



Goetheanum

# Soul Courage and Self Transformation at the Threshold

7<sup>th</sup> Conference for a Culture at the Threshold | December 6<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019

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## **Soul Courage and Self Transformation at the Threshold**

This conference is dedicated to the thresholds of birth and death. Here the transition from the spiritual world to the earthly world takes place, and the transition from the earthly world to the spiritual world. - The soul is the mediator between spirit and body, it is the one who receives the newly born human being on earth, and it is the one who has to prepare itself for the new crossing of the threshold at the end of life.

In our time, both thresholds are becoming more and more exposed to the interference of consciousness and controlled by different technologies. Yet we all experience that in experiencing both of these thresholds, far more than external processes occur: expectation, admiration, joy almost always shape the environment at the birth of a child; insecurity, fear and pain often determine the mood in the face of death.

In our daily falling asleep and waking up, we experience an image of these two thresholds; they allow us to practice making the transition from the spiritual to the earthly and from the earthly to the spiritual worlds more conscious.

It therefore appears to be an important task in our time, to discover and cultivate the soul mood that does justice to a dignified crossing of the two thresholds. The conference intends to be focus on experiencing this content in contributions, working groups and discussions.

The image shows three handwritten signatures in blue ink. From left to right, they read: "Joan Sleigh", "Matthias Girke", and "Johannes Kühl".

**Joan Sleigh**

Executive Council at the Goetheanum  
Contact person of the General  
Anthroposophical Section  
at the Goetheanum

**Matthias Girke**

Executive Council at the Goetheanum  
Leadership of the Medical Section of the  
School of Spiritual Science at the  
Goetheanum

**Johannes Kühl**

Leadership of the Natural Science Section  
of the School of Spiritual Science at the  
Goetheanum

## **Friday, December 6, 2019**

- 4:45 p.m.      **Conference opening and welcome, Joan Sleigh**  
**Motherhood: Guardian or Protector? Lecture by Joan Sleigh**  
**The Threshold of Birth - Today. Experiences of a gynaecologist and obstetrician for many years, Lecture by Dr. med. Angela Kuck**  
6:00 p.m.      SUPPER BREAK  
8:00 p.m.      **Eurythmy Performance, Goetheanum-Eurythmy-Ensemble**

## **Saturday, December 7, 2019**

- 9:00 a.m.      **Eurythmy Performance, Goetheanum-Eurythmy-Ensemble**  
9:15 a.m.      **The Threshold of Sleep, Lecture by Dr. med. Matthias Girke**  
**The Night – Supernatural Space, Lecture by Johannes Kühl**  
10:30 a.m.      COFFEE BREAK  
11:00 a.m.      **Deepening of the Conference Theme in Working Groups and Artistic Groups**  
12:30 p.m.      LUNCH BREAK  
3:00 p.m.      **Deepening of the Conference Theme in Working Groups and Artistic Groups**  
4:15 p.m.      COFFEE BREAK  
4:45 p.m.      **Accompaniment in the Consciousness of Life after Death**  
*Lecture by Mechtilde Oltmann-Wendenburg*  
**Fear and Courage at the Threshold, Lecture by Richard Goodall**  
6:00 p.m.      SUPPER BREAK  
7:00 p.m.      **Das Wohltemperierte Klavier Band 2, Johann Sebastian Bach**  
*Concert as part of the Bach Festival with Hristo Kazakov*

## **Sunday, December 8, 2019**

- 9.00 a.m.      **Eurythmy Performance, Goetheanum-Eurythmy-Ensemble**  
9.15 a.m.      **The Threshold in Interpersonal Encounter, Lecture by Georg Soldner**  
**Trauma as a Threshold Situation, Lecture by Melanie Reveriego**  
10.30 a.m.      COFFEE BREAK  
11.00 a.m.      **Die Kunst der Fuge, Johann Sebastian Bach**  
*Concert as part of the Bach Festival with Hristo Kazakov*  
ca. 12.30 p.m.      CONFERENCE CONCLUSION

