

Master programme in Religion in Peace and Conflict alumni association newsletter 1

We have started a alumni association for the Master Programme in Religion in Peace and conflict. The alumni association is open to all former and current students of the master's degree program in Religion in Peace and Conflict. The association aims to promote contact between students and to forge links between current and former students. It also provides a means for alumni to maintain contact with the programme and other alumni.

You sign up here: <http://www.teol.uu.se/admissions/rpc/alumni/>

Letter from our leaving programme co-ordinator Nils Billing

Hello,

I am Associate Professor in the History of Religions and a lecturer at the Faculty of Theology, Uppsala University. My involvement in the program goes back about five years, the last three of which I have also functioned as program co-ordinator. When I am now about to leave over the baton to my colleague Håkan Bengtsson, I look back on a very stimulating period during which the program as a team, students and staff, together have managed to improve the various courses and their composition within the program. My main personal engagement has been within the fields of theory and method, courses in which we have trained to apply different theoretical and methodological approaches connected with the study religiously grounded engagement, as well as looked into the ethical aspects involved in this kind of research. It will be very stimulating to follow the further steps the program will take in the time to come, not least by getting involved in the Alumni network, where old and new friends meet!



Programme co-ordinator Nils Billing (leaving) (left).
New Programme co-ordinator Håkan Bengtsson (right)

Our alumni - what do they do today.



Tomas Poletti Lundström

What do I do today? I am employed at the Department of Theology since the fall of 2016 as a doctoral student in the history of religions. In my project I investigate how religion is negotiated within the Swedish radical nationalist landscape. Because of my focus, I am also a part of the newly started Centre for Multidisciplinary Studies on Racism. As part of my doctoral studies, I occasionally teach at the institution and contribute to the research seminars in the history of religions.

In what way has the programme helped you in your future life/career? The focus of methodology and theory of the programme has been a great help for me when I applied. It is still of course crucial in my work. Another important aspect of the programme is that it allows close contact with several researchers at the Department of Theology, which for me has been essential since my doctoral studies started.

Something else you wish to add? Apply for doctoral studies at the Department of Theology! The broad competence represented within the RPC alumni is definitely something that is needed within the research community. If you would like to discuss ideas on doctoral studies, do not hesitate to contact me. I can help you get in contact with the right person, or speak more on my own path towards the PhD.



Rafal Jennek

What I do today? I am now doing postgraduate studies in teaching foreign languages (Spanish, German, French, Italian) at the University of Cambridge (I will graduate in June), I won a full scholarship from the British Council for that.

In the summer, I will be teaching English, and Business Management and Economics at Reach Cambridge - a company which prepares students to study at top universities. I won a scholarship to study for a PhD in Management at IE Business School in Madrid, which I will start in September.

The programme at Uppsala was nice and I really enjoyed the week of studying on campus, both the campus and the city are beautiful. The photo is from UN General Assembly in New York, where I spoke about sustainability and the future of electric cars, in July 2017, when I was finishing the MA in Uppsala.

Jana Jakob

What do you do today? I work for the Government Agency for Support to Faith Communities (Myndigheten för stöd till trossamfund) as project coordinator.

In what way has the programme helped you in your future life/career? The programme encouraged my activism and engagement. It allowed me to adapt my studies very much to the issues I already was interested in and working with. Through the programme's flexibility I could easily combine my studies with other projects. In the end I think it is often not only studying, but at the same time being engaged beyond University, which helps you get the job you want. This programme certainly gives you good possibilities to do both.

Please, contact me if you wish to.



Anna De Temple (Stadler)

After finishing the Master program I started working as a diakoniassistent (Deacon's assistant) for the Church of Sweden. The main focus of my employment is local integration work. I meet people in all kinds of different situations. Most of them have experienced unimaginable suffering, having to flee from war and oppression in their home countries. An integral part of my work is to listen, support, and be an empathic fellow human being.

The Master program in Religion in Peace and Conflict has been a great inspiration for my further carrier. It has given me the tools to turn my words into actions, to express myself and argue for my personal visions. It has also given me a more comprehensive understanding of social activism, religion, and ethics. On a personal level both the program and all of the other committed students have inspired me to never give up fighting for a better world!