



Goetheanum Leadership | Whitsun Conference

# The School of Spiritual Science and Its Sections

## **Rudolf Steiner's Spiritual Impulses for a Civilisation of the Future**

With Oliver Conradt, Ariane Eichenberg, Marion Debus, Vesna Forštnerič Lesnjak, Jan Göschel, Gerald Häfner, Christiane Haid, Stefan Hasler, Ueli Hurter, Constanza Kaliks, Karin Michael, Matthias Rang, Eduardo Rincon, Peter Selg, Nathaniel Williams

June 6–9, 2025



# The School of Spiritual Science and Its Sections

## Rudolf Steiner's Spiritual Impulses for a Civilisation of the Future

A century after the founding of the School for Spiritual Science a new step in its realization is called for. This latent call for a renewed spiritual deepening is evident in the widespread dynamics of polarization, disorientation, meaninglessness and social tensions that intensify into senseless war and violence.

Today there are twelve sections, each active around the world and dedicated to a profession or discipline. They give new impulses for research, professional development and educational programs through innovative collaborations and exchange.

At Whitsun in 2025, which marks the centenary of Rudolf Steiner's death, we will take a fresh look at his inspirations given for the sections and professional fields against the backdrop of contemporary challenges and dilemmas. How can we develop the work in the sections in alignment with Michael, the spirit of the age? How can our efforts prove fruitful in these challenging times and how are the accomplishments of the sections and professional fields working back into the very substance of anthroposophy? Can we penetrate the specific and individual methods of the various disciplines at work in our community and arrive at a higher understanding of reality? The image of the Whitsun community of disciples can serve as an

ideal image for the conference. Even though they spoke different languages, the common task that hovered before them led to a mutual understanding. One hundred years after the death of Rudolf Steiner we will seek for an analogous, future-oriented understanding of the School and its sections.

### **Three questions will be the foundation for our meetings and exchanges:**

1. What are the central inspirations which Rudolf Steiner articulated for each section?
2. What method, knowledge practices and understanding does each section contribute to the School of Spiritual Science?
3. What is the contribution that each section offers the future of civilization?

This conference is intended for everyone who is interested in anthroposophy and the sections of the School of Spiritual Science. The conference will include opportunities to participate in professional working groups dedicated to research and development questions in the various fields and disciplines.

We look forward to the coming meetings and exchanges with you,

For the Goetheanum Leadership  
*Marion Debus, Christiane Haid,  
Karin Michael, Matthias Rang,  
Nathaniel Williams*

# Programme

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## FRIDAY, 6 JUNE 2025

### 17.00 Artistic prelude

Rudolf Steiner's impulse to found the School of Spiritual Science and its future mission  
Peter Selg

### 18.30 Evening break

### 20.00 How do We Create a Science of Life and a New Medicine of the Etheric in the age of Genome Editing Technology and Digital Biology?

Natural Science Section  
Medical Section

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## SATURDAY, 7 JUNE 2025

### 9.00 Artistic prelude

Education and Therapeutic Education – the Conditions for a Learning Life and Living Learning

Pedagogical Section  
Section for Inclusive Social Development

### 10.30 Coffee break

### 11.00 Specialised colloquia for the individual sections

### 12.15 Lunch

### 15.00 The Michael Imagination as a Whitsun Event

Section for the Performing Arts  
General Anthroposophical Section

### 16.30 Break

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### 17.00 Adolescence and Spiritual Aspects of Screen Culture

Voice Cloning – Language between Human Beings and Machines

Youth Section  
Section of the Literary Arts and Humanities

### 18.30 Dinner

### 20.00 Eurythmy performance

Goetheanum Eurythmy Ensemble

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## SUNDAY, 8 JUNE 2025

### 9.00 Artistic prelude

The Forces of Transformation in Agriculture and Art in the Light of the Whitsun Event

Visual Arts Section  
Section for Agriculture

### 10.30 Coffee break

### 11.00 Specialised colloquia for the individual sections

### 12.15 Lunch

### 15.00 Comets and Their Processes

Section for Mathematics and Astronomy

On the Meaning of the Anthroposophical Social Initiative for Contemporary Questions on Economics and Society

Section for Social Science

### 16.30 Break

### 17.00 Plenary session

### 18.30 Dinner

20.00 Summary of the contributions and perspectives from the specialist colloquia – moderated plenary session

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## MONDAY, 9 JUNE 2025

### 9.00 Artistic Introduction

Combining examples of esoteric deepening, research and practical work in specific areas of life (Goetheanum leadership and employees)

