

## Preface

For the first time the Conference Proceedings of the *International Academy of Practical Theology* are being published in Open Access. For this purpose the new series *International Academy of Practical Theology. Conference Series* (IAPT.CS) was founded after the conference, which took place in Oslo, 20–24 April 2017. The contents and results of the conference are documented in this series and we are happy to present the first issue.

In the IAPT.CS we will also document the scientific work of the biannual meetings of the IAPT. We are thankful and proud that we have succeeded in presenting the contents of academic research for a general and international readership free of charge and in the public domain, and also available independently from local resources, including access to libraries or by purchasing the books. In this way the Open Access strategy implements the explicit wish of the members of the Academy to make the results of research accessible and to increase the visibility of the *International Academy of Practical Theology* as an organization and communication platform for mutual academic exchange and international discourse in Practical Theology.

This has been made possible through the meritorious support of the Tuebingen University Library (Germany) within the framework of the Specialised Information Services (Fachinformationsdienste) for Theology and Religious Studies, funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG). The Tuebingen University Library owns a repository of data and provides the Open Access infrastructure (Open Journal Systems) according to established standards for long-term access to publications and the exchange of metadata with national and international servers and library registries. Specifically, we want to thank Axel Braun and Martin Faßnacht, who supported this project in terms of both technical and library-oriented aspects.

On behalf of the Executive Committee of the IAPT, Birgit Weyel (Tuebingen) was responsible for the website. Without the unfailing and competent assistance of Johannes van Oorschot and Manuel Stetter (both Tuebingen) the development of the website would not have materialised. We are very thankful for their contribution to our good work.

The logo of the IAPT.CS was designed by the company *grafik.design.werbung. Bernd Rudek* (Balingen/Germany). The typesetting was done by Francesco Punzo, from the company *typoscript GmbH* (Waldorfhäslach/Germany). We appreciate his extraordinary professional and precise work very much.

Open Access Publishing means publishing without a publisher. The Executive Committee of the IAPT consequently deliberated upon the question of reviewing and made the decision to establish a double peer-review system that will guarantee the quality of the publication in terms relevance to the conference topic, coherence of the volume, fair representation of the society as well as originality, scientific reliability and academic standards. We are convinced that it is the academic community which has to negotiate the criteria of academic standards and to review the results of research in a cooperative, helpful communication process. The Open Journal System provides an excellent framework for that.

Last but not least, we would like to thank the editors of this first issue for their openness and work with regard to the challenges of publishing this first volume in OA.

On behalf of the Executive Committee of the International Academy of Practical Theology

Trygve Wyller (President)  
Birgit Weyel (Member at large)