## Lecturers

### **Dr. med. Matthias Girke**

Doctor for Internal Medicine at the Hospital Havelhöhe in Berlin. Executive Council of the General Anthroposophical Society at the Goetheanum and Leader of the Medical Section of the School of Spiritual Science at the Goetheanum in Dornach, Switzerland

### **Richard Goodall**

Reverend of the Christian Community in Cape Town, South Africa

### **Dr. med. Angela Kuck**

Specialist in gynaecology and obstetrics, gynaecological obstetrician in Richterswil and Zurich, Switzerland

### **Johannes Kühl**

Leader of the Natural Science Section of the School of Spiritual Science at the Goetheanum in Dornach, Switzerland

### **Mechtild Oltmann-Wendenburg**

Reverend, emerita, of the Christian Community, Berlin, Germany

### **Melanie Reveriego**

Board Member and School Principal at the Parzival Centre in Karlsruhe, Germany

### **Joan Sleigh**

Executive Council of the General Anthroposophical Society at the Goetheanum and contact person of the General Anthroposophical Section at the Goetheanum in Dornach, Switzerland

### **Georg Soldner**

Paediatrician and Co-Leader of the Medical Section of the School of Spiritual Science at the Goetheanum in Dornach, Switzerland

## Working Groups – Deepening in Conversation

1. **The special destiny of souls that have died early. The gift of souls that have died early for their spiritual tasks. Reflections on Rudolf Steiner's indications to the polarity of short and long life on earth. DE**

*Franz Ackermann, Former Head of a retirement and nursing home in the Canton of Zurich, Switzerland*

2. **Sleep and sleeping disorders. How do we promote the healing powers of sleep? DE**

*Dr. med. Matthias Girke*

3. **The parting of life as preparation for life after death. DE**

*Rolf Heine, Nurse, Filderstadt, Germany*

4. **The joys and struggles of entering and leaving earthly life. EN**

*Richard Goodall, Reverend of the Christian Community in Cape Town, South Africa*

5. **How can personal strategies and habits of old age be transformed and where does**

**the courage for the own unpredictable future come from? Biography work as valuable companion on the way to oneself. DE**

*Anke-Marie Jacobs*, eurythmy therapist and biographer in her own practice, Dornach, Switzerland; lecturer in adult education

6. **Unbornness - the secrets of birth. Exchange and discussion about experiences at the threshold of birth with a gynecologist and pediatrician. DE**

*Dr. med. Angela Kuck; Georg Soldner*

7. **Fear and reverence at the threshold. DE**

*Mechtild Oltmann-Wendenburg*

8. **Education at the threshold. DE**

*Melanie Reveriego*, Board Member and School Principal at the Parzival Centre in Karlsruhe, Germany; *Bernd Ruf*, Board Member, School Principal and Head of the Outpatient Clinic for Emergency Pedagogy at the Parzival Centre Karlsruhe, Germany; Managing Director of the "Friends of Waldorf Education" with a focus on volunteer services and emergency education

9. **Motherhood: Guardian or protector? EN**

*Joan Sleigh*

10. **The future rests on the past. How can we accompany the young child appropriately to enable a successful integration of the soul-spirit into the physical body? DE**

*Franziska Spalinger*, Kindergarten teacher at the Rudolf Steiner School Zurich, Switzerland; adult educator and lecturer at the Academy for Anthroposophical Pedagogy, Dornach, Switzerland

11. **Courage to die and fear to become. Why is it important to seek courage in dying and fear in becoming? How can one practice dying and welcome fear as an energy into ones life? Recognize these qualities in your own biography. EN**

*Anne de Wild*, Naturopath TEN, Biography Work, Basel, Switzerland and *Christopher Burke*, Ph.D., Professor of Psychology at Lehigh University, Pennsylvania, USA, Biography Work

