

ACTIVITY REPORT
2008

FEBRUARY 2009

TABLE OF CONTENTS

I. ORGANISATION	4
<i>General Council</i>	4
<i>Board of Directors</i>	6
<i>Academic Council</i>	6
<i>Executive Committee</i>	7
<i>Team</i>	7
II. PROJECTS	8
SUMMER SCHOOL ON “RELIGION, CULTURE AND SOCIETY”	8
INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOPS	9
<i>Multiculturalism and Intercultural Communication</i>	9
<i>The Jewish Book in a Christian World</i>	10
<i>The Local Relevance of Human Rights</i>	10
<i>The University after Bologna</i>	11
SCRIBANI	12
<i>The Role of Religion in the Integration of Europe</i>	12
LECTURE SERIES	13
<i>Are There Limits to a Darwinian World View?</i>	13
<i>Catholic Social Teaching</i>	15
<i>People in the Margins of Society</i>	16
<i>Lectures on Theology and the Church, in Cooperation with KVHU</i>	17
PASTORAL WORK AND THE CHURCH	18
<i>Youth Pastoral Seminar on “Metamorphoses”</i>	18
OTHER ACTIVITIES	19
<i>Jesuit Secondary Education: Tradition and Innovation</i>	19
<i>The Search for a Powerful Learning and Teaching Environment for Roman Catholic</i> <i>Religion Classes</i>	19
<i>Meeting Mystics</i>	20
<i>Qur’an and Women</i>	20
III. TEACHING CHAIRS AND SCHOLARSHIPS	21
<i>UCSIA-Teaching Chair at the University of Antwerp</i>	21
<i>Teaching Chair Jef Van Gerwen sj</i>	21
APPENDICES	22

I. ORGANISATION

UCSIA strives to continue the Jesuit tradition of involvement in university education, research and community service in the Flemish and Antwerp region.

The main objective of UCSIA, inspired by a Christian belief and in a spirit of openness and tolerance, sustained by the members of the Society of Jesus and of the Antwerp University, is to provide for an international and interdisciplinary platform that supports and stimulates academic research, higher education and community service regarding themes that express the Christian ideology, thus serving the faith and contributing to a more just society.

Article 3 - Articles of Association

UCSIA's mission ties in with Ignatian spirituality. The 35th General Congregation of the Jesuit Order, which took place in 2008, defines this mission as “*a commitment to a faith that does justice through interreligious dialogue and a creative engagement with culture*”.

UCSIA is an incorporated non-profit organisation under Belgian law. The General Assembly consists of up to thirty members: one-third are mandated by the Society of Jesus, one-third are co-opted members of the Antwerp academic community and one-third are external members from civil society (Church, education, press, employees, employers, NGOs, etc.).

The UCSIA *team* runs the day-to-day business. The *General Council* is responsible for the overall strategy of the Centre. It supervises the Board of Directors and it adopts the budget and the accounts. The *Board of Directors* directs the organisation. The *Executive Committee* supervises the execution of the Board of Director's decisions and prepares its meetings. An advisory body, known as the *Academic Council*, ensures that initiatives are of the highest academic quality.

GENERAL COUNCIL

In 2008, the mandate of the Rev. Canon A. De Wolf, honorary Secretary-General of the Flemish Board of Catholic Education, reached its end and the Council granted him honourable discharge. The General Council co-opted Monsignor Johan Bonny, Bishop of Antwerp, and Jan De Volder, political editor of *Tertio*, as new members. The General Council of 11 December 2008 renewed the mandate of prof. dr. Jean Van Houtte as its President. The Council positively evaluated the commitment of the management of UCSIA between 2003 and 2008 and, on this basis, granted a renewed Director's mandate to prof. dr. Walter Nonneman, proposing to the Board of Directors to reappoint him as Executive Director. The General Council confirmed respectively renewed the mandates of prof. dr. Christiane Timmerman as Director of Academic Affairs and of prof. dr. Luc Braeckmans as Deputy Director of Academic Affairs.

The General Council is composed as follows:

for the Society of Jesus:

- Luc Bouckaert, Professor Emeritus of Ethics, Catholic University of Leuven
- Loïc de Cannière, Managing Director, INCOFIN
- Pierre Devos sj, Professor of Biology, Facultés Universitaires Notre-Dame de la Paix Namur
- Jacques Haers sj, Professor of Theology, Catholic University of Leuven
- Jan Koenot sj, Provincial of the Flemish Jesuits
- Jan Peters sj, Honorary Vice-Chairman of Radboud University in Nijmegen
- Hugo Roeffaers sj, Professor Emeritus of Philosophy, University of Antwerp
- Mark Rotsaert sj, President of the Conference of European SJ-Provincials
- Guy Vanheeswijck, Professor of Philosophy, University of Antwerp

For the academic community of Antwerp:

- Jean Van Houtte, Professor of Sociology & Pro Rector of UFSIA, **Chairperson**
- Bea Cantillon, Professor of Sociology, University of Antwerp
- Pierre Delsaerd, Institute of Education and Information, University of Antwerp
- Helma Desmedt, Professor of History, University of Antwerp
- Johan Meeusen, Professor of Law, University of Antwerp
- Jeroen Puttevils, Student, University of Antwerp
- Carl Reyns, Professor of Accounting & Pro Rector of UFSIA
- Johan Vanhoutte sj, Pastoral Care, University of Antwerp
- Gerlinde Verbist, Assistant Professor, University of Antwerp

External members:

- Mgr. Johan Bonny, Bishop of Antwerp
- Frans Crols, former Managing Director & Editor-in-Chief of Trends/Roularta
- Etienne De Jonghe, Secretary-General of Pax Christi International
- Mia De Schamphelaere, Member of Parliament
- Jan De Volder, Political Editor of Tertio
- Maddie Geerts, Honorary National Secretary of ACV
- Frank Lambert, Director
- Philippe Michiels, Chairperson of Lessius Hogeschool, Antwerp
- Peter Vande Vyvere, Editor-in-Chief of Tertio
- Mieke Van Hecke, Director-General of VSKO