### 10.30 Coffee Break

### 11.00 Artistic Introduction

Combining examples of esoteric deepening, research and practical work in specific areas of life (Goetheanum leadership and employees)

### 12.00 Summary of the conference

Artistic conclusion

### 12.45 End of the conference

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## SPECIALISED COLLOQUIA FOR THE INDIVIDUAL SECTIONS:

1. General Anthro-  
posophical Section
2. Youth Section
3. Section for Mathematics  
and Astronomy
4. Natural Science Section
5. Section for Agriculture
6. Section for the  
Performing Arts
7. Visual Arts Section
8. Section of the Literary  
Arts and Humanities
9. Section for Social Science
10. Pedagogical Section
11. Section for Inclusive  
Social Development
12. Medical Section

# Biographies

## Oliver Conradt

Born 1970 in Dornach, Switzerland, attended Rudolf Steiner School in Basel, studied at the University of Basel and in the Youth Section at the Goetheanum, doctorate on the topic of *space and counterspace in mathematical physics*, mathematics lecturer at the *Fachhochschule beider Basel*, taught for four years as a high school teacher in Hamburg, from summer 2005 head of the Section for Mathematics and Astronomy at the Goetheanum. Seminars and lectures on astronomy, mathematics and general anthroposophy.

## Dr med Marion Debus

Studied medicine, further training in internal medicine at Klinik Öschelbronn, Princess of Wales Hospital in Bridgend (GB) and Havelhöhe Community Hospital in Berlin. Specialist training in haematology/oncology at Robert-Bosch-Krankenhaus in Stuttgart, 2005-2017 consultant physician in the Department of Oncology at Havelhöhe Community Hospital in Berlin. 2017-2023 Head of the Oncology Department at Klinik Arlesheim, CH. Joint head of the Medical Section since September 2023.

## Vesna Forštnerič Lesjak

Pharmacist and farmer. Joint leader of the Natural Science Section, starting 2023. Individual guidance of students studying Goethean botany. Various research projects on Goethean plant knowledge for pharmacy and medicine. Since 2013 production company for

food supplements and cosmetics, foundation and management of the Association for Further Education in Natural Sciences *Sapientia* and the Section for Anthroposophical Pharmacy and Medicine in Slovenia. 2019 took on the ecological family farm and Demeter certification.

## Dr Jan Göschel

Is a long-standing member of the Camphill community at Beaver Run near Philadelphia, USA, where he lives when he is not in Dornach or traveling. In addition to his Section responsibilities, he is president of the Camphill Academy, an association of supportive education and social therapy training centers in the USA and Canada. Before shifting his work primarily to training, he was a high school teacher at The Camphill School. Born and raised in Germany, he spent one year as a volunteer at Camphill Village Minnesota, before studying psychology and Waldorf education in Edinburgh. He later qualified as a special education teacher in the US and completed a Ph.D. at the University of Cologne, with a dissertation on child study in anthroposophic curative education.

## Gerald Häfner

Head of the Section of Social Sciences at the Goetheanum since June 2016. A former Waldorf teacher and journalist, Gerald Häfner founded numerous initiatives and foundations, including, for example, *More Democracy* and *Democracy International*. He co-founded the German political party *Alliance 90/The Greens* and was there State Party Leader and business director. Between 1987 and

2002, he was a member of the German Federal Parliament and, from 2009 to 2014, a member of the European Parliament.

## Dr Phil Christiane Haid

Studied education, German literature, history and art in Freiburg and Hamburg. Doctorate: *Mythos, Traum und Imagination. Die kleinen Mythen Albert Steffens*. 2009–2019 head of publishing at *Verlag am Goetheanum*, from 2019 programme management. Since 2012 head of the Section for the Literary Arts and Humanities and since 2020 head of the Visual Arts Section. Joint head of the Art Study year at the Goetheanum.

## Prof Stefan Hasler

Studied music in Basel, Stuttgart, Pescara, Budapest, conducting in London, eurythmy in The Hague and Hamburg. Teaching and lecturing in Hamburg. Professor of eurythmy at Alanus University, near Bonn, Germany, since 2003. Head of the Section for the Performing Arts since 2015. Collaboration in the Goetheanum Eurythmy Ensemble. Member of the Goetheanum Executive Council board since 2024.

## Ueli Hurter

Joint leader of the Section for Agriculture from 2010 and, since 2020 on the Executive Council of the General Anthroposophical Society. Biodynamic farmer on the *Ferme-Fromagerie de L'Aubier* and member of the *L'Aubier* management team until 2020.