## Artistic Groups

12. **Eurythmy. Threshold movement. DE, EN, IT**

*Gia van Akker*, eurythmist and teacher, The Hague, Netherlands

13. **Experiencing incarnation of the soul through movement. DE**

*Barbara Bäumler*, eurythmist, Arlesheim, Switzerland

14. **Eurythmy to the conference theme. DE**

*Ute Medebach*, eurythmist, Dornach, Switzerland

15. **From yonder sounds a call to me.** Speech and conversation: We will deal artistically with the two thresholds based on poems about birth and death. **DE**

*Agnes Zehnter*, Lecturer for Speech Design and Language Pedagogy at the Anthroposophical Academy for Therapy & Art in Dornach, Switzerland

Visible life becomes intelligible to him through the invisible causes. The essential facts of life, health and illness, death and birth, unveil themselves before his sight. He observes how before his birth he wove the causes which led him back into life. Henceforth he knows the being within himself who has been imperfectly developed in this visible world and can be brought to final fulfilment only in this same visible world. For in no other world is there any opportunity for working at the development of this being. Furthermore he realises that death cannot sever him for ever from this world.

*In: Rudolf Steiner: How is Knowledge of the Higher Worlds attained? GA 10*

We are offering child care  
throughout the conference  
(Please apply on the registration form).

Goetheanum Reception

P.O. Box

CH-4143 Dornach

Phone. +41 61 706 44 44

Fax +41 61 706 44 46

[tickets@goetheanum.ch](mailto:tickets@goetheanum.ch)

[www.goetheanum.org](http://www.goetheanum.org)

# Booking Form

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Soul Courage and Self Transformation at the Threshold

7th Conference for a Culture at the Threshold

Conference of the General Anthroposophical Section at the Goetheanum

from Friday, 6 to Sunday, 8 December 2019

Application requested prior to: Friday, 22 November 2019

Please complete the booking form and mail, fax or email to:

Goetheanum Empfang, Postfach, CH-4143 Dornach

Fax + 41 61 706 4446, Tel. + 41 61 706 4444 email [tickets@goetheanum.org](mailto:tickets@goetheanum.org)

Please fill out in block capitals!

Ms       Mr

Name, first name

Billing address       private address       address of institution

if so, name of institution

Street, n°

\_\_\_\_\_

Town

\_\_\_\_\_

Postcode

\_\_\_\_\_

Country

\_\_\_\_\_

Phone/fax

\_\_\_\_\_

Email

\_\_\_\_\_

I need translation into       English

I need child care       Yes, i need child care for (age and number of children): \_\_\_\_\_

Conference ticket without meals

CHF 250 (with sponsorship<sup>1</sup>)     CHF 150 (regular price)     CHF 100 (concessions<sup>2</sup>)

Meals (1x lunch, 2x evening meal)       CHF 75

Breakfast (2x)       CHF 30

Food intolerance       Gluten       Lactose

Work Groups (Conversation or Artistic Groups) 1<sup>st</sup> choice, n° \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> choice<sup>3</sup>, n° \_\_\_\_\_ 3<sup>rd</sup> choice<sup>3</sup>, n° \_\_\_\_\_

Parking at the Goetheanum       Parking permit: CHF 14

Insurance

Cancellation insurance (5% of the total costs, CHF 10 minimum)

See cancellation conditions in the General Information

Payment methods

on invoice (only Switzerland and Euro zone)

Credit card (all countries)       Visa       MasterCard

Card number: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry date: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

I agree to the terms of payment and cancellation.

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Place, date, signature

<sup>1</sup> Should you be in a position to pay an additional amount, this would help to cover the costs of the conference and support the work of the section.

<sup>2</sup> Concessions apply for students, schoolchildren, OAPs, the unemployed, those in training, military or civil service and people with disabilities who receive benefits. Proof of status has to be submitted with your booking form.

<sup>3</sup> When registering, your first choice is no longer open, is cancelled or will be cancelled, your second and third choice will be taken into account. If your first, second or third choice is full, we will try to contact you. Please look for updated information at the start of the conference.

