The Christian-Jewish dialogue has been thriving in the last few decades, gaining both public and academic attention. Situated within the Western mentality of post-World War II, characterized by universalism, secularism and liberalism, representatives of the two religions have been typically termed “liberal” through their mutual political and cultural vision that transcends their differences.

The Christian-Jewish dialogue appears to suggest a general weakening of hostile radicalism and extremism, and rather an increase in moderate religious approaches which encourage peaceful and pragmatic interfaith discussions. However, such an observation is limited in how it fundamentally construes dialogue for it does not acknowledge the complex range of dialogical phenomena. As the studies at the workshop will illuminate, several dialogical initiatives do not adhere to traditionally liberal criteria which assume mutual agreement concerning the role and contribution of religion to a diverse society. In fact, one can find dialogical frameworks in surprisingly illiberal settings.

Furthermore, identifying dialogue with liberalism discredits other dialogical methods that exist in non-Western countries. Indeed, these non-Western initiatives, grounded on alternative religious grammars and oriented towards other political agendas, often explicitly deny liberal values. This workshop will address this dialectic between the liberal dialogue and the so-called non-liberal dialogue in two ways.

First, there will be a presentation of dialogical ventures that have been performed in contexts that would not normally be deemed acceptable to the liberal framework. Shedding light on such initiatives will enable an understanding of the complex landscape of the Christian-Jewish dialogue. Second, a critical inquiry of these initiatives will enable us to investigate the logic behind the very concept of dialogue. Ultimately, the workshop will aim to formulate a relevant grammar for the dialogical variety and encourage us to think anew with a theoretical language befitting of this multiplicity.