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Walter Nonneman, Professor of Economics and **Managing Director of UCSIA**
- Carl Reyms, Professor of Accounting & Pro Rector of UFSIA
- Mark Rotsaert sj, President of the Conference of European SJ-Provincials
- Christiane Timmerman, Director of Academic Affairs
- Geert Vanhaverbeke, Administrative Manager

ACADEMIC COUNCIL

- Christiane Timmerman, Director of Academic Affairs, **Chairperson**
- Luc Braeckmans, Deputy Director of Academic Affairs, **Vice-Chairperson**
- Zwi Berneman, Professor of Haematology, University of Antwerp
- Wil Derkse, Catholic University of Nijmegen
- Mark Desmet sj, Doctor of Medicine
- Pierre Devos sj, Professor of Biology, FUNDP
- Guido Dierickx sj, Professor Emeritus of Political Science, University of Antwerp
- Marie-Claire Foblets, Jurist and Professor of Anthropology, Catholic University of Leuven
- Louis Ferrant, Doctor of Medicine, Centre for GP Medicine, University of Antwerp
- Tim Heysse, Professor of Political Philosophy, KUBrussel
- Henk Opdebeeck, Professor of Ethics, University of Antwerp
- Wilfried Pauwels, Professor Emeritus of Economics, University of Antwerp
- Nicolas Standaert sj, Professor of Sinology, Catholic University of Leuven
- Jacques Tempère, Professor of Physics, University of Antwerp
- Dirk Van Dyck, Professor of Physics, University of Antwerp
- Walter Van Herck, Professor of Philosophy, University of Antwerp
- Luc Van Liedekerke, Professor of Ethics, University of Antwerp
- Dirk Vanheule, Professor of Law, University of Antwerp
- Amaryllis Verhoeven, Doctor of Law, Catholic University of Leuven
- Johan Verstraeten, Professor of Moral Theology and Ethics, Catholic University of Leuven
- Frank Willaert, Professor of Literature, University of Antwerp

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Christiane Timmerman, Academic Director & **Chairperson**
- Luc Braeckmans, Academic Vice-Director & **Vice-Chairperson**
- Sara Mels, Project Coordinator
- Barbara Segært, Scientific Coordinator
- Geert Vanhaverbeke, Administrative Coordinator

TEAM

- Prof. dr. Walter Nonneman, Managing Director
- Prof. dr. Christiane Timmerman, Director of Academic Affairs
 - Chairperson of the Academic Council and the Executive Committee
 - in charge of national and international projects
- Prof. dr. Luc Braeckmans, Deputy Director of Academic Affairs
 - Vice-chairperson of the Academic Council and the Executive Committee
 - coordinator of national projects
- Marijke Celis: Secretary (full-time)
- Sara Mels: Project Coordinator
- Barbara Segært: Scientific Coordinator
- Geert Vanhaverbeke: Head of Administration
- Christel Van Wonterghem: Secretary (part-time)

II. PROJECTS

SUMMER SCHOOL ON “RELIGION, CULTURE AND SOCIETY”

From 31 August to 7 September 2008, the 4th edition of the UCSIA Summer School on religion, culture and society took place. For the second time, UCSIA offered this Summer Seminar in its new format.

The aim of the Summer School is to let young postdoctoral scholars and PhD students reflect on the interconnectedness of religion, culture and society. They can attend lectures by academics that are internationally renowned experts in these research areas. The participants also present their own current (post-) doctoral research and they discuss the different research proposals with each other and the team of guest lecturers in a relaxed and open atmosphere and in a multidisciplinary setting.

The Summer School every year deals with the following issues:

- modernisation and democracy: Chris Welzel, professor of Political Science at the Jacobs University of Bremen, also involved in the “World Values Study”
- nationalism and religion: John Hutchinson, professor of Nationalism at the London School of Economics
- religion and pluralism: Robert Hefner, professor of Anthropology at Boston University.

The 2008 edition put greater emphasis on introducing and supporting proper methodology for multidisciplinary research. It offered several methodological lectures on topics such as the evolution and the meaning of interdisciplinarity in human and social sciences, the public commitment of the scholar and the pitfalls and successes of participative observation. UCSIA selects the participants with a “call for application” and respecting a fair distribution according to discipline, geographic origin and gender.

Guest lecturer Tariq Modood, professor of Sociology, Politics and Public Policy at the University of Bristol, brought in this year’s focus: political multiculturalism.

As part of the Summer School, UCSIA organised two public lectures for a broader audience.

On Monday 1 September, professor Tariq Modood's lecture dealt with religion as identity. He explored why religion and religious groups can be of interest to the government. What argumentation does the government rely on when it designs a policy for religion and religious groups? How does it account for this policy to the public opinion? This led Modood to five models of policy argumentation and legitimisation: religion as truth, religion as danger, religion as tool, religion as identity and finally respect for religion.

On Wednesday 3 September, professor John Hutchinson lectured on nationalism and the European project. Research on globalisation often describes the nation as a superseded idea referring to the rise of continental and regional associations such as the European Union. According to John Hutchinson, such an argumentation hardly considers the manner in which national and European identities got entangled. The projects for developing the European Union complicate the problem of how national and European identities connect, and what could be the future of the European nation states. One could interpret the EU as an instrument of dominant nations, a rising supernational or a new postmodern policy.

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOPS

MULTICULTURALISM AND INTERCULTURAL COMMUNICATION

On the occasion of the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue, UCSIA organised an international academic workshop on multiculturalism and intercultural communication on 11 March, in cooperation with professor Jef Verschuere of the University of Antwerp.

