



Protestant and Anglican Network for life-long learning in Europe EAAE

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invitation

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Majorities, Minorities. Adult religious education in liminal spaces

Study-tour 2013 in Spain, 12 – 15 June 2013

The idea:

Being a minority is being in a special situation. You have to make a choice about the borders: crossing them, avoiding them or working *between* them, in that kind of “no man’s land”. And boundaries intertwine with each other, your own boundaries and alien. The idea of our Study Tour is: living in such a peripheral area can give us special opportunities. The Spanish Evangelical Church will show some border crossing in her educational work.

In order to understand the context where “Taller Teológico” develops its work, we have coined the term and the concept of “liminality”, in the sense of “living between or inside the borders”. We find two types of «liminality» intersecting at once: to be Protestant in a country of Catholic majority, and to cross church borders, generating spaces open to free and personal interpretation and not church-like articulated.

They are spaces on the margins, where our own and alien boundaries intertwine with others, shaping more stable, personal and defined areas, such as the Church, the Academia or our own sociological or cultural contexts. By moving in that kind of spaces, we affirm our desire to leave our own circle.

We believe that the various training experiences, as expressed around the Spanish Evangelical Church (I.E.E.), create learning spaces that exceed a purely intellectual transfer. Born at the corners of the periphery, they search for mutual connections, explicitly stating our ecumenical vocation.

In June 2013, the “Taller Teológico”, the Theological Workshop (a section of SEUT Theological Faculty), together with the Presbytery of Madrid of the I.E.E., will be your hosts, presenting our experiences of training and generating ideas as the key-point where cross-overs connect majorities and minorities.

We warmly invite all of you to participate in and explore some of our activities, encouraging you to share your views and provide us with your ideas and suggestions.

Program:

Wednesday June 12th

Arrival and welcome

17:00h. General Assembly of the EAEE

19:30h. Introduction to journey and participants

21:00h. Dinner

21:30h. Informal evening

Thursday June 13th

08:30h. Prayer

09:00h. Breakfast

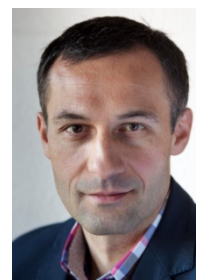
09:30h. Exchanging of ideas (1)

10:00h. First Session: The Theological Workshop



1. “Liminal spaces”: character and contextuality. In order to understand the context where “Taller Teológico” develops its work, we have coined the term and the concept of “liminality”, in the sense of “living between or inside the borders”. We find two types of «liminality» intersecting at once: to be Protestant in a country of Catholic majority, and to cross church borders, generating spaces open to free and personal interpretation and not church-like articulated. Mireia Vidal works as learning coordinator and responsible for the promotion of “Taller Teológico”, and she teaches at SEUT Theological Faculty.

2. Transversal attitudes in liminal spaces. The characteristic feature of “liminal spaces” becomes a special pedagogic attitude in religious educators. What might be the influences of learning spaces 1) in view of the interaction between educator and learner, and 2) with reference to the relation between the spaces and the educators? Rainer Sörgel is also professor at SEUT Theological Faculty, and he is the general coordinator of “Taller Teológico”.





3. Generative dynamics in “liminal spaces”. Learning spaces do not draw on the concept of “liminality”, so our challenge is to generate those spaces and specific methods in which we may expose intentionally some learning stimuli, in diversified co-educational processes. Our two main specific methods are the Learning groups at churches, and the Short workshops. Gerson Amat is general editor for “Taller Teológico” and the agent in Valencia.

12:00h. Break (coffee)

12:30h. Second Session: The Spanish Evangelical Church (I.E.E.).

What is the relevance of training in the history of the Spanish Protestant Church? What is her present model of adult training, theological training? This presentation is an exploration of the testimony of our church in our society and the challenges for our church today, with some critical points linked to our identity, confessional aspects and community development criteria. As for the participation, integration and a horizontal understanding of our society model, we will see where the dignity of each individual and his conscience is important. Alfredo Abad is a pastor, General Secretary of the National Council of the I.E.E., and Secretary of “Fundación Federico Fliedner”.