Terms and Conditions will be sent on request or can be accessed online at <https://www.goetheanum.org/en/events/informations/>. The Biannual events magazine (Pdf-Download) can be found also there.

# General Information

Soul Courage and Self Transformation at the Threshold

7th Conference for a Culture at the Threshold

Conference of the General Anthroposophical Section at the Goetheanum

from Friday, 6 to Sunday, 8 December 2019

Application requested prior to: Friday, 22 November 2019

Conference fees: with sponsorship <sup>1</sup> :	CHF 250	with meals: CHF 325
regular price:	CHF 150	with meals: CHF 225
concessions <sup>2</sup> :	CHF 100	with meals: CHF 175

## Conference meals

Conference meals (vegetarian with dessert) include 1x lunch and 2x evening meal at CHF 75 in total and they can not be booked separately. Breakfast (2x) can be booked separately at CHF 30. Lactose-free and gluten-free dishes can be provided. We regret that any other food intolerances cannot be catered for.

## Parking permit

For the period of the conference: CHF 14 (not right next to the Goetheanum building).

If you have a disability, please display your disability badge in your car.

## Methods of payment/confirmation

On receipt of a group application, the respective institution will receive the account for the group. Subsequent bookings can only be applied for and paid on an individual basis.

*Credit cards (all countries):* The full amount will be charged to your credit card as soon as your booking has been processed. You will receive postal or email confirmation of your booking and payment.

*Invoice Switzerland:* Confirmation of booking and an invoice will be sent to you once your booking has been processed. Please note that we only send out invoices up until 10 days before the beginning of an event. After that, payment is only possible by credit card or on arrival.

*Invoice Eurozone:* Confirmation of booking and an invoice will be sent to you once your booking has been processed (Euro account). Please note that we only send out invoices up until 14 days before the beginning of an event. After that, payment is only possible by credit card or on arrival.

*Other countries:* Once your booking has been processed you will receive a confirmation by post or email. The amount due will either be charged to your credit card or you can pay on arrival. Bank transfers are not possible.

Please note that the conference fee must be paid before the conference starts.

**Conference tickets:** Tickets can be collected at the Reception until half an hour before the conference starts, also if you pay on arrival. We accept cash (Euro and CHF), VISA, MasterCard, ec-direct and Postcard-Schweiz.

**Cancellation:** Bookings may be cancelled free of charge up to 14 days prior to the beginning of the conference (22.11.2019, date of posting). After that, 50% of the conference fee will be charged. Meals, breakfast and parking permit may be cancelled free of charge up to 1 day prior to the begin of the conference (5.12.2019). Cancellation on the day when the conference begins or failure to attend are subject to a 100% invoice total. Substitutes will be accepted at no extra cost.

**Cancellation insurance:** Subject to a payment of 5% of total costs (CHF 10 minimum) full cancellation insurance can be taken out to cover illness (including dependent children and partner), job loss and force majeure. Terms of insurance can be downloaded at: <https://www.goetheanum.org/en/events/informations/>

**Data processing:** All data will be electronically recorded and filed and not passed on to any third party.

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## Goetheanum Guest Houses and Accommodation

Haus Friedwart from CHF 75, about 5 min. walk to the Goetheanum

phone +41 61 706 42 82, [www.friedwart.ch](http://www.friedwart.ch)

Begegnungszentrum from CHF 30, about 10 min. walk to the Goetheanum

phone +41 61 706 42 82, [friedwart@goetheanum.ch](mailto:friedwart@goetheanum.ch)

Accommodation bureau rooms from CHF 55

[kontakt@rooms-dornach.ch](mailto:kontakt@rooms-dornach.ch); [www.rooms-dornach.ch](http://www.rooms-dornach.ch)

Prices are per person per night. Prices for accommodation cannot be guaranteed.

You can find further accommodations on our website: [www.goetheanum.org/4283.html](http://www.goetheanum.org/4283.html)