



Rev. Dr Martin Robra

Curriculum Vitae

Rev Dr Martin ROBRA, (Evangelical Church of Westphalia, Germany), a theologian and ordained pastor, is programme staff of the World Council of Churches for Ecumenical Continuing Formation, Roman Catholic Relations, the joint inter-faith project with the International Labour Organisation *Advancing Peace through social justice* and support to the Associate General Secretaries concerning *the pilgrimage of justice and peace*.

Before, he served as Programme Director, *The WCC and the Ecumenical movement in the 21st Century* programme, and for a couple of years also as Director, *Unity and Mission*, of the World Council of Churches. He joined the Council as Executive Secretary for Ecology, economy and sustainable society in 1995 and served as Programme Executive on Ethics and Ecology.

He was a co-founder of *globethics.net* (Geneva) and the *Institute for Inter-religious and Inter-cultural Research* (Liechtenstein) in 2004.

He was invited to lectures and seminars to – among others – Harvard University Centre for the Study of World Religions, Union Theological Seminary (New York), Montreal School of Theology, Toronto School of Theology, St. Andrews College (Saskatoon), Waterloo Lutheran Seminary (Kitchner-Waterloo), Seminario Evangélico Presbiteriano de Guatemala, ISEDET (Buenos Aires), University of Heidelberg, University of Bielefeld, Nairobi University, Tantar Ecumenical Institute, UTC Bangalore, Presbyterian University in Busan, Pacific Theological College (Fidji) etc. He also taught social ethics in 2003/2004 and in 2005/2006 at the Ecumenical Institute Bossey.

Prior to joining the Council, Martin Robra led the WCC study on *Diakonia and Koinonia* as a consultant. He worked for almost ten years as pastor of his church in a congregation, in adult education, and as representative of the urban industrial mission (including projects with workers in steel plants, refugees and homeless people).

He is the author and editor of books and articles on ecumenism and ecumenical ethics and holds a PhD in theology (Dr. Theol.) from the University of Bochum, Germany. He obtained this title with a study on ecumenical social ethics

(Ökumenische Sozialethik, Gütersloh: Gütersloher Verlagshaus, 1992). He studied theology, text linguistics, analytical philosophy, and economy.

He is married to Barbara Siebel-Robra and has five children.

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| 1954 | Born in Celle/Germany – family background: German, Dutch, Polish |
| 1960-1964 | Primary school |
| 1964-1972 | Classical humanistic education (Latin, Greek, Hebrew), Gymnasium Ernestinum (Celle – the duke of Celle Lüneburg Ernst the Confessor signed the Confessio Augustana) |
| 1972-1973 | Studies in Kiel: Christian Albrechts Universität: Protestant Theology, Analytical Philosophy and Linguistics
Accepted as scholarship holder of the <i>Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes</i>
Member of the local SCM |
| 1973-1977 | Studies in Münster: Westfälische Wilhelms Universität: Protestant Theology, Philosophy, Linguistics – emphasis on Old Testament studies (assistant researcher in a project on the Psalms, Prof. Walter Beyerlin)
Education and practice in crisis-intervention for students (Rogers-Tausch)
Leadership in local SCM and member of the national theological commission of the SCM
Member of the students' parliament and the executive (responsible for social affairs), representative in national student bodies |
| 1978-1979 | Vicar in Hattingen/Ruhr |
| 1979-1980 | Pastor at the <i>Christuskirche</i> (centre of Bochum) – developing the project of the <i>city church</i> which combines adult education, arts and music for the mission of the church in the city. |
| 1980 | Marriage with Barbara Siebel |
| 1980-1987 | Pastor in the congregation of Witten-Heven with activities in adult education and responsible for the urban industrial mission of the church circuit (predominantly steel and metal industry – work with unemployed, homeless people and refugees) |
| 1981 | Birth of Jan Philipp Robra |
| 1982 | Birth of Uta Juliane Robra |