## Dr Phil Constanza Kaliks

Born in Chile, grew up and lived

# Biographies

mostly in Brazil. Completed her studies of mathematics in São Paulo; mathematics teacher at the Escola Rudolf Steiner in São Paulo for 19 years. Taught in the Waldorf Teacher training. Completed a Ph.D. in Education with a thesis on Nicolaus of Cusa. Member of the board of the Goetheanum since 2015. Joint leader of the Pedagogical Section and the General Anthroposophical Section at the Goetheanum.

## **Dr med Karin Michael**

Specialist in paediatrics and medicine for adolescents. From 2008 to 2023 senior paediatrician at Herdecke Community Hospital; from 2014 to 2021 school doctor at the Rudolf Steiner School in Bochum-Langendreer. From 2015 co-author of the medical-educational guide *Kindersprechstunde*. In 2021 founded the *Von Tessin Centre for Health and Education* together with Tomáš Zdražil, Freie University Stuttgart. Since September 2023 Head of the Medical Section at the Goetheanum.

## **Dr Matthias Rang**

Studied physics and physics in education in Freiburg and Berlin. Degree dissertation on contrast mechanisms of scattered light near-field microscopy without optical resolution limit at the Max Born Institute for Nonlinear Optics and Short Pulse Spectroscopy in Berlin. Visiting researcher in near-field spectroscopy at the University of Washington, Seattle, USA. In 2015, Ph.D. with Johannes Grebe-Ellis at the Bergische Universität Wuppertal,

on a phenomenological approach to complementary spectra. From 2007 a member of the scientific faculty of the Research Institute at the Goetheanum.

## **Eduardo Rincón**

Joint leader of the Section for Agriculture since August 2024. Acquired a B.Sc. in biology and completed a master's degree in Phenomenology applied to Art and Science. Worked for several years in Veracruz, in the Gulf of Mexico, researching tropical plant ecology and lived for almost a decade farming in a high desert in the central region of the country. Founding board member of the Biodynamic Association of Mexico, *Impulso Biotinámico de México AC*. Served as founding president of the association *Impulso Biotinámico de México* from 2018 to 2023. National representative for the founding of the *Biodynamic Federation Demeter International (BFDI)*.

## **Prof Dr med Peter Selg**

Study of medicine at the University of Witten/Herdecke, in Berlin and Zurich. Doctoral thesis: «Attempt to systematize Rudolf Steiner's human physiological ideas. An analysis of the entire lectures and written work» (Witten/Herdecke 1995). From 1993 to 2000 further training as a specialist in child and adolescent psychiatry and psychotherapy. Senior physician in the psychiatric department for adolescents and young adults at the Herdecke Community Hospital. From 2000 to 2002 research associate at the Institute for Applied Epistemology and Medical Methodology

(Freiburg). 2002-2006 Head physician at the Ita Wegman Clinic Arlesheim (adolescent psychiatry and psychotherapy); from 2006 established and managed the Ita Wegman Institute for Basic Anthroposophical Research. Since 2007 professor for medical anthropology and ethics at the Alanus University of Arts and Social Sciences; teaching in the *studium fundamentele* and in the accompanying studies in anthroposophical medicine at the University of Witten-Herdecke. Since 2020, member of the Leadership of the General Anthroposophical Section of the School of Spiritual Science at the Goetheanum.

## **Pieter van der Ree**

Studied architecture at the Technical University in Delft (NL). Since 1990 self-employed architect in the field of ecological building and organic design. Publications on the interaction between man and architecture, organic building - organic architecture (2000); 2003 curator of the travelling exhibition on organic architecture, man and nature as inspiration for building. 2005-2020 Holder of the Chair of Organic Architecture at Alanus University near Bonn, Germany.

## **Dr Nathaniel Williams**

Co-founder of Free Columbia with Laura Sutudied visual art and marionette theatre in Basel, Switzerland, graduating with a certificate in visual art from the neueKUNSTschule in 2002. Awarded a Ph.D. in Political Theory from the University of Albany. Head of the Youth Section since January 2023.



## Ticket Prices

- Ticket prices include Lunch on 7 & 8 June and refreshments on 7, 8 and 9 June
- Supper on 6, 7 & 8 June is optional It can be booked for CHF 84 as an addition to the conference ticket

Sponsorship Price	CHF 600
Conference Price	CHF 290
Reduced	CHF 200
Students	CHF 100

## Registration

Please register online:

[https://goetheanum.ch/en/events/whitsun\\_2025](https://goetheanum.ch/en/events/whitsun_2025)

### Section of the Literary Arts and Humanities

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### Goetheanum

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