14:00h. Lunch

15:00h. Break (“siesta”)

16:00h. Third Session: Three simultaneous workshops on adult training in churches:

1. *Federico Fliedner Foundation and its educational itinerary: the liminal experience in a Protestant institution.* A brief description of the social, educational and cultural world carried out by the “Obra Fliedner” (1870-1969), in Spanish society. Antonia Manzaneque is the person responsible for the Fliedner Archives, and in “El Porvenir” School for the School Library and Webmaster.



2. *Learning experiences in local churches as engaging world narratives.* The testimonies (narratives) of faith at the level of daily experiences support communities to overcome the “liminal” spaces. Christian education seeks to empower communities of faith in order to proclaim the kingdom of God, engaged with the world. Israel Flores is pastor of the I.E.E. in Granada and collaborates as professor of Practical Theology at SEUT Theological Faculty.



3. *Learning and spirituality in liminal spaces within the Roman Catholic Church.* How to think about adult learning within the core of a controlling church, but engaging from liminal minority spaces? The interaction between majority-minority, between central church and liminal space, can lead us to generate prophetic and transforming spirituality. Montserrat Escribano teaches Catholic Religion and Morality in a high school and collaborates as guest professor at the Theological Faculty of “San Vicente Ferrer”.



17:30h. Break (tea)

18:00h. Sharing on the workshops

20:00h. Free time

21:00h. Dinner

21:30h. Informal evening

Friday June 14th

08:00h. Breakfast: "Chocolate con churros"

09:00h. Travel to Madrid (by bus). **Exchanging of ideas**

10:00h. At "El Porvenir Protestant School". **Fourth session: Diakonia and adult training.** Due to its historical development, the Foundation F. Fliedner ended up focusing its service on the educational field. How can we link diaconal action to holistic education in diakonia, bringing together users (mostly students), administrative staff and educators? In other words, how to think of diakonia as a vital learning process? Pedro Zamora is an ordained pastor, and he is the theological director of "Fundación Federico Fliedner", and teaches OT at SEUT Theological Faculty and at the "Universidad Pontificia Comillas".



11:15h. Break (coffee)

11:45h. Work of reception of the 4th Session

13:00h. Visiting the Fliedner Foundation

13:20h. Walking to restaurant

14:00h. Lunch in Madrid

15:00h. Visiting Madrid (Alternative routes)

17:00h. Travel to Mostoles (by bus)

17:30h. Fifth Session: Worship and liturgy as a place of learning.



Church circles are symbolic spaces that define creative (liminal) boundaries. Contradictorily, these areas have become 'non-places' to many. The challenge for our churches today is to restore these areas and turn them into learning spaces, communicative and creative. We will analyze a model of bicultural church detecting their efforts, difficulties and achievements when converting the ecclesial space into a practiced one. Alma Hernández is currently completing her studies in Theology at SEUT

Theological Faculty, and she is in charge of the Area of Worship and Liturgy of the Iglesia Evangélica Española.

19:30h. Back to El Escorial (by bus)

20:00h. Free time

21:00h. Dinner

21:30h. Informal evening

Saturday June 15th

09:00h. Breakfast

09:30h. Evaluation and projection

11:30h. Break (coffee)

12:00h. Worship

13:00h. Free time

14:00h. Lunch, farewell and departure

Place to stay:

Congregación Sagrados Corazones Casa E. San José

Avda. Reyes Católicos 12, 28280 El Escorial (Madrid)

(5 min. from the Railway Station RENFE from Madrid/Airport, 2 min. from the central Bus Station, 10 min. from the monumental Monasterio de El Escorial)

Fee for the Study-tour 13 – 16 June:

€ 360 p. p

Sharing a room: the price will be a little bit cheaper.

Please pay € 330 p.p. After the Study Tour we can tell you the real price.

Longer stay: as Casa San José is not a hotel but a residence for activities open for bigger groups, only a small number of people can stay one more night after the Study Tour because there is another group. 4 or 5 people can stay in a kind of Youth Hostel nearby from Saturday to Sunday.

In the case you prefer a longer stay or arriving earlier we advise you to book a hotel in Madrid. It easier for traveling too: Casa San José is one hour by light rail to Madrid.

(Personal note:

two months ago we have had a very good stay in Best Western Hotel Los Condes, Calle Libreros 7, Madrid, very well situated for the center and with a metro station at 100 m! Rien Wattel)