ORGANISATION & HISTORY

UCSIA

General Council | Board of Directors
Academic Council | Executive Committee | Team

PROJECTS

Summer Seminars on ‘Religion, Culture and Society’
Scribani
Scribani Network | Conference on European Migration and Asylum Policy · Madrid
Workshop on Migration and Detention in Europe · Antwerp
International Workshops
Inheritance and Wealth | e-Youth
Sports and Community Building | Ethics and the Financial Sector | Intellectuals in the Public Sphere
Pilgrimage in Pluralist Europe Today | Forgotten Genocides | Volunteering
Lecture Series
The Paradox of Tolerance
Brain and Self | Brain Science in Context | To Be Conscious | To Sense | To Will
To Interact | To Believe
Communicating on Climate Change | Media Discourse | The Discourse of Environmental Economists
A Social-Cultural Discourse
Taboos in the Margin of Care | Intimacy with Vulnerable Groups | Teenage Parents
Disabled Persons and Sexuality | Youngsters and Transgressive Sexual Behavior
Academy of Theology
Defecting to the Barbarians | An Archbishop | Jesus | Paul
Pastoral Care and Church
Images of God | Jacob’s Ladder | The Diocese of Antwerp | Pastoral Care in Health Care and Welfare
Pedagogical Conferences on Teaching Religion | Professional Perspectives of the Course Roman Catholicism
How Should a Teacher of Islam Handle Problematic Behavior at School?
Educating Young Muslims in a Multicultural Context | Roman Catholicism and Islam 2010
Art
Craigie Horsfield | Anri Sala
Other Projects
Mission in Africa | China, Africa and Europe
The Lure of Eastern Religions | Care for Tomorrow
Banishing Youth Unemployment | Pilgrimage | Heroic Leadership
Transmitting Culture and Education in a Multicultural Setting

TEACHING CHAIRS & SCHOLARSHIPS

Teaching Chairs
UCSIA-Teaching Chair at the University of Antwerp | Paul Collier
Teaching Chair Jef Van Gerwen SJ | Johan Verstraeten | Thomas Maak & Nicola Pless
UCSIA/JJS Chair Jewish-Christian Relations | David Meyer & Hendrik Hoet | Elisheva Carlebach
Stipendia
Judith Polmann | Patricia Dailey | Peter Lesonzi | Xianglong Zhang | Verónica Rodríguez Blanco

ANNEXES

Annex 1: Members of the Scribani Network
Annex 2: Academic Guests 2010-2011
1 ORGANISATION & HISTORY
**UCSIA** continues the Jesuit tradition of involvement in university education, research and community service in the Flemish and Antwerp region.

**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 a non-profit organisation incorporated under Belgian law. The General Assembly consists of up to thirty-six 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 approves the budget and the accounts. The Board of Directors directs the organisation. The Executive Committee supervises the implementation 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.

**HISTORY**

In 1852 members of the Jesuit Order founded a college for higher education in commerce and trade in the port city of Antwerp. This Jesuit college developed into one of the first business schools in Europe granting academic degrees. The Saint Ignatius Institute of Higher Education in Commerce gradually broadened its activities with a Faculty of Literature and Philosophy (including Law) and a Faculty of Political and Social Sciences.

In the late 1960s the college was granted university status by the Belgian government and renamed Universitaire Faculteiten Sint-Ignatius Antwerpen (**UFSIA**).

**UFSIA** offered formal degrees in applied economics, language, literature & philosophy, law, and social & political sciences.

From the early 1970s **UFSIA** and two public institutions – Rijksuniversitair Centrum Antwerpen (**RUCA**) and Universitaire Instelling Antwerpen (**UIA**) – formed a confederation. In 2002 **UFSIA**, **RUCA** and **UIA** merged into Universiteit Antwerpen on the basis of the Decree of 4 April 2003, with a threefold mission: teaching, research and service to society. The Universitair Centrum Sint-Ignatius Antwerpen (**UCSIA**) is an offspring of the former Jesuit institution of **UFSIA**. It is an independent non-profit organisation founded in the summer of 2002. It became operational by the end of the same year.
The General Council welcomed Rev. Fons Swinnen sj, Provincial of the BSE Province of the Jesuits, as a new member. Under the chairmanship of Professor Emeritus Jean Van Houtte, the General Council is composed as follows:

for the Society of Jesus:
- Luc Bouckaert, Professor Emeritus of Ethics, KU 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, KU Leuven
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- Jan Peters sj, Honorary Vice-Chair of Radboud University in Nijmegen
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- Mark Rotsaert sj, Superior Gregoriana Community, Rome
- Fons Swinnen sj, Provincial of the BSE Province
- Guy Vanheeswijk, Professor of Philosophy, University of Antwerp

