

Study Day: Decolonial Development Cooperation?

How can church partnerships be
made fairer? (Hybrid)

27. November 2025



Tagungsort/ Venue:
Rupertistraße 67, 22609 Hamburg

Anmeldungen unter:
info@missionsakademie.de

Teilnahmebeitrag vor Ort: 25,-€

The aim of this study day is to assess current church development aid in light of decolonial approaches and perspectives from the Pacific and beyond.

Already in 2015, a memorandum by the German Protestant Church (EKD) described the development model as outdated. It exposed the shadow of both 'white charity' and human rights universalism, and drew attention to the continued domination of churches in the Global South by the partnership movement. Even today, cooperation between the Global North and the Global South is often characterised by asymmetrical power relations, paternalistic structures, and dependencies.

This one-day consultation, organised in partnership with Bread for the World and the Church Development Service, will discuss ways to achieve fairer ecumenical cooperation. The goal is to develop guidelines for church partnerships. -----

14:00 Arrival and Coffee

Main Building

14:30 Welcome and Introduction

Dr. Anton Knuth (MA) Dr. Eckhard Zemmrich (EMW)

15:00 How to overcome destructive
forms of development?

Perspectives from Pasifika.

General Secretary James Bhagwan, Pacific Conference of Churches, Fiji.

15:30 Q & A

15:45 African Initiated Christianity and the
Decolonisation of Development.

Dr. Philipp Öhlmann, Centre for Rural Development, Humboldt-Universität Berlin.

16:15 Q & A

16:30 *Overcoming contemporary challenges in development cooperation. An inside into the decoloniality process at Bread for the World.*

Valerie Vaban, Policy Advisor for Antiracism and Decoloniality Work Evangelische Werk für Diakonie und Entwicklung, Berlin

17:00 Exploring the Complexity:
Development, Money and new models
of Partnership

Fabio Banet. Project-Coordinator of Ökumenewerk der Ev.-Luth. Nordkirche, Hamburg

17:30 Plenum Discussion

18:30 Dinner

19:30 Decolonizing Development and
Religion for Good?

Perspectives from the U.S.A. (Online)
Prof. Dr. Joerg Rieger, Vanderbilt University, U.S.A

Gefördert durch:

**Brot
für die Welt**

mit Mitteln des
Kirchlichen
Entwicklungsdienstes