Twenty scholars from Belgium, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom, Spain and Portugal and from diverse disciplines such as sociolinguistics, anthropology and pedagogy gathered. They explored the tension between the factual multilingualism of urban populations and the monolingualism of the administration and the public services. The international migration brings this tension to the foreground and it raises several questions on civil rights, social discrimination, or oppressing available linguistic skills, but also more practical questions on organisation and finance. We may experience the way in which authorities deal with multilingualism as problematic because it touches on the foundations of citizenship, the nation state, or acquired rights of minorities. The scholars compared urban policies in Europe. They examined multifunctional language practices in education and social welfare as well as the relationship between multilingualism and community building in Diaspora.

A masterclass for University of Antwerp students and a conference for professionals and the public followed the workshop. Professor Kris Van den Branden of the Research Unit Language and Education of the Catholic University of Leuven, presented an introduction on the problematic interaction between the unique language of education and the many languages spoken at home. Stef Slembrouck (University of Ghent), Jürgen Jaspers (University of Antwerp) and Katrijn Maryns

(University of Antwerp) each examined a case: welfare services in Ghent, education and asylum procedures.

THE JEWISH BOOK IN A CHRISTIAN WORLD

From 25 to 27 June, UCSIA and the Institute of Jewish Studies jointly organised the international academic workshop on “The Jewish Book in a Christian World”. City officials and a large audience attended the opening lecture at the City Hall. Simultaneously, the Museum-Plantin Moretus hosted an exhibition on Hebraica.

Renowned experts from Israel, the US and Europe shared their knowledge and research findings on the topics of interaction between printing in Antwerp (Bomberg, Plantin), Christian Hebraicism and the Jewish and Christian cultures in the Modern period. The workshop strongly focused on history. The public lectures by prof. Anthony Grafton (Henry Putnam University Professor of History, Princeton University) and prof. David Ruderman (Institute for Advanced Studies, University of Pennsylvania) attracted a vast audience.

UCSIA and IJS aim to promote the study of Jewish-Christian relations by establishing a chair at the University of Antwerp. Professor Ruderman will be its first holder in the academic year 2008-2009.

THE LOCAL RELEVANCE OF HUMAN RIGHTS

The international academic conference on the “Local Relevance of Human Rights”, on 17 and 18 October, was a joint effort of UCSIA and professors Koen De Feyter and Dirk Vanheule of the Law Faculty of the University of Antwerp. The European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratization (EIUC) was the third co-organiser. The Flemish Interuniversity Council VLIR/UOS sponsored the workshop, which enabled the organisers to invite several participants from developing countries.

Since the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) was adopted on 10 December 1948, many international documents have reaffirmed human rights as global norms. But do human rights offer real protection when disadvantaged groups invoke them locally in an attempt to improve their living conditions?

This conference examined some case studies. What decides the success of appeals to human rights that emanate from the local level? The conference equally reviewed if the Universal Declaration adequately responds to threats that relevant groups define, or whether revising some of the ideas in the UDHR would increase their current relevance.

The screening of the film “Total Denial” and the ensuing panel debate illustrated the issue of universal human rights in the concrete case of a pipeline through Birma.

THE UNIVERSITY AFTER BOLOGNA

On 12 and 13 December 2008 UCSIA organised the international conference “Rethinking the University After Bologna: New Concepts and Practices Beyond Tradition and the Market”. It considered the near completion of the Bologna process and the Lisbon strategy (in 2010) as excellent opportunities for a closer look at the implications of these developments for the public meaning of university education and university research. The point of departure was the conviction that there are alternatives for the entrepreneurial university in education, research, organisation, and service and that these alternatives somehow bring into play the public role of universities.

To encourage this debate, UCSIA invited 4 keynote lecturers to present their vision on the future of higher education. Jan Masschelein (professor of Philosophy of Education, K.U.Leuven) put forward the idea of the university as a matter of public concern. He stressed how important it is for the university to ask “in what world we want to live in?”, to slow down and think. Professor Jean-Claude Guédon (University of Montreal) modelled the university within the free software model, e.g. the network university. Ronald Barnett (professor of Higher Education, University of London) proposed a third vision with his concept of the ecological university, a networked university that would actively improve the public realm. Susan Robertson (professor of Sociology of Education, University of Bristol) read the final lecture. She warned us for the power of metaphors and stressed that it was important to define the content of a future university first before creating a mobilising metaphor.

In a few articles in the weekly magazine *Tertio*, professors Nicolas Standaert and Guido Vanheeswijck have confronted the workshop topics with the current state of affairs in Flanders.

SCRIBANI

In 2003, on the initiative of Mark Rotsaert sj, the President of the Jesuit Conference of European Provincials, UCSIA set up the Scribani network. It encompasses 18 research institutions and social centres associated with the Society of Jesus from 11 European countries. These academic research institutions support the policy debate on social issues such as migration. They train professionals such as journalists and they take up concrete social action, including poverty alleviation and care for refugees.

Every two years, a Scribani conference:

- brings together members of the network organisations and opinion makers in a joint reflection – from a perspective based on faith – on a concrete issue of social justice and the future of Europe;
- allows them to express clear social, cultural and economic perspectives for a national or international policy.

Between conference years, the network meets to exchange information and explore a research topic in an academic seminar.

THE ROLE OF RELIGION IN THE INTEGRATION OF EUROPE

On September 11 and 12 2008 the Scribani conference on “Religion: Problem or Promise? The Role of Religion in the Integration of Europe” took place in Kosice, in the East of Slovakia, at the “Michael Lacko Center for Spirituality East – West”. Dr. Joseph Kyselica sj and Mr. Simon Marinčák direct this institution.

Košice is a choice city for a closer examination of the role of religion and world views in the Construction of Europe. Religion “is back” and plays a visible role in Slovakian public and political life, now that this former communist country has come out of forced secularisation to become a EU and Eurozone accession country. In a number of lectures and workshops, the scholars and political and religious leaders examined how religion, moral values and world views influence European integration and national policies, apart from political determinants and socio-economic developments. One should not overlook that Christian-democratic politicians originally devised the project of European integration.

