

International Lecture Series 2025

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COMMON
HOME,
COMMON
DISTRESS:
POLITICAL
AND PUBLIC
THEOLOGIES
IN A WORLD
AT RISK



Summary



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Abstract

Keywords: Public Theology.
Political Theology. Common
Home. Climate Change.
Development.

Climate change, global warming, environmental disasters, the intensification of social inequalities, and the ever-increasing impact of human activity on the health of the planet are drawing the attention of scholars from various disciplines. This new stage in the life of humanity, also known as the Anthropocene, is a major challenge for public theologies. The interaction of theology with the ideas of development, economy, sustainability, poverty, inequality and climate injustice are questions to be examined, always considering their political, religious, historical and social dimensions. To reflect this scenario, the next edition of the International Lecture Series gathers researchers from different fields working on such pressing issues with the aim of deepening analytical tools and imagining possible futures for humanity and the common home.



Organizing Committee

Prof. Alex Villas Boas (UCP)
Prof. Douglas F. Barros (PUC–Campinas)
Prof. Jefferson Zeferino (PUC–Campinas)
Prof. Rudolf von Sinner (PUCPR)
Prof. Siphon Mahokoto (Stellenbosch University)

Coordination

PUC–Campinas – Prof. Glaucio Barsalini
PUCPR – Prof. Rudolf von Sinner
Stellenbosch University – Prof. Siphon Mahokoto
Universidade Católica Portuguesa – Prof. Alex Villas Boas
University of Graz – Prof. Martina Bär
University of Lund – Prof. Ulrich Schmiedel
University of Tübingen – Prof. Sebastian Pittl
Vrije Universiteit – Prof. Dion Forster

Programme

February to May

09:00 (EDT)

10:00 (BRT)

14:00 (CET)

15:00 (CEST)

15:00 (SAST)

February, 17

"Climate Anger and Earth Futures" – Marion Grau (MF Vitenskapelig Høyskole)

February, 24

"Recovering Hope in the Anthropocene" – Celia Deane-Drummond (University of Oxford)

March, 10

"The sins against creation: An analysis of the theology of Hildegard of Bingen and a cosmology of 'Buen Vivir'" – Amanda Vicentini and Rudolf von Sinner (PUCPR)

March, 17

"Laudato Si' and spatial turn: a theological approach" – Alexandre Palma (UCP)

March, 24

"Climate Migration in Post-Apocalyptic Narratives on the Mainstream Screen" – Linda Koncz (UCP)

March, 31

"From selfcare to taking care of our common home: spirituality as an integral and transformative healthy lifestyle" – Alex Villas Boas (UCP)

April, 7

"African Indigenous knowledge and eco-philosophies: Their role and impact in postcolonial African Communities" – Peter White (Stellenbosch University)

April, 14

"A meditation on bending the carbon curve" – Ernst Conradie (University of the Western Cape)

April, 28

Stellenbosch University – to be defined

May, 5

"Political and Public Theologies of the Land" – Jefferson Zeferino and Douglas F. Barros (PUC-Campinas)

May, 12

"Common Lives and Common Futures. A Theology of Revolutionary Ordinarity for the Anthropocene" – Sebastian Pittl (Universität Tübingen)

May, 19

"Postmigrant visions of the common home" – Ulrich Schmiedel (Lund University)

May 26

"Impressions on political and public theologies in a world at risk" – Final Panel

Overview and Registration

International Lecture Series 2025



The International Lecture Series (ILS) is a joint initiative that, in the last five years, has been hosted online by the Universities of Tübingen, Edinburgh, Stellenbosch, Ateneo de Manila, Pontifical Catholic University of Paraná, Pontifical Catholic University of Campinas, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Lund University, University of Graz and Universidade Católica Portuguesa. The topics of discussion mainly focus on the relations between religion and politics in a global perspective.

Under the responsibility of PUCPR, PUC–Campinas, Universidade Católica Portuguesa and Stellenbosch University, the current edition, from February to May, will focus on the relationship between religion and the climate discussion.

The links for each session will be provided via e-mail to registered participants. To register send us an e-mail to:
isabella.scoelho@gmail.com



Lecturers



Marion Grau
MF Vitenskapelig Høyskole

Marion Grau is a theologian working with the resources of ecumenical Christian traditions. Her research interests are questions of salvation, liberation, and transformation: economic structures and metaphors of salvation, mission between colonial and indigenous theologies, a postcolonial hermeneutics, reconstructing pilgrimage, and most recently climate justice.