for the academic community of Antwerp:
- Jean Van Houtte, Professor Emeritus of Sociology & Pro Rector of UFSA, Chairperson
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- Pierre Delsaerdt, Institute of Education and Information, University of Antwerp
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external members:
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- Frans Crols, former Managing Director & Editor-in-Chief of Trends/Roularta
- Etienne De Jonghe, Honorary Secretary-General of Pax Christi International
- Mia De Schamphelaere, Honorary Member of Parliament
- Jan De Volder, Political Editor of Tertio
- Maddie Geerts, Honorary National Secretary of ACV
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Christiane Timmerman, Director of Academic Affairs, Chairperson (until 1 October 2011)
Jacques Haers sj, Director of Academic Affairs, Chairperson (from 1 October 2011)
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 Dierickxs sj, Professor Emeritus of Political Science, University of Antwerp
Marie-Claire Foblets, Doctor of Law and Professor of Anthropology, ku Leuven
Louis Ferrant, Doctor of Medicine, Centre for GP Medicine, University of Antwerp
Tim Heyse, Professor of Political Philosophy, ku Leuven
Henk Opdebeeck, Professor of Ethics and Economics, University of Antwerp
Wilfried Pauwels, Professor Emeritus of Economics, University of Antwerp
Nicolas Standaert sj, Professor of Sinology, ku 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 and ku Leuven
Dirk Vanheule, Professor of Law, University of Antwerp
Amarylis Verhoeven, Doctor of Law, ku Leuven
Johan Verstraeten, Professor of Moral Theology and Ethics, ku Leuven
Frank Willaert, Professor of Literature, University of Antwerp

Executive Committee

Christiane Timmerman, Director of Academic Affairs & Chairperson (until 1 October 2011)
Jacques Haers sj, Director of Academic Affairs & Chairperson (from 1 October 2011)
Luc Braeckmans, Deputy Director of Academic Affairs & Vice-Chairperson
Sara Mels, Scientific Collaborator
Barbara Segaert, Scientific Coordinator
Geert Vanhaverbeke, Head of Administration

Team

The General Council has appointed Professor Jacques Haers sj as Director of Academic Affairs. He succeeds Professor Christiane Timmerman who managed UCSIA from 2003 to 2011. The governing bodies and collaborators of UCSIA are thankful for her pioneering work and support during the first years of UCSIA and wish her success in her new capacity as Director of the Centre for Migration and Intercultural Studies of the University of Antwerp.

Professor Walter Nonneman, Managing Director
Professor Jacques Haers sj, Director of Academic Affairs, Chairperson of the Academic Council and the Executive Committee, in charge of national and international projects
Professor Luc Braeckmans, Deputy Director of Academic Affairs, Vice-Chairperson of the Academic Council and the Executive Committee, coordinator of national projects
Marijke Celis: Secretary
Sara Mels: Scientific Collaborator
Barbara Segaert: Scientific Coordinator
Christel Van Wonterghem: Secretary
Geert Vanhaverbeke: Head of Administration
PROJECTS
On ‘Religion, Culture and Society’

Between 2003 and 2009, five summer seminars have taken place. The seminar has evolved into an intensive one-week format. The seminar brings together senior scholars with 30 young scholars – PhD students and postdoctoral students – selected from a wide range of disciplines, geographical origins and ideologies on the basis of a research paper. Together they reflect upon the dynamics of religion, society and culture. The junior participants present their ongoing research; the senior scholars give feedback on these research findings and the research methodology whilst providing insight into new factual and scientific developments through keynote lectures.

A small team of senior international scholars have entered into a long-term commitment with UCSIA: namely Professors Peter Beyer (University of Ottawa), Robert William Hefner (Boston University) and John Hutchinson (London School of Economics). Every year, a few additional senior scholars help to shape a specific additional focus of the summer seminar.

From 2011 on, the program puts emphasis on the way in which religion and culture influence one another in a globalizing world and how this changes the international political, economic and social relations.

2010

The 2010 Summer Seminar was a special anniversary edition. It took place from 26 to 28 August 2010 and brought together alumni from previous sessions, selected on the basis of a call for papers. A number of new guest speakers joined the existing team of senior scholars: Professors Jeremy Carrette (University of Kent), Jeffrey Haynes (London Metropolitan University), David Martin (London School of Economics) and Tulasi Srinivas (Emerson College).

2011

The 2011 edition took place from 28 August to 4 September 2011 with public lectures read by Professor Peter Beyer on 30 August and Professor Scott Thomas (University of Bath and Heythrop College) on 1 September.

In the analyses of many scholars, religion in the West has faded away as a determining factor. In the 20th century, modernisation went hand in hand with a weakening of personal faith and religion started to function separately from politics. Secularisation, as witnessed in Europe today, is not as common elsewhere in the world. Can one discern ‘multiple secularities’ and a variance in religiosity next to ‘multiple modernities’? Academics are once again paying attention to religion as an actor in international relations and adapt their theoretical models to the new context. From a global perspective, it also touches upon the link between ethnicity, nation and state. Is civic nationalism enough to make a state function? Which binding factor brings about unity and effective states in the Global South? Globalisation intensifies migrations of religion and allows new forms of religion to take shape between traditional religions, with Pentecostalism as an example. It is a very adaptable religion, adapting easily to local contexts but maintaining a highly recognisable and charismatic global style.
Scribani Network

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

Every two years, a Scribani conference takes place which:

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

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

Conference on European Migration and Asylum Policy - Madrid

On 9 and 10