Several lectures stimulated the exchange of views and ideas:

- Patrick Riordan sj and James Hanvey sj (Heythrop Institute for Religion, Ethics and Public Life, London) analysed what the Catholic Church can contribute to the European “common good”. They developed a “theology of the secular” that can orient this Church towards an active presence in the secular public space.
- Prof. dr. em. David Martin (professor emeritus of Sociology, London School of Economics) examined how the notion of “secularism” and the relationship between religion, ethnicity

and nation vary within Europe according to time and space. In areas of transition, religion can unexpectedly provide a basis for political community building, but just as well for separation.

- Prof. dr. John Madeley (Lecturer in Government at London School of Economics) looked into empirical evidence on the state-church relation in Europe. It turns out that this relationship, or rather the lack of it, is not absolute even in countries on the far end of secularity.

Other lectures were presented by prof. em. Guido Dierickx sj (OCIPE, Brussel), Edward Farrugia sj (Pontifical Institute of Oriental Studies, Rome), Mgr. Milan Chatur (Bishop of the Greek Catholic Church), Jan Dacok sj (Provincial of the Slovak Province of the Society of Jesus), Volodymyr Turchynovsky (Ukrainian Catholic University, Lvov), Jean-Yves Calvez sj (Centre Sèvres, Paris), Dusan Bella (former Ambassador of Slovakia to the OECD).

LECTURE SERIES

ARE THERE LIMITS TO A DARWINIAN WORLD VIEW?

During the academic year 2007-2008 UCSIA organised the lecture series “Are There Limits to a Darwinian World View?”. It collaborated with the Centre for Philosophy of Religion and the Centre of Ethics at the University of Antwerp and the Interdisciplinary Centre for Evolution and Behaviour (ICEG).

The lecture series explored the tension between science and religion within the context of the Darwinian world view. Originally a tool of biological explanation, Darwin’s theory gradually transformed into a paradigm with universal ambition and served as an explanation for each aspect of human life and thinking.

The programme consisted of five public evening lectures in which internationally renowned scholars studied different aspects of the issue at stake. UCSIA and the University of Antwerp organised five consecutive academic workshops benefiting from the lecturers’ presence.

DARWIN’S MURDER CONFESSION

On Wednesday 12 December 2007, professor Johan Braeckman (University of Ghent) gave an introductory lecture paying attention to the life and work of Charles Darwin. According to him, the essence of Darwin’s murder confession is the confirmation there is no design in the cosmos. Nature did not expect nor intend humans. By contrast, they are the result of a blind, mechanical process.

On Thursday 13 December 2007 an expert seminar was organised with professor Braeckman and discussant dr. Raf De Bont of the Department of History (Catholic University of Leuven).

DARWINIAN EXPLANATIONS AND SOCIO-CULTURAL PROCESSES

On Wednesday 13 February 2008, Daniel Nettle talked about “Darwinian Explanations and Socio-cultural Processes”. Daniel Nettle is reader in the Centre for Behaviour & Evolution, Newcastle University. Within the human sciences, one often contrasts ‘evolutionary’ explanations with competing ‘social’ or ‘cultural’ explanations of the same phenomenon. Nettle argued that this dichotomy is misleading. Socio-cultural explanations always make implicit or outspoken claims about the cognitive and motivational mechanisms that underlie the patterns of learning that they discuss. Since evolution is the only explanatory framework available for understanding the properties of organisms, including their cognitive and motivational properties, it follows that these explanations are, if pursued to their ends, evolutionary explanations. He continued to say that human scientists do not need to choose between different kinds of explanations; they just need to choose between different explanations, which is normal science. Far from competing with socio-cultural explanations, evolutionary arguments can provide interesting insights into the nature of the mechanisms underlying social and cultural processes. He pictured his thesis with examples from mate preferences, male honour and food taboos, in which satisfying explanations are both clearly socio-cultural and clearly evolutionary.

An expert seminar followed the public lecture on 14 February. Its guest lecturer was professor Nettle and the discussant was prof. dr. Andreas de Block, Higher Institute of Philosophy, Catholic University of Leuven.

CAN DARWINISM TELL US WHAT IT IS TO BE HUMAN?

On Wednesday 5 March 2008, John Dupré gave a lecture on “Can Darwinism Tell Us What It Is to Be Human?”. John Dupré is director of Egenis and professor of Philosophy of Science at the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Exeter.

Dupré first addressed the question what exactly the Darwinian world view consists of. He insisted that one should exclude several debatable interpretations, commonly assumed by present-day Darwinians, from that vision. He proposed to describe a minimal view. Its essence amounts to the facts evolution. Present life forms did evolve from very different ancestors, all current life forms did evolve from one (or rather few) ancestors and natural selection was a central force in that process.

Dupré stressed that this world view is a fundamental aspect of a naturalistic world view, and is essential for explaining a wide range of biological phenomena. However, both because of limits to the evidence available to us, and because of massive contingencies during evolution, the possibilities for evolutionary prediction are much less extensive. Many evolutionary psychologists claim that evolution is the key to understanding human nature. But contrary to their opinion, evolutionary considerations can at best serve as a heuristic for forming empirically defeasible theories about human dispositions to behaviour. And because of the rate of human evolution over recent millennia, it is not likely even to provide a useful heuristic.

The public lecture was followed by an expert seminar on Thursday 6 March 2008 with professor Dupré and discussant Raymond Corbey, Faculty of Archaeology, University of Leiden.

THE EVOLUTION OF GOD? DARWINISM AND RELIGION

On Wednesday 19 March 2008, Alister McGrath talked about “The Evolution of God? Darwinism and Religion”. Prof. dr. Alister McGrath is professor of Theology, Ministry and Education, and head of the Centre for Theology, Religion and Culture at King's College, London.