- 1987-1992 Studies in Bochum: Bochum University – Protestant Theology, Economy
Work on the doctoral thesis in ethics and ecumenical theology under the supervision of Prof. Dr Konrad Raiser and Prof. Dr Günther Brakelmann
Promotion in 1992
- 1992-1994 Work as theologian with the diaconal services of the church
Study on *Koinonia-Diakonia* for the WCC
- 1992 Birth of Georg Michel Robra
- 1994-1995 Consultant with the WCC on *Theology of Life* based in Geneva
- 1995 Birth of Friedrich Immanuel Robra
- 1995-2007 WCC Programme Staff on Ethics and Ecology
Teaching Social Ethics in Bossey (2xGraduate School and 1 Master Course)
- 2004 Co-founder of *globethics.net* (Geneva) and the *Institute for Inter-religious and Inter-cultural Research* (Liechtenstein)
- 2000 Birth of Carl Benedict Robra
- 2007 - 2012 Director of the programme area on *The WCC and the Ecumenical Movement in the 21st Century*, special emphasis on assembly preparations, Roman Catholic relations and the Continuation Committee on Ecumenism in the 21st Century.
- 2009 – 2011 Director of the programme area on *Unity and Mission*
- 2013 - Programme staff for Ecumenical Continuing Formation, Roman Catholic Relations, the joint inter-faith project with the International Labour Organisation *Advancing Peace through social justice* and support to the Associate General Secretaries concerning the *pilgrimage of justice and peace*

Publications

Books – author and editor

Martin Robra, *Ökumenische Sozialethik*, Gütersloh: Gütersloher Verlagshaus 1994

with Helene Moussa, Patrick A. Taran (eds), *A moment to choose : risking to be with uprooted people : a resource book*, Geneva : World Council of Churches, Unit IV 1996.

with Thomas Best (eds.), *Ecclesiology and Ethics. Ecumenical Ethical Engagement, Moral Formation, and the Nature of the Church*, Geneva: WCC, 1997

Articles – contribution to books and dictionaries

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with Deenabandhu Manchala and Sara Anderson-Rajarigam, *Affirming Life for the Disregarded Many*, in: Dieter Hessel, Larry Rasmussen (eds.), *Earth Habitat. Eco-Injustice and the Churches' Response*, Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2001, pp. 83-99

Konziliarer Prozess, in: Martin Honecker et al., *Evangelisches Staatslexikon*.

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What are faith communities already doing? The World Council of Churches, in: Ulrich Duchrow (ed.), *Colloquium 2000*, Geneva: WARC, 2000, pp. 14-15 (dt. Sonderdruck der Junge Kirche, 2000, p. 9)

Sustainability, in: Nicholas Lossky et al. (eds.), *Dictionary of the Ecumenical Movement*, 2nd Edition, Geneva: WCC, 2002, pp. 1084-1085

Diakonia - A Central Task of the Ecumenical Movement, in: Stefan Heinemann/Julia Kalbhenn (eds), *Being in Ecumenical Discourse on Concepts of Diakonia*, Diakoniewissenschaftliches Institut-Info Special Issue 4, Heidelberg: DWI, 2004, pp 32-50
(+ Bibliographie zur Ökumenischen Diakonie, pp. 51 f.)

„Only God’s initiating and sustaining grace“. *Searching Common Ground for Moral Discourse*, in: Else Marie Wieberg Pedersen, Johannes Nissen (eds.), *Cracks in the Walls. Essays on Spirituality, Ecumenicity and Ethics*. Festschrift für Anna Marie Aagard on the Occasion of her 70th Birthday, Frankfurt am Main et al: Peter Lang, 2004, pp. 171-184

Diakonie im ökumenischen Dialog, in: Günther Ruddat, Gerhard K. Schäfer (eds.), *Diakonisches Kompendium*, Göttingen: Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht, 2005, pp. 141-157

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Überwindung struktureller Gewalt durch mehr Gerechtigkeit, Anmerkungen zur Diskussion im Ökumenischen Rat der Kirchen, in: Kirchlicher Herausgeberkreis Jahrbuch Gerechtigkeit (hg), *Reichtum-Macht-Gewalt. Sicherheit in Zeiten der Globalisierung. Jahrbuch Gerechtigkeit II*, Oberursel: Publik Forum mit Frankfurter Rundschau, 2006, pp. 66-71

Mission and Creation – an urgent need for clarification, in: Lukas Vischer (ed), *Witnessing in the Midst of a Suffering Creation*, John Knox Series 19, Geneva: Centre International Reformé de John Knox, 2007, pp. 46-58

