archivist, Mission 21)- *(New) India records of the Basel Mission Archives - new research perspectives and possibilities***

Day 2 : 24 November 2023

09.00-10.30 : **Panel 3 : Ecology and Agriculture for the Basel Missionaries**

Chair: Amal Shahid (University of Lausanne)

Discussant: Ernest Sewordor (University of Basel)

Mukesh Kumar (ETH Zurich): Gardening the Community: The Basel Mission,

Household Economy and Vegetable Gardens in Germany and India, c.
1800-1950

Ella Müller (ETH Zurich): Rudolf Friedrich Hohenacker and Johann Friedrich Metz: A Mission Collecting Business

10.30-11.00 : Coffee Break

11.00-12.30 : **Panel 4 : The Basel Mission Industries and the Indian Economy**

Chair: Ella Müller (ETH Zurich)

Discussant: Nikolay Kamenov (CeMIS, Göttingen University)

Chinju KR (Calicut University): A Photographic Perspective on Recasting the Caste Individuals, An Exploration of Basel Mission's Industries in Malabar

Amal Shahid (University of Lausanne): The Basel Mission Weaving Establishment in Malabar: Work Discipline and Resistance

12.30-14.00 : Lunch Break

14.00-15.30 : **Panel 5 : Theology, Religion and the Basel Mission**

Chair: Mukesh Kumar (ETH Zurich)

Discussant: Bernhard Schär (University of Lausanne)

Judith Becker (Humboldt University) : Theology and Religious Practice in the Basel Mission. Interactions and Interdependencies between India, Switzerland and Germany, 1834 – c. 1860

Philippe Bornet (University of Lausanne): The Kanarese Evangelical Mission in the Interwar Years (1918-1928): A Terrain for Social, Cultural and Religious Exchanges?

15.30-16.00 : Coffee Break

16.00-18.00 : **Movie Screening by Prashant Pandit followed by general discussion**

Title: The Word and the Teacher/ Das Wort und der Lehrer

80 minutes (Kannada, English, German)

Moderator for Discussion: Parinitha Shetty (Mangalore University)

19.00 onwards: Conference Dinner

Day 3 : 25 November 2023

10.00-11.30 : **Panel 6 : The Practice of studying the Basel Mission**

Chair: Claudia Buess (in charge of public learning events and outreach, Mission 21)

Discussant: Harald Fischer-Tiné (ETH Zurich)

Jaiprakash Raghaviah (Calicut University): Social Engineering in the Praxis of Basel Mission.

Paul Jenkins (Former Archivist, Mission-21): A Lingayat Initiative, the Basel Mission in Northern Karnataka 1839-1840, and the potential for multilateral re-assessments of regional social history buried in the documentation of one Germanophone mission archive.

11.30-12.00 : Closing remarks

12.00-13.00 : Lunch Break

13.00 onwards :

City Tour (optional): by **Christian Weber and Claudia Buess (Mission 21)**

Mission and Colonialism in Basel: Various places in Basel recall the city's special mission history and its international involvement with colonialism. The guided tour makes the colonial history of the city visible and its points of contact with the Basel Mission. Which entanglements of the past continue to have an effect today?