Alister McGrath wanted to discern in his lecture how Darwinism is relevant for believing in God. His lecture explored and evaluated Darwinian accounts of the origins of religion, especially those advanced in two important recent publications: Richard Dawkins' "The God Delusion" and Daniel Dennett's "Breaking the Spell". McGrath paid particular attention to the way critics of religion use Darwinism, including its transformation from a scientific theory to a general world view.

The public lecture was followed by an expert seminar on Thursday 20 March 2008 with professor McGrath and discussant Walter Decler, professor emeritus of the University of Antwerp.

**WHO IS THE STRONGEST THAT SURVIVES?:
ABOUT THE EVOLUTIONARY ORIGIN OF MORALITY**

On Wednesday 9 April 2008, Jan van Hooff gave the last lecture in this series tackling the question "Who Is the Strongest that Survives?: About the Evolutionary Origin of Morality?". Jan van Hooff is emeritus professor of behavioural biology and former head of the research group Ethology and Socio-ecology at the University of Utrecht (1980-2001).

In the final lecture of this series, professor van Hooff looked into the evolutionary origin of morality. He explained how the first law of nature, "the survival of the fittest", seems to imply that only qualities like self-preservation, assertiveness, the urge for domination and aggression determine the capability to survive. Such seems to be the case because only the winners of a harsh struggle for survival transfer to their descendants the genetic aptitude and qualities that made them so successful. Thus, qualities such as altruism, unselfishness and helpfulness do not seem to have the same developmental potential. They should have been selected out of the process in a very early stage. Nevertheless, one can still observe qualities like altruism everywhere in nature and not only among humans. Van Hooff does not infer from this observation that the Darwinian model of evolution cannot explain nature. Behaviour-biology and theoretical research instead show that the Darwinian model of evolution can explain the development of those qualities that contribute to the harmony of social communities and that restrain selfish tendencies.

The public lecture was followed by an expert seminar on Thursday 10 April 2008 with emeritus professor van Hooff and discussant Arnold Burms of the Higher Institute of Philosophy (Catholic University of Leuven).

CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING

UCSIA and the International Institute Canon Triest have undertaken to translate the Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church into Dutch, thus giving students of social ethics access to important sources.

On 30 May 2008, the Managing Director of UCSIA, prof. dr. Walter Nonneman, was able to officially hand over a copy of the Dutch edition of the Compendium to His Holiness Benedict XVI during a papal audience.

UCSIA and IICT, more in particular its director prof. dr. Patrick De Pooter, have further invited some national and international scholars and Church officials to analyse the social teaching of the Church, the relationship between personal responsibility and social structures and the social-ethical principles of other religions.

SOLEMN PRESENTATION

On 24 January 2008, Canon E. Quintiens, president of LICAP – the editing house of the Belgian bishops – solemnly handed over the original of the Dutch translation to Mgr. Reinert representing the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace which edited the original document. Prof. dr. G.J.M. van Wissen, professor at the University of Amsterdam, outlined the origins and development of the Catholic social teaching. Father dr. René Stockman f.c., General Superior of the Congregation of the Brothers of Charity, elaborated on “Congregational Apostolate: An Application of the Social Teaching Before the Term Existed”. Father Ludwig Van Heucke sj, Deputy Mission Procurator, analysed how the notion of justice developed in the recent history of the Jesuit order.

THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF THE SOCIAL TEACHING

On 16 April 2008, an UCSIA-IICT seminar examined the social and economic aspects of the social teaching of the Church. Prof. Jacques Haers sj (Catholic University of Leuven) moderated the debate. Prof. dr. Johan Verstraeten (Catholic University of Leuven), Jérôme Vignon (former adviser of Jacques Delors and president of the French Social Weeks) and prof. dr. Michael Bouzigard (Jesuit Social Research Institute New Orleans), showed how the Catholic social doctrine is relevant for concrete challenges such as the further development of the European Union and tackling international migration. The social doctrine can restore the balance between freedom of movement and solidarity between the peoples, and stimulate the EU to take up a global role for peace and development. Prof. dr. em. Michael Hornsby-Smith (University of Surrey) pointed at the existence of sinful social structures. He explained his argument with an analysis of the current global financial crisis that, according to him, strikes many poor and vulnerable people.

INTERRELIGIOUS ASPECTS OF THE SOCIAL TEACHING OF THE CHURCH

On 18 June 2008, the Christian social doctrine was compared with the social-ethical principles of Judaism, Islam, Buddhism and the Russian-Orthodox teaching. Prof. David Loy (Xavier University), prof. David Novak (University of Toronto), dr. Mohammed Mestiri (International Institute of Islamic Thought) and Rev. Dmitriy Ageev, Secretary of the EU-Representation of the Russian-Orthodox Church, contributed to this stimulating confrontation. Prof. dr. Bert Broeckert, Catholic University of Leuven, was the moderator.

PEOPLE IN THE MARGINS OF SOCIETY

Various organisations take the defence of discriminated groups in society. UCSIA wants to draw attention to the fate of some of these groups. In 2008, scholars and fieldworkers took stock of the situation of the homeless and women who are victim of domestic violence. In both cases, scholars of the University of Antwerp contributed their share to the organisation and academic preparation. Both lectures helped the participants to gain insight in the factual situation and the developments of policies and legal frameworks.

THE HOMELESS: PARIAHS OF THE WELFARE STATE

On 8 May 2008, prof. dr. Luc Goossens (research group on Poverty and Social Exclusion and the City of the University of Antwerp) analysed the profile of the homeless, the causes of homelessness and the possibilities offered by the social housing system. Freek Spinnewijn, Director of the European umbrella organisation grouping initiatives for the homeless, discussed some figures and European policy tendencies. Sociologist Pascal De Decker examined if the housing policy of the Government of Flanders provides an answer to the constitutional requisite of satisfactory and

affordable housing for people in the margins of society. This was followed by a panel debate with representatives of a homeless organisation, a welfare service and a social renting office.