Ecclesiology and Ethics – An Example of Global-Local Dynamics, in: Thomas F. Best, Tamara Gredzilidze (eds.), *BEM at 25*, Geneva: WCC, 2007, pp. 229-239

Bioethical issues with respect to scientific interventions to extend the natural duration of life, in: *Eglise et bioéthique : la raison de la science et la raison de la religion : congrès scientifique de bioéthique, Chambésy, Genève, 11-15 septembre 2002*, Chambésy: Centre orthodoxe du Patriarcat oecuménique, 2008, pp. 87 -93

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The implication of justification for the whole creation, in: *The Prague consultations : prophetic and renewal movements : proceedings of the Prague VI and Prague VII multilateral ecumenical consultations (2000 & 2003)*, Geneva: World Alliance of Reformed Churches, 2009, pp.17-22

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Impuls: Prävention unser Hauptanliegen, in: Ines-Jacqueline Werkner, Dirk Rademacher (hg.), *Menschen geschützt – gerechten Frieden verloren? Kontroversen um die internationale Schutzverantwortung in der christlichen Friedensethik*, Ökumenische Studien Band 41, Berlin/Münster: LIT Verlag, 2013, pp. 184-188

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The Ecumenical Movement in the Context of World Christianity in the 21st Century, in: Mélisande Lorke, Dietrich Werner (Eds.), *Ecumenical Visions for the 21st Century. A Reader for Theological Education*, Geneva: WCC, 2013, pp. 7-15

Articles in Periodicals

Evangelische Theologie

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Junge Kirche

„Unser Beispiel könnte ja Schule machen“. Ueber eine Betriebsschliessung in Hattingen (Ruhr), in: Junge Kirche 45/12, Bremen: Verlag Junge Kirche, 1984, pp. 667-669

„Wir haben alles – sogar Arme. Neue Armut als Anfrage an die Kirche Jesu Christi, in: Junge Kirche 46/12, Bremen: Verlag Junge Kirche, 1985, pp.655-662

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Ökumene am Anfang des 21. Jahrhunderts - Ein Dollar, ein Euro, ein Yuan-Renminbi – ein Herr, ein Glaube, eine Taufe? in: *Ökumenische Rundschau* 56 (3/2007), Frankfurt am Main, Verlag Otto Lembeck, 2007, pp. 360-371

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with Lukas Vischer, *Klimapetition. Aufruf des Oekumenischen Rates der Kirchen*, in: *Politische Oekologie* 48, 1995

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Predigt, in: Barbara Siebel-Robra (hg.), *Flugversuche. Revolution der Sinne - Leben mit Behinderungen. Fotos von Karin Wieckhorst*, Oberursel: Publik-Forum Photo-Extra, 1990, pp.

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Zukunft der Kirche oder Kirche der Zukunft: Kirche der Fremden - ein Merkmal der Kirche der Zukunft, in: *Probleme des Friedens: politische Schriftenreihe* 30/4, 1995, pp. 81-87

The Ecumenical Review

Theological and Biblical Reflection on Diakonia: A Survey of Discussion within the World Council of Churches, in: *The Ecumenical Review* 46/3, Geneva: WCC, 1994, pp. 276-286

Theology of Life - Justice, Peace, Creation: An Ecumenical Study, in: *The Ecumenical Review* 48/1, January 1996, pp 28-37

Affirming the Role of Global Movements for Global Ethics, in: *The Ecumenical Review* 52/4, Geneva: WCC, 2000, pp. 471-478

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Editorial, *ibid*, pp 209 f.

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Ethik im Kontext des ökumenischen Rates der Kirchen, in: *Una Sancta* 2/2005, Meitingen/Freising: Kyrios Verlag, 2005, pp. 178-188

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Unité des chrétiens

Le mouvement du "Christianisme pratique", in: *Unité des chrétiens* 157, Paris, pp.17-19

Zeitschrift für Evangelische Ethik

KOINONIA-DIAKONIA. Schlüsselbegriffe ökumenischer Diakonie, in: *Zeitschrift für Evangelische Ethik*, 38/4, Gütersloh: Gütersloher Verlagshaus, 1994, pp. 280-299

Bookreviews

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