

Apostasy Day

21 March 2020 Zürich
Leavers of religions and
sects tell their stories

- 09.45 Andreas Kyriacou Welcome address
- 10.00 Maryam Namazie Defending blasphemy and apostasy with creativity
- 10.40 Inna Shevchenko My journey from catholicism to FEMEN
break / short film Bacon and God's Wrath
- 11.40 Samuel Friedman und C. Leaving Orthodox Judaism
Lunch break
- 13.45 Rino Zumerle and Raphael Dorigo Helene Aecherli in a conversation with an ex Jehova's Witness and a former protestant youth worker
- 14.15 Dieter Rohmann How to leave a cult?
- 15.00 Jesse M. Smith A scientist's view on apostasy
break
- 16.00 Sarah Haider Appropriated by rightwing populists, ignored by leftists – apostates' struggle with politics
- 16.30 Mina Ahadi Why the stories of apostates should be a concern for all
- 16.45 Panel: is apostasy a private matter?
With Mina Ahadi (Council of Ex-Muslims Germany), Meret Schneider (Greens), Min Li Marti (Social Democrats), Isabel Garcia (Green Liberals) and Përparim Avdili (Liberals). Host: Helene Aecherli
break
- 18.15 **Kick-off**
secular-refugees.ch The Swiss Freethinkers are launching a programme to support secular refugees. With Mina Ahadi, Kacem El Ghazzali and Azam Khan
Evening break
- 20.30 Film (45 Min) and conversation
No Longer Without You – a dialogue about faith, sex and values, followed by a conversation with the two actors Nazmiye und Havva Oral

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Speakers



Mina Ahadi

Escaped the Mullahs in Iran and founded the Council of Ex-Muslims in Germany, the first organisation of its kind.



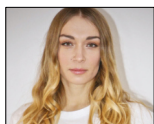
Samuel Friedman und C.

Was a member of an orthodox Jewish community in Zürich and now lives openly secular, unlike C., who's still hesitant.



Maryam Namazie

Had to flee from Iran as an activist, founded the Council of Ex-Muslims of Britain and campaigns against Sharia courts.



Inna Shevchenko

Was raised a catholic in Ukraine, where she co-founded FEMEN. Now lives in Paris and writes for Charlie Hebdo.



Rino Zumerle

Joined the Jehova's Witnesses as a young adult together with his wife. More than 20 years later he left – alone.



Raphael Dorigo

Was employed as a protestant youth worker, then developed an interest in philosophy and lost his faith.



Sarah Haider

Wore the hijab as an adolescent and only realised after having lost her faith, how strongly her will had been shaped by the expectations from others.



Dieter Rohmann

Spent seven months in the sect «Children of God». Now, as a psychologist, he supports individuals who want to leave cults.



Jesse M. Smith

Sociologist and associate professor at Western Michigan University (USA). He researches religion and secularism

Tickets (from CHF 20):
apostasy-day.ch

Panelists



Isabel Garcia

President of the migrants' organisation Second@s Zürich and municipal councillor for the Green Liberal Party in Zürich.



Min Li Marti

National councillor for the Social Democrats and publisher of the weekly paper P. S. Basic rights and democracy are among her core concerns.



Përparim Avdili

Child of a seasonal worker. Member of the Second@s-Zürich committee and municipal councillor for the Free Democrats in Zürich.



Meret Schneider

National councillor for the Green Party. Demands that political debates are informed by science and ethics.

Hosts



Helene Aecherli

Reporter of the Year 2019. Will host the conversation with Rino Zumerle and Raphael Dorigo and the panel with Mina Ahadi the 4 politicians.



Andreas Kyriacou

President of the Swiss Freethinkers and founder of the science festival Denkfest and the Apostasy Day. He will chair the day.

Kick-off secular-refugees.ch



Kacem El Ghazzali

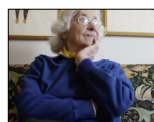
Blogged on atheism in Morocco and had to flee because of death threats. Then realised that Islamists were also active in Swiss refugee homes.



Azam Khan

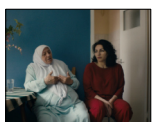
Former secular activist in Bangladesh who narrowly escaped death squads. After having received support in Switzerland he now wants to assist others.

Films



Bacon and God's Wrath by Sol Friedman

Aged 90, Ruzie Brownstone discovers the web and content that contradicts her Jewish beliefs. She then allows herself some bacon to challenge God...



No Longer Without You by Nazmiye Oral

Nonbeliever Nazmiye and her religious mother Havva Oral discuss faith, sexuality and values – after the film also with the audience.

Talks are in German and English. They will be translated simultaneously into the other language.



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