WOMEN AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

On 20 November 2008, the lecture and ensuing panel debate took place on the occasion of the “International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women” of 25 November. Prof. dr. Frederik Swennen, professor of Family Law at the University of Antwerp, compared the Belgian law of 1997 on partner violence with the everyday reality situation that often reveals a lack of cooperation between the police, the judicial authorities and relief agencies. Besides, the available instruments are geared to individuals rather than families. Professor Renée Römken, professor of Interpersonal Violence at the University of Amsterdam, gave a survey of European developments in gender violence rules. One often discards gender-aspects from the problem, although violence against women increases and more men than women commit physical violence. Europe is preparing a European convention on violence at home. Professor Römken favours a balance between punishing the perpetrator and taking care of the victim. Kris De Groof, staff member of the General Agency for Welfare Support, clarified the Belgian policy against violence in the family. In the ensuing panel discussion, a police officer, a journalist and some fieldworkers discussed various issues.

LECTURES ON THEOLOGY AND THE CHURCH, IN COOPERATION WITH KVHU

In cooperation with KVHU, the Flemish Catholic University Extension Movement, UCSIA organises two lectures a year on an issue of theology.

TWO CENTURIES OF INSTITUTIONALISING THE JEWISH COMMUNITY IN BELGIUM

On 17 March, prof. dr. Adriaan Overbeeke examined the structure of “consistorial Judaism” installed by the French occupational authorities exactly two centuries ago. The lecturer raised the question whether the historical background can inspire the present government policy towards religion, or whether we need new formats and starting points, fit for present-day challenges.

THE 35TH GENERAL CONGREGATION OF THE JESUIT ORDER

Mark Rotsaert sj, President of the Conference of European SJ-Provincials, depicted on Monday 15 December how the 35th General Congregation of the Jesuit Order went off and what results came out of it. The General Congregation elected a new General Superior, Father Adolfo Nicolás sj. Pope Benedict urged the Jesuits to apostolic but creative loyalty to the doctrinal authority of the Church. The General Congregation adopted 6 Decrees that regulate the functioning and orient the Jesuit Order throughout the coming years. The 3rd Decree mentions the “Apostolic Preferences” or priorities which also import for UCSIA, a.o.: Africa, China, the intellectual apostolate, migration and refugees. The increasing globalisation has awakened in many Jesuits a forceful understanding of a universal mission supported in common.

PASTORAL WORK AND THE CHURCH

UCSIA, in association with the Pastoral Care service of the University of Antwerp (Gert Van Langendonck and Johan Vanhoutte sj), organises a series of activities on pastoral work and the Church.

YOUTH PASTORAL SEMINAR ON “METAMORPHOSES”

For the fifth time, UCSIA and the Pastoral Service of the University of Antwerp brought together the pastoral workers of the universities and schools for higher education in Flanders under the title “Metamorphoses: on Religion and Modern Culture”. These gatherings offer professional training and support. It has become a tradition that participants exchange ideas and thus further strengthen pastoral work in higher education.

This two-day seminar took place in Ostend on 10 and 11 January 2008. Professor Erik Borgman, lecturer of Systematic Theology at the University of Amsterdam, tried to interpret and reorient the role of religion in present-day society. Borgman fiercely resists the ever-increasing cynical disbelief in the public debate and he calls for a renewed reflection on the role of religion in modern society. Professor Borgman specifically examined the context in Flanders for pastoral work in higher education and the relevance of the prevalent models of student pastoral work in the region.

Professor Luc Derijcke, lecturer at UAMS (Research Group Man & Organisation) coached the group in a GPS-exercise to produce creative ideas. The second session was on self-motivation, esteem and sense in a management context, with different links to and exercises for pastoral work. In the evening, Piet Thomas recited a selection of poems from his book “God in Poetry: The Most Superb Religious Poetry from the Low Countries”.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

JESUIT SECONDARY EDUCATION: TRADITION AND INNOVATION

On 24 May 2008, 200 participants attended the conference on “Jesuit Secondary Education: Tradition and Innovation”, organised by UCSIA in cooperation with the Federation of Flemish Alumni Associations of Jesuit Secondary Schools and its president Mr. Frank Judo.

Dominique Salin sj, professor at Centre Sèvres in Paris, showed how the Jesuit schools were established and developed into the global standard model of secondary teaching. The Spiritual Exercises prompted the Jesuits, who initially had no ambition to set up schools, to become teachers. Paul Yperman, President of the Flemish and European federations of Jesuit Secondary Schools, examined the challenges to Jesuit education in a context of great social change and a decreasing number of Jesuits. Nikolaas Sintobin sj analysed Ignatian “Excellence”. Johan Verschueren sj, General Director of the Xaveriuscollege in Borgerhout, gave evidence of the present-day challenges in a Jesuit college. The original mission of the Xaveriuscollege - established in the thirties of the 20th century – which was to emancipate workers in a poor neighbourhood, remains fully unabridged amid what has become a multicultural migrant quarter. To opt for a Christian identity has become difficult but not impossible.

Four alumni from Jesuit colleges (Luc Bertrand, Geert D’Haens, Matthias E. Storme en Phillippe Vandekerckhove) debated with four “fieldworkers” (Hilde Houtman, Peter Knapen, Myriam Van den Eynde, Johan Verschueren sj.). VRT-journalist Bruno Huyghebaert moderated this lively debate in a professional way.

THE SEARCH FOR A POWERFUL LEARNING AND TEACHING ENVIRONMENT FOR ROMAN CATHOLIC RELIGION CLASSES

On 21 and 22 February 2008, UCSIA organised its annual conference for secondary school teachers of religion, educational counsellors, organisers of school pastoral work and school principals. This fifth edition focused on “The Search for a Powerful Learning and Teaching Environment for Roman Catholic Religion Classes”.

