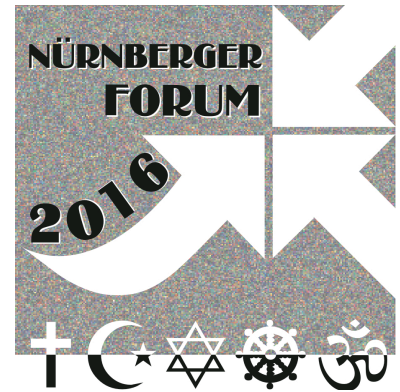


Andreas Nehring

Engaged Buddhism – Public Theology in Practic



ABSTRACT

Change, empowerment, and liberation are standard themes in the study of Buddhism, but these themes have often been understood in the context of identifying the cause of suffering, promulgating the dharma/practice, and achieving a spiritual enlightenment. Focusing on the social philosophies and movements of Buddhist leaders like Bhimrao Ambedkar, Sulak Sivaraksa, the Dalai Lama, and Thich Nhat Hanh offers another face: Buddhism as a pluralistic dynamism directed out into a world of social inequality and political injustice. The paper will focus on the mindfulness activities of Thich Nath Hanh, their rootedness in the scriptures and their public mediation during the Vietnam war and beyond.