

Research seminar to celebrate 200 years of Quaker Presence in Norway

– Religious Freedom as seen from a Minority Perspective

Wednesday 3rd to Friday 5th of September 2014

**Freedom of belief – intellectual freedom – freedom of conscience:
Quakers as a part of the democracy discourse through 200 years,
1814 – 2014**



University of Stavanger and Tysvær Cultural Centre, Aksdal.

The University of Stavanger is offering an international research seminar on *Freedom of belief – intellectual freedom – freedom of conscience: Quakers as a part of the democracy discourse through 200 years*. The seminar is a cooperative venture between the University of Stavanger, the Municipality of Tysvær, The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Norway, and Quaker Postgraduate Study Centre, Birmingham.

The year 2014 is also the 200 years anniversary of the Norwegian Constitution of 1814, and the seminar will examine the development of religious freedom from the time of the Constitution of 1814. Quakers and the Society of Friends fought a long battle – gradually joined by other religious and life stance societies – for the freedom of belief and for equal rights.

Important steps along the way were the Dissenter Acts of 1845 and 1891, the abolition of the constitutional ban on Jews in 1851, the issue of Conscientious Objection in 1902 and 1922, the annulment of the paragraph denying access to Jesuits in 1956, the positive confirmation of full freedom of religious faith and practise in paragraph 2 of the Constitution in 1964, the loosening of the bonds between church and school from 1915 onwards, via the acts on religious communities and primary schools of 1969, up to Norwegian Public Report No. 1 2013: *Life Stance Plurality in Society, Towards a comprehensive policy on faith and life stances*. An important part of this development has been the discussion on equal treatment of all faith communities.

It will be important to review the role of The Norwegian Church in the discourse on democracy and religious freedom, historically as well as in our own time. One of the goals of the seminar is to see freedom of religion from a minority perspective and in relation to equal rights for all faiths, and to take a fresh look at religious freedom by analysing the various factors which were parts of the discourse at different times through this history. The desire for religious freedom will be examined in light of the tension between its contribution to, or possible threat to, the development of the new nation.

The overall goal of the seminar is to achieve a deeper analysis and gain more knowledge about this part of Norwegian history in order to provide better understanding of the complex relationship between freedom of religion, freedom of ideas and conscience, and equality between the various faith groups and life stance communities. It is natural to take a fresh look at these themes in the context of the Constitutional Celebrations, but also to see them in a wider context in relation to the situation between different faiths in Norway as well as internationally at the present time.

The Seminar will commence at the University of Stavanger, then move on to Tysvær Cultural Centre. In addition to the seminar papers there will be a public lecture: «Religious Freedom today – status, dilemmas, and challenges». Quakers were in a strong position in the Rogaland area, and excursions to Quaker memorial places in Stavanger and Tysvær are included in the programme. Most papers will be given in English. The seminar is open to anyone interested.

Dates and Times:

Opening 3rd September at 11 am; 4th September at 9 am; Closing 5th September at 2 pm.

Locations:

University of Stavanger and Tysvær Cultural Centre, Aksdal.

Organisers:

University of Stavanger in cooperation with Centre for Postgraduate Quaker Studies / University of Birmingham, England, The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Norway, and the Municipality of Tysvær.

Programme:

Wednesday September 3rd: At the University of Stavanger

11.00-12.30: Opening and Key-note lecture: professor **Pink Dandelion**, Centre for Postgraduate Quaker Studies, Woodbrooke and University of Birmingham: *“Quakers and ‘the world’: religious freedom and citizenship”*

12.30-13.30: Lunch

The sequence of the presentations is not yet decided.