Nowadays, it is considered to be gradually more difficult to achieve the main goal of the Roman Catholic religion classes in an attractive way. Teachers wonder how they can achieve the goals that the statement and principles of the Flemish Association for Catholic Secondary School Education puts forward. Teachers should not only address ethical issues and current news topics, but they should also discuss questions that are deeply rooted in Roman Catholic faith so students are able to grasp the faith value of specific events.

The 2008 conference presented real-time class situations on DVD and this showed how teachers can use the statement and principles of the Flemish Association for Catholic High School Education to create a strong learning environment. It also made visible how teachers and students can address

the issue of connectedness and/or conflict between their identity and the plurality of the present-day world and the Christian tradition that surrounds them.

MEETING MYSTICS

UCSIA offered the Ruusbroec Society (University of Antwerp) the single chance to develop a new series of lectures on mysticism. Five personalities and communities from the Low Countries have been highlighted. Strong impulses to the development of the mystical tradition have emanated from this region. Every lecture consisted of two parts: a survey of the historical context of the texts and authors concerned, followed by a reading and elucidation of striking excerpts.

- Beatrijs Van Nazareth, by Rob Faessen sj on 9 October,
- Hadewijch, by Veerle Fraeters on 23 October,
- Jan van Ruusbroec, by Guido de Baere sj on 6 November,
- Hendrik Herp, by Thom Mertens on 20 November,
- The Sisters Agnieten, by Kees Schepers on 4 December 2008.

QUR'AN AND WOMEN

On 9 May 2008, UCSIA offered a lecture by dr. Amina Wadud, professor emeritus Study of Islam at the "School of World Studies" of Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond and author of many pioneering publications. Amina Wadud is an exponent of the modern reform debate in Islam. She interprets the Qur'an from the angle of what it means to be a self-assured Muslim woman. Nadia Fadil, researcher at the Centre for Sociology Research of the Catholic University of Leuven, introduced her.

This lecture was organised in cooperation with the Forum Anne en André Leysen on Intercultural Relations and prof. dr. Marie-Claire Foblets. It attracted many participants from the local Muslim community.

III. TEACHING CHAIRS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

UCSIA-TEACHING CHAIR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ANTWERP

Prof. dr. Erik-Jan Zürcher held the UCSIA Chair in 2007-2008. His promoter was prof. dr. Marnix Beyen of the Department of History. Dr. Zürcher studied Arab, Turkish and New-Persian and promoted in 1984 as an expert on Turkey at the University of Leiden. His area of expertise is the political and social history of the Late-Ottoman Empire and the young Turkish Republic. Since April 2008, he is director of the International Institute of Social History at Amsterdam. He was a guest lecturer at many universities throughout Europe and the US. At the University of Antwerp, he taught a bachelor course “Empire and Nation State” and a master course “Modern History of Turkey”.

In the framework of the UCSIA-Chair, he held a lecture on 14 May 2008 on the “Historical Roots of Modern Turkey”. Turkey has been an accession candidate to the European Union for more than 50 years. It is both a young nation state and the heir of a 6 centuries old empire. The roots of modern Turkey go back to the period of the first World War, an era of intense ethnical and religious conflict and mass population movement. Turkey is also the product of a modern and positivist elite that deliberately set out to create a new, Turkish nation. One cannot understand present-day Turkey without considering these historical factors.

TEACHING CHAIR JEF VAN GERWEN SJ

In 2006, the Jef Van Gerwen sj Chair was awarded for the first time. This chair was established in commemoration of Jef Van Gerwen, a Jesuit from Antwerp who pioneered the field of corporate ethics in Flanders and who co-founded UCSIA. Prof. Luc Van Liedekerke is the promoter of the chair.

KENNETH GOODPASTER

Kenneth E. Goodpaster teaches at Harvard Business School and the University of Saint Thomas (USA). He trained and consulted a myriad of large and medium-sized companies on business ethics.

In his book “Conscience and Corporate Culture” (Blackwell Publishing, 2007), Kenneth E. Goodpaster defines teleopathy as the “unbalanced pursuit of goals by people or organisations”. The main symptoms of the illness are fixation, rationalisation and detachment or indifference. Teleopathy struck companies such as Enron, NASA or Arthur Andersen. He explained how companies can programme ethical awareness and behaviour in a corporation. It is a matter of communication, motivation and discipline. Universities, management schools and corporate federations play an important role in preventing teleopathy, as well as a stakeholder approach. But they can never replace a well-developed personal conscience as a necessary condition.

APPENDICES

Appendix 1. Members of the Scribani-network

- Angelus Silesius House, Wrocław, Poland
www.silesius.org.pl
- Centre for Bio-Ethics, Institute of Philosophy and Theology of the Society of Jesus, Zagreb, Croatia
www.ftidi.hr/bioetika/
- Centre of Spirituality East-West of Michal Lacko, Košice, Slovakia
www.csvzml.org
- Centre Sèvres, Department of Public Ethics, Paris, France
www.centresevres.com
- Conference of European SJ Provincials
www.jesuits-europe.info/cep/cep.html
- European Centre of Communication and Culture, Pontifical Faculty of Theology “Bobolanum”, Warsaw, Poland
www.eccc.pl
- Faculty of Social Sciences, Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome, Italy
www.unigre.it/pug/scienze-sociali/sociali.htm
- Heythrop Institute for Religion, Ethics and Public Life, University of London, UK
www.heythrop.ac.uk
- Institute for the Study of Religions and Cultures, Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome, Italy
www.unigre.it/struttura-didattica/isirc/index.php
- Institute for Social and Development Studies, Munich School of Philosophy, Munich, Germany
www.hfph.mwn.de/igp
- Institute of European Studies, University of Deusto, Bilbao, Spain
www.ice.deusto.es
- Jesuit Centre for Faith and Justice, Dublin, Ireland
www.cfj.ie
- Jesuit European Office, Brussels, Belgium
www.ocipe.info
- Jesuit Refugee Service Europe, Brussels, Belgium
www.jrseurope.org
- Newman Institute for Catholic Studies, Uppsala, Sweden
www.newman.se
- “Pedro Arrupe” Institute for Political Formation, Palermo, Italy
www.gesuiti.it/csarrupe
- University Centre Saint-Ignatius Antwerp, Belgium
www.ucsia.org
- University Institute of Migration Studies, Comillas Pontifical University, Madrid, Spain
www.upcomillas.es/pagnew/iem/index.asp

Appendix 2. Academic Guest Lecturers 2008

This list enumerates all guest speakers at UCSIA events in 2008 that have a doctoral degree and have, on principle, a professorial office at a university or related research institute including emeriti.

