



The Czech Christian Academy

## Faith and Beliefs of “Nonbelievers”: Diversity of Contexts and Approaches

The contemporary religious scene changes abruptly. While, in the past, religion has always been an important source of both personal and group identity, today, in many Western countries a growing number of people quit identifying themselves with churches/faith communities, leaving the traditional religious practice and questioning the doctrines. This phenomenon has its deep cultural, political, and moral consequences not only for the church but also for the society at large. It leads, inter alia, to the attenuation of one’s cultural and personal identity in the globally multicultural world. The loss of identity results with many people in the feelings of anxiety and disorientation, making them prone to different kinds of populists, including religious fundamentalists, extremists, and fanatics. Moreover, the media, religious leaders, and public figures often exacerbate the confusion by using superficial views and simplifications.

This working session will further elaborate on topics related to the research project **Faith and Beliefs of “Nonbelievers”** supported by the **John Templeton Foundation** (ID 61385; project leader: **Prof. Dr Tomáš Halík**).

The session will focus on:

- *Belief and nonbelief in a global age*
- *Typology of “nonbelief”*
- *Methodological lessons for empirical research on “nonbelievers”*

Venue: **The Emmaus Monastery** (Vyšehradská 49, Praha 2)

Date: **Tuesday 10 March 2020, 9:00-16:00**

### **Emergency contacts:**

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+420 775 477 488 (Robert Řehák)

Luggage room on site (PLEASE CHECK OUT FROM YOUR HOTEL IN THE MORNING)



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## **Program**

9:00 – 9:15: **Welcome, introduction**  
9:15 – 9:30: **Update on the project**  
*Tomáš Halík (Czech Christian Academy/Charles University)*

### **Faith and Beliefs of “Nonbelievers” in a Global Age**

9:30 – 10:20: **Faith and Beliefs of “Nonbelievers” in a Global Age**  
*Jose Casanova (Georgetown University)*  
10:20 – 10:30: **Questions of clarification**  
10:30 – 11:00: **Coffee break**  
11:00 – 12:30: **Moderated discussion on the previous paper**  
12:30 – 13:30: **Lunch**

### **Methodologies, Contexts, and Typologies of “Nonbelief”**

13:30 – 14:30: **Methodological lessons for empirical research on “nonbelievers”:  
observations from the Netherlands**  
*Anke Liefbroer (Tilburg University)*  
*William Arfman (Tilburg University)*  
14:30 – 14:50: **Typology of “Nonbelief”**  
*Jan Jandourek (Czech Christian Academy)*  
14:50 – 15:30: **Discussion**  
15:30 – 15:45: **Coffee break**  
15:45 – 16:00: **Concluding discussion**



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### **List of participants:**

William Arfman (Tilburg University)  
Pavol Bargár (Czech Christian Academy/Charles University)  
Bartosz Bartosik (*Wież* think tank and newspaper, Poland)  
Stephen Bullivant (St Mary's University)  
José Casanova (Georgetown University)  
Tomáš Halík (Czech Christian Academy/Charles University)  
Zora Hesová (Charles University)  
Pavel Hošek (Czech Christian Academy/Charles University)  
Jan Jandourek (Czech Christian Academy)  
Jakub Jirsa (Czech Christian Academy/Charles University)  
Peter Jonkers (Tilburg University)  
Anke Liefbroer (Tilburg University)  
Juraj Majo (Comenius University)  
András Máté-Tóth (University of Szeged)  
Zdeněk R. Nešpor (Czech Academy of Sciences/Charles University)  
Zbigniew Nosowski (*Wież* think tank and newspaper, Poland)  
Robert Řehák (Czech Christian Academy)  
Tomáš Sedláček (CSOB)  
Ilona Trnková (Czech Christian Academy)  
David Václavík (University of Liberec)