13.30-15.00: Session 1

13.30 – 14.15 PAPER 1

14.15 – 15.00 PAPER 2

15.00-15.30: Coffee-break

15.30-16.45: Session 2

15.30 – 16.15 PAPER 3

16.15 – 17.00 PAPER 4

17.15: Bus tour of Quaker sites in Stavanger followed by

Departure for Tysvær

Simple evening meal at Tysvær kulturhus

Thursday September 4th: At Tysvær kulturhus

09.00-10.30: Session 3

09.00 – 09.45 PAPER 5

09.45 – 10.30 PAPER 6

10.30-11.00: Coffee break

11.00-12.30: Session 4

11.00 – 11.45 PAPER 7

11.45 – 12.30 PAPER 8

12.30-13.30: Lunch

13.30-15.00 Session 5

13.30 - 14.15 PAPER 9

14.15 – 15.00 PAPER 10

15.15-17.30: Visit to Quaker sites in Tysvær, including the Meeting House and grave yard.

17.30-18.00: Coffee break

18.00-19.30: Public lecture (In Norwegian): Professor Head of Institute **Ingunn Folkestad Breistein**, Universitetet i Agder.

“Religious freedom today – status, dilemmas and challenges.”

“Religionsfrihet i dag – status, dilemmaer og utfordringer.”

20.00: Conference dinner at Tysvær kulturhus

Friday September 5th: At Tysvær kulturhus.

09.00-10.30: Session 6

09.00 – 09.45 PAPER 11

09.45 – 10.30 PAPER 12

10.30-11.00: Coffee break

11.00-12.45: Panel session

12.45-13.00: Closing of seminar

13.00: Lunch

Departure after lunch

Key-note lectures and Papers:

Key-note lecture – At University of Stavanger Wednesday 3rd of September

11.00-12.30: Professor **Pink Dandelion**, University of Birmingham:

“Quakers and ‘the world’: religious freedom and citizenship”

Pink Dandelion is a professor of Quaker studies at the University of Birmingham, where he directs the work of the Centre for Postgraduate Quaker Studies, Woodbrooke and the University of Birmingham.

Key-note lecture – Open to the public, Tysvær kulturhus Thursday 4th of September 18.00-19.30: Professor **Ingunn Folkestad Breistein**, University of Agder.

“Religionsfrihet i dag – status, dilemmaer og utfordringer.” (“Religious freedom today – status, dilemmas and challenges.”)

The lecture is will be given in Norwegian.

Papers

Most of the papers will be given in English and are supposed to last for 25-30 minutes, after which 15-20 minutes will be open for comments and questions. The sequence of the presentations is not yet decided.

Roald Berg, professor, University of Stavanger:

“The Lutheran control in Norwegian Politics 1814-1956.”

“Luthersk kontroll over norsk politikk 1814-1956.”

Geir Skeie, professor, University of Stavanger:

“Religious education, minorities and the politics / policy of the national state.”

“Religionsundervisning, minoriteter og nasjonalstatens politikk.”

Berit Eide Johnsen, professor, University of Agder:

“The role of Norwegian prisoners of war during The Napoleonic wars in nation building in Norway after their repatriation. The ideas and professional skills they brought to Norway.”

“Prisonfangenes rolle i nasjonsbyggingen i Norge. Hvilke ideer og profesjonelle ferdigheter brakte de til Norge?”

Richard Allen, reader University of South Wales, UK: *“The Peace Society and Joseph Tregelles Price (1784-1854).”*

Richard C. Allen is Reader in Early Modern Cultural History at the University of South Wales. He has published widely on Quakerism, migration and identity.

Erin A. Bell, senior lecturer, University of Lincoln, UK:

"Supporting Norwegian Friends in their struggle for religious freedom. Correspondence between English and Norwegian Quakers."

Erin Bell is currently undertaking British Academy-funded research into the earliest Quakers in Norway and their links to North-east England.

Hans-Jørgen Wallin Weihe, professor, Lillehammer University College

"The importance of the Quaker Society for social work ethics and the development of the welfare state."

"Viktigheten av Kvekersamfunnet for etikken bak sosialt arbeid og for utviklingen av velferdsstaten."

Svein Ivar Langhelle, associated professor, University of Stavanger

"The conception of religious freedom in the consultative statements concerning the Dissenter Act of 1845."

"Synet på religionsfrihet med bakgrunn i høringsuttalelsene til Dissenterloven av 1845."

Hans Eirik Aarek, retired assistant professor, University of Stavanger.

