



SMU PERKINS
SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

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**SMU'S PERKINS SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY HOSTS ACADEMIC SYMPOSIUM
ON RELIGION AND EMPIRE: POLITICS, FAITH
AND THE FUTURE OF GLOBALIZATION**

Dallas, Texas – Dr. Ulrich Duchrow, professor of Systematic Theology at Germany's University of Heidelberg, will join scholars from SMU and from throughout the southwest for Perkins School of Theology's **Religion and Empire: Politics, Faith and the Future of Globalization**, on **Thursday, October 4** on the Southern Methodist University campus. The program, which will include an evening lecture and afternoon symposium, is free and open to the public.

Duchrow, co-founder of Kairos Europa, an ecumenical grassroots network that works on issues of economic justice, will speak on "Faith Communities and Empire: Global Hope and Western Challenge" at 7 p.m. in Perkins Chapel, 6001 Bishop Boulevard. Responding to his lecture will be scholars from SMU, Baylor University, Brite Divinity School, Phillips Theological Seminary, Princeton Theological Seminary and Texas Christian University. Joerg Rieger, professor of Systematic Theology at SMU's Perkins School of Theology, will moderate the session.

Duchrow and Rieger also will be among a group of 10 scholars who will present an academic symposium on Religion and Empire from 4 to 6 p.m. in the parlor of Kirby Hall, 5915 Bishop Boulevard, on the SMU Perkins campus. Other scholars participating include

Marc Ellis, University Professor of American and Jewish Studies at Baylor University; W. Anne Joh, assistant professor of Theology at Phillips Theological Seminary; Namsoon Kang, associate professor of World Christianity and Religions at Brite Divinity School; Evelyn Parker, associate professor of Christian Education at Perkins; Abraham Smith, Professor of New Testament at Perkins; Mark Lewis Taylor, Maxwell M. Upson Professor of Theology and Culture at Princeton Theological Seminary; Hjamil Martinez Vasquez, assistant professor of Religion at Texas Christian University, and Sze Kar Wan, Professor of New Testament at Perkins.

“Religion does not easily escape the massive concentrations of power which we identify with empire,” explains Rieger, the organizer of the Religion and Empire event and author of the recently published *Christ and Empire: From Paul to Postcolonial Times*. “This being the case, we hope to explore how empire extends its control into religion, while examining what theological surplus exists that can resist this control and provide alternatives to empire’s globalizing effects.”

Duchrow began his scholarly career in 1955 and has been at Heidelberg since 1963. He specializes in ecumenical theology and theology-economy issues and has served as an adviser to the World Council of Churches. Among his many books and publications in English is *Property for People, Not for Profit: Alternatives to the Global Tyranny of Capital*, which has been translated in both Spanish and Chinese.

Perkins School of Theology is one of five University-related official schools of theology of The United Methodist Church. The school was founded in 1911 by the Methodist Episcopal Church South, now The United Methodist Church. Degree programs include the Master of Church Ministries, Master of Divinity, Master of Sacred Music, Master of Theological Studies, and Doctor of Ministry degree, as well as the Ph.D. in cooperation with SMU’s Dedman College of Humanities and Sciences.