

Report on the meeting NTR 2016

On the 3rd and 4th of June, 2016 the anniversary of the network "New Testament at the Ruhr" took place at the Catholic university-congregation of Dortmund (Katholische Hochschulgemeinde Dortmund), under the direction of Prof. Dr. Reinhard von Bendemann (Bochum), Prof. Dr. Beate Kowalski (Dortmund) and Prof. Dr. Markus Tiwald (Essen). Prof. Dr. Susan Docherty from Newman University, who was a member of the ERASMUS cooperation program with the Institute for Catholic Theology at the Technical University of Dortmund, was an honorary guest.

The more than 50 participants, from academic as well as pastoral backgrounds, and from a total of 11 nations (Austria, Switzerland, Netherlands, Belgium, UK, Argentina, Poland, Romania, Greece, USA, Germany), from the areas of Jewish, New Testament and Patristic studies, discussed diverse aspects of the topic, which was based on seven lectures. The diversity of the various disciplines, which is an enrichment for interdisciplinary dialogue, was made clear. Among the concrete questions were the conceptualization ("When is someone a migrant?") and basic factors of migration, as well as theological interpretations. Particularly interesting was the question concerning the link between migration and mission, which brought about a lively discussion. The eschatological and ethical dimensions of the question were also examined.

In the course of our meeting, the ecclesiastical, social and political relevance of the different areas of New Testament scholarship and related disciplines became clear; theology is an important interlocutor in issues relating to migration problems, also in our society today. The "New Testament on the Ruhr" Research Association is contributing to this by taking up current topics of particular relevance to the Ruhr region in particular. Particularly pleasing was the participation of pastors.

The next meeting of the network will take place on 26/27 May 2017 at the same place. The subject will be further deepened with the inclusion of subjects such as sociology, intercultural theology, the Old and the New Testament.



The speakers of the conference (from left to right): Prof. Dr. Dagmar Börner-Klein (Düsseldorf), Prof. Dr. Reinhard von Bendemann (Bochum), Prof. Dr. Hermut Löhr (Münster), Prof. Dr. Jürgen Zangenberg (Leiden), Dr. Garrick Allen (Wuppertal), Prof. Dr. Susan Docherty (Birmingham), Prof. Dr. Markus Tiwald (Essen), Prof. Dr. Adrian Wypadlo (Münster), Prof. Dr. Peter Wick (Bochum) – absent: Dr. Rita Müller Fieberg (St. Augustin)