Summer School “Religion, Culture and Society”

Hefner, Robert William	Boston University
Hutchinson, John	London School of Economics
Modood, Tariq	University of Bristol
Welzel, Christian	Jacobs University of Bremen

Multiculturalism and Intercultural Communication

Creese, Angela	University of Birmingham
Extra, Guus	University of Tilburg
Farr, Marcia	University of Ohio
Harris, Roxy	King’s College London
Kallmeyer, Werner	Universität Mannheim
Keating, Clara	Universidade de Coimbra
Moyer, Melissa	Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona
Rampton, Ben	King’s College London
Slembrouck, Stef	University of Ghent
Van den Branden, Kris	Catholic University of Leuven
Verschueren, Jef	University of Antwerp
Wei, Li	University of London
Yağmur, Kutlay	University of Tilburg

The Jewish Book in a Christian World

Berger, Shlomo	University of Amsterdam
den Hollander, August	Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam
Dunkelgrün, Theo	University of Chicago
Grafton, Anthony	Princeton University
Hacker, Joseph	The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Idel, Moshe	The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
Krakotzkin, Amnon Raz	Ben Gurion University
Liska, Viviane	University of Antwerp
Mintz, Sharon	Library of the Jewish Theological Seminary
Nielsen, Bruce	The Jewish Theological Seminary of America
Offenberg, Adri	Bibliotheca Rosenthaliana
Reiner, Elhanan	Tel Aviv University
Ruderman, David	University of Pennsylvania
Shalev, Zur	University of Haifa
Van Boxel, Piet	Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies
Van der Heide, Albert	University of Leiden and Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam

Weinberg, Joanna

Oxford Institute for Hebrew and Jewish Studies

Local Relevance of Human Rights

Courtis, Christian

International Commission of Jurists

De Feyter, Koen

University of Antwerp

Gómez, Felipe

University of Deusto

Olubenga, Oke-Samuel

Adekunle Ajasin University

Oluduro, Olubayo

Adekunle Ajasin University

Oré-Aguilar, Gaby

University of Antwerp

Papisca, Antonio

University of Padua

Reynolds, John

Al-Haq

Ulrich, George

European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratization (EIUC)

Yamin, Alicia E.

Harvard University Law School

The University after Bologna

Barnett, Ronald

University of London

Guédon, Jean-Claude

Université de Montréal

Masschelein, Jan

Catholic University of Leuven

Robertson, Susan

University of Bristol

The Role of Religion in the Integration of Europe

Calvez sj, Jean-Yves

Centre Sèvres

Farrugia sj, Edward

Pontifical Institute of Oriental Studies

Hanvey sj, James

Heythrop Institute for Religion, Ethics and Public Life

Madeley, John

London School of Economics

Martin, David

London School of Economics

Riordan sj, Patrick

Heythrop Institute for Religion, Ethics and Public Life

Turchynovsky, Volodymyr

Ukrainian Catholic University

Are There Limits to a Darwinian World View?

Braeckman, Johan

University of Ghent

Burms, Arnold

Catholic University of Leuven

Corbey, Raymond

University of Leiden

De Block, Andreas

Catholic University of Leuven

De Bont, Raf

Catholic University of Leuven

Decler, Walter

University of Antwerp

Dupré, John

University of Exeter

McGrath, Alister

Oxford University

Nettle, Daniel

Newcastle University

van Hooff, Jan

University of Utrecht

Social Teaching of the Church

Bouzigard sj, Michael	Jesuit Social Research Institute
Broeckaert, Bert	Catholic University of Leuven
Haers sj, Jacques	Catholic University of Leuven
Hornsby-Smith, Michael	University of Surrey
Loy, David	Xavier University
Mestiri, Mohammed	International Institute of Islamic Thought
Novak, David	University of Toronto
van Wissen, Gerard J.M.	University of Amsterdam
Verstraeten, Johan	Catholic University of Leuven

People in the Margins of Society

De Decker, Pascal	University of Antwerp
Goossens, Luc	University of Antwerp
Römkens, Renée	University of Tilburg
Swennen, Frederik	University of Antwerp

KVHU

Overbeeke, Adriaan	University of Antwerp
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Youth Pastoral Seminar

Borgman, Erik	University of Tilburg
Derijcke, Luc	University of Antwerp/UAMS

Teaching Chairs and Scholarships

Goodpaster, Kenneth E.	University of Saint Thomas
Zürcher, Erik-Jan	University of Leiden

Other Activities

de Baere sj, Guido	University of Antwerp
Depoortere, Frederiek	Catholic University of Leuven
Faesen, Robert	University of Antwerp
Fraeters, Veerle	University of Antwerp
Mertens, Thom	University of Antwerp
Salin sj, Dominique	Centre Sèvres
Schepers, Kees	University of Antwerp
Van Petegem, Peter	University of Antwerp
Verbesselt, Bart	Katholieke Hogeschool Leuven
Wadud, Amina	Virginia Commonwealth University

UCSIA
PRINSSTRAAT 14
B-2000 ANTWERPEN

TELEFOON: +32-(0)3 220 49 60
FAX: +32 (0)3 707 09 31

BTW: BE 478.834.659
IBAN: BE25 7350 0583 9182
SWIFT: KREDBEBB

<http://www.ucsia.org>