

Pascal Hämmerli

Currently visiting scholar at Fordham University and St. Vladimir's Seminary
Swiss governmental scholarship

Orthodox since August 14th 2008

Married, two children, Swiss citizen

Born 19th April 1978

Educational background

Since 2008	PhD in dogmatic theology in progress, at the Catholic Theological Department of the University of Fribourg, Switzerland, under the supervision of Dr. Barbara Hallensleben, Prof. of Dogmatic Theology
October 2010	Paper presentation (plenary session), at the annual conference of the Swiss French speaking Doctoral School of Theology: <i>A Creation theology perspective on the "Crucifix case" (Lautsi vs. Italy at the European Court of Human Right – ECHR)</i>
2009 – 2010	Active participation to several conferences of the above-mentioned doctoral school: particularly in a series of conferences on <i>"Truth, freedom and modernity"</i> in ethical and systematic theology with two formal interventions (in plenary sessions): <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation of my PhD work through the case of the Athonite Abaton and its legal stakes• Answer to and debate with John Milbank in the final conference of the series
2006 – 2009	Attending international conferences of ecumenical theology (Bose, Italy 2006 and 2007) and orthodox theology (Amiens, France 2009)
2006 – 2009	Courses and seminars at the Catholic Theology Department of the University of Fribourg, Switzerland
1998 – 2004	<p>"Licence en théologie protestante" (equivalent of a Master of Theology – Th.M.), at the Protestant Theological Department of the University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland. (Graduation passed with the best possible distinction and an average of 5,7 on a maximum of 6.)</p> <p>Master thesis: <i>"The vocation of University. A theological perspective on the intellectual vocation of the human being"</i></p> <p>During my "Licence en théologie":</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 semester of French Literature (University of Neuchâtel) and Philosophy (University of Geneva)• 1 full academic year (2000 – 2001) as visiting student at the Princeton Theological Seminary (New Jersey, USA)• 1 semester as visiting student (2003) at the Protestant Theological Department of the University of Zurich
1994 – 1998	Science Baccalaureate at the Cantonal " <i>Lycée</i> " (= High school) of Neuchâtel (distinction for writing skills in French language)

Professional experience

- Since Sept. 2006** Student group leader for the *University Biblical Groups* in French speaking Switzerland: in charge of a project of interdisciplinary dialogue led with Bachelor, Master and PhD students of several French speaking universities in Switzerland, focused on the relation between theology and other academic fields (law, literature, history, etc.)
- Creation of an ecumenical group of students in Fribourg
- Since 2002** English teacher at the “Université populaire neuchâteloise” (evening adult classes). I developed a series of courses (from beginners to the preparation for Cambridge First Certificate).
- Occasional philosophy and Christian culture courses at the “Université populaire neuchâteloise”
- 2006 – 2008** Part time youth worker in a reformed parish, close to Neuchâtel, belonging to the “Eglise réformée évangélique du canton de Neuchâtel” (the traditional protestant church in Switzerland)
- 2002 – 2005** 2 (short) professional commitments in “l’Eglise réformée évangélique du canton de Neuchâtel” (catechism and visits of elderly people)
- 2 internships as military chaplain in the Swiss Army

Personal experiences

- From 1994 to 2008 I participated to 27 religious youth sport camps as organizer or (11 times) as camp leader.
- Since 1998, soldier in the Swiss Army (the service is compulsory for men). After completing a 4 months of training as topographer for the artillery in 1998 I served as postman, musician and administrative worker (there is a 2-3 weeks obligatory period of military service each year, until the age of 34). At the present moment I am a military journalist.
- 2001 – 2006: active member of *InterNos*, an intercultural association, which organized encounters and activities with migrants in Neuchâtel
- In 2003 – 2004, together with two friends, we founded the first Orthodox parish in Neuchâtel (I was still protestant at that time).
- In 2005 I made a 7 months pilgrimage on foot from Neuchâtel to Istanbul. I walked across whole Italy and Greece (including a stay at Mount Athos). On my return I gave a series of conferences in various contexts (academic, radio, TV, church, etc.) I also published a series of articles in a protestant monthly and edited a collection of texts.
- I gave series of sermons, courses and conferences in the field of theology. I quote two recent conferences in ecumenical contexts in 2009: *The ecumenical meaning of the ecclesiology of John Calvin – An orthodox perspective* (Neuchâtel, week of unity of Christians, main conference); *Holiness in Saint Paul’s epistles* (at the cathedral of Besançon, France).
- 5 years as student delegate in the Board of the Theological Department of the University of Neuchâtel
- 1 year as deputy of the Theological Department in the Synod of the “Eglise réformée évangélique du canton de Neuchâtel”; 1 year as deputy from my parish of that time to the same Synod
- Close relationship with the Orthodox Center of Chambésy (Geneva), where is the parish we attend with my family

- Very good knowledge of the orthodox life and parishes in Switzerland, derived from a three-year sociological research on Orthodox people integration in Swiss society, conducted by my wife (2007-2010)
- Many contacts with orthodox monasteries (and parishes) in Central Greece, Mount Athos, Romania and Israel

Language skills

French	mother tongue
English	very good knowledge
Italian	good knowledge
German	good knowledge
Romanian	basic knowledge
Modern Greek	basic knowledge
Ancient languages	Latin, Greek and Hebrew

Computer skills

- Current McIntosh user
- Ease on Microsoft Office
- Experience of searching electronic databases

Personal interests

- Writing (essays, short stories, etc.)
- Music: piano (classic and jazz) and clarinet (Klezmer: Jewish/Balkan traditional music)
- Travelling

References

- Dr. Barbara Hallensleben, my PhD supervisor, Prof. of Dogmatic Theology at the Catholic Theological Department of the University of Fribourg, Switzerland. Phone: 0041 26 300 74 10, barbara.hallensleben@unifr.ch

She is a member of the *Ecumenical Institute in Fribourg*, first female member of the *Catholic International Commission of Theology*, consultant of the *Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity*, observer at the *European Bishop's Conference* in the commission *Churches in Dialogue* of the *Conference of European Churches* and former Dean of the Theological Faculty of Fribourg.

- Dr. Martin Leiner, Prof. of Systematic and Ethical Theology at the University of Jena, Germany. Former Dean of the Faculty. Phone: 0049 3641 941145, Martin.Leiner@uni-jena.de