Celia Deane-Drummond
University of Oxford

Celia Deane-Drummond is Director of the Laudato Si' Research Institute and Senior Research Fellow in theology at Campion Hall, University of Oxford. Her more recent publications include Religion in the Anthropocene, edited with Sigurd Bergmann and Markus Vogt (2017), Theology and Ecology Across the Disciplines: On Care for Our Common Home, edited with Rebecca Artinian Kaiser (2018), Theological Ethics Through a Multispecies Lens: The Evolution of Wisdom Volume I: (2019), Shadow Sophia: The Evolution of Wisdom Volume II (2021).



Rudolf von Sinner
Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Paraná

Rudolf von Sinner, Dr. theol. habil., is professor of Systematic Theology and Head of Graduate Programme in Theology at the Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Paraná in Curitiba, Brazil. He chaired the Global Network for Public Theology from 2020-23 and is Editor-in-Chief of the International Journal of Public Theology. Among his numerous publications is 'Public Theology in the Secular State: a Perspective from the Global South' (Zurich: LIT, 2021).

Lecturers



Amanda Vicentini

Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Paraná

Amanda Vicentini is PhD candidate at the Pontifical Catholic University of Parnaá – Brazil, with a period of studies and research at the Katholische Privat-Universität Linz, Austria. Her topics of interest are: ecotheology, feminist theology, indigenous spirituality, and, in particular, the healing and spiritual power of plants.



Alexandre Palma

Universidade Católica Portuguesa

Theologian, priest and university professor. He obtained his doctorate in theology from the Pontifical Gregorian University (2013). He has taught at the Catholic University and is a researcher at the Research Centre for Theology and Religious Studies (CITER). He is also a member of the European Society for Catholic Theology, of the editorial board of *Communio*, and of the “Seminar for young scientists” of the Lisbon Academy of Sciences.



Alex Villas Boas

Universidade Católica Portuguesa

Alex Villas Boas is Coordinator and Principal Investigator at the Research Centre for Theology and Religious Studies (CITER), Universidade Católica Portuguesa (UCP). Visiting Professor at the Pontifical Catholic University of Paraná (Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Paraná, Brazil).

Lecturers



Linda Koncz

Universidade Católica Portuguesa

Linda Koncz holds a Master's degree in Film Theory and Film History from ELTE University (Budapest) and another Master's degree in Filmmaking from Kingston University (London). She completed her PhD in Culture Studies at Universidade Católica Portuguesa. She is currently a postdoctoral researcher at the DHI Program in CADOS at UCP (funded by Porticus) and investigates the sociocultural aspects of the migrants' integration process in Lisbon, Portugal.



Peter White

Stellenbosch University

Peter White is an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Theology at Stellenbosch University, South Africa. His academic journey has been deeply rooted in Missiology, with a particular focus on African Pentecostalism, Religious Studies, and the intersection of Religion and Development. His contributions aim to shape the understanding of religion's role in societal development and highlight the transformative potential of faith communities.



Ernst Conradie

University of the Western Cape

Ernst M. Conradie (PhD, Stellenbosch University, South Africa) is senior professor in the Department of Religion and Theology at the University of the Western Cape in South Africa where he teaches systematic theology and ethics.

Lecturers



Douglas F. Barros
PUC–Campinas

Douglas Ferreira Barros is Professor of Philosophy at the Faculty of Philosophy and at the Postgraduate Program in Religious Studies at the Pontifical Catholic University of Campinas (PUC–Campinas, Brazil). His research focuses on Political Theology, and on the intersections between Religion and Politics in Brazil.



Ulrich Schmiedel
University of Lund

Ulrich Schmiedel is Professor of Global Christianities at Lund University in Sweden. Specializing in public and political theology, he is interested in the role of religions in the public square, both their problems and their potentials for the challenges that confront contemporary societies. He is the author of *Elasticized Ecclesiology: The Concept of Community after Ernst Troeltsch* (2017) and *Terror and Theologie: Der religionstheoretische Diskurs der 9/11-Dekade* (2021) as well as the co-author of *The Claim to Christianity: Responding to the Far Right* (2020).

Lecturers



Jefferson Zeferino

PUC–Campinas

Jefferson Zeferino is Associate Professor at the Posgraduate Program in Religious Studies at PUC–Campinas, Brazil. His research focuses on Public Theology and the History of Protestantism in Brazil. He is the author of more than forty articles published in peer reviewed journals. Assistant Editor of the International Journal of Public Theology. He is a member of the Executive Committee of the Global Network for Public Theology as Representative for South America.



Sebastian Pittl

University of Tübingen

Sebastian Pittl is head of the Department of Dogmatics at the Faculty of Catholic Theology , University of Tübingen, Germany. His research focuses on liberation theologies, postcolonial theologies, political theologies, identity, difference and similiarity and the relationship of theology and university. Major publications include “Geschichtliche Realität und Kreuz. Der fundamentale Ort der Theologie bei Ignacio Ellacuría (Pustet: Regensburg 2018)”.

Contact



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