"The Norwegian authorities' methods / measures of restricting the Quaker influence and types of punishment when laws and rules / decrees were transgressed."

"Norske myndigheters metoder / tiltak for å begrense kveker-innflytelsen og typer av straff ved overtredelse av lover og forordninger."

Ola Tjørhom, professor dr. phil.

«19th Century Catholicism and Religious Freedom - in a Norwegian and International Perspective».

"Katolisismen på 1800-tallet og religionsfrihet – i et norsk og internasjonalt perspektiv."

Marie Smith-Solbakken, Head of Department of Cultural Studies and Languages, University of Stavanger.

"The Norwegian Constitution and the Jews in the context of nation building, economic and political sovereignty and religious homogeneity."

"Grunnloven og jødene sett i sammenheng med nasjonsbygging, økonomisk og politisk suverenitet og religiøs homogenitet."

Invited student paper:

Marion Strachan, PhD Student at Centre for Post Graduate Quaker studies, University of Birmingham: *"Quaker participation in rebuilding Finnmark after World War II"*.

Student paper:

Penelope Cummins, PhD student at Centre for Post Graduate Quaker studies, University of Birmingham.

"The moral right of a citizen to refuse to go to war. Norwegian Quakers, conscientious objection, and the influence of their example."

The seminar receives financial support from the Research Council of Norway, the County Municipality of Rogaland, the Municipality of Tysvær and, the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Norway. It is included in the official programme for the 200th anniversary of the Norwegian Constitution.

Practical information about the seminar.

Time: Wednesday 3rd until Friday 5th September 2014. See also programme above.

Conference fee kr 1 500, *Conference dinner Thursday* kr 500.

Accommodation: (two nights for 3rd and 4th of September)*

Conference hotel: Scandic hotell in Haugesund, kr 1050 *per night for a single room including breakfast*, kr 1250 for a *double room including breakfast*.

More reasonable alternative:

Stemnestaden/Norhotell, Aksdal

Kr 440/370 per bed per night including breakfast.

Simple, good standard. All rooms have bath/toilet. Single rooms available.

The lowest priced rooms have two-storied bunk beds. (køysenger)

For information and registration contact Hans Eirik Aarek:

hans.e.aarek@uis.no telephone (+47) 920 86083

Please make contact for registration as soon as possible and latest by 1st of August.

* If hotel accommodation in Stavanger is needed, Hotel Clarion for the night of September 2nd is recommended. Negotiated rate kr. 1 395.

de Norske Regjering
for Kirke- og Undervisnings-Departementet.

11te Mai 1826 har det naadigst behaget Hans Majestæt Kongen at ref
savel Lovrættens Elias Eliassen Tastad med Familie, som de erlige For
ger, der ere angivne i deres Ansøgning af 22de April 1825, som henbr
det, nemlig: Iver Halvorsen Kroon, Thomas Trulsen Hille, Even G
Andersen Regnerød, Elias Nielsen Elovig, Thormund Olsen Elett
Lindnerne Rette Trulsdatter, Hille, Guri Dalsdatter, Malene Ambjærn
mansdatter, indtil videre na
at de forpligte sig til, il
Stavanger og drab nærm
at anmelde for Registrat
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velige Felge i Overtrædelse
igt forundte Dispensation,
et er og fremdeles bliver
bergete.



Endvidere har det under 2den Jun
At den naadigste Resolution af 11te Mai 1826 nærmere bestem
medte Resolution omhandlede Lovrættens forpligte sig til, ikke uden frede
branstytte til et andet Sted i Riget end Stavanger Bne og den Deel o
under Stavanger Sognekald, nemlig True-Sogn og Ranneberg Anner
Disse heile Resolutioner skulle Departementet ikke unblade tj
ning og Behændtgjørelse i Deres Provstie, for at det kan paafør, a
udgive sig for at høre til Lovrættens, erkjendes som Lovrætt, end t
i først anførte Resolution ere anførte, og at ingen af disse saaledes
Opholdssted udenfor det dem anviste District, eller i anden Præf
Kongelige naadigste Resolutioner.

Christiania, den 19de September 1828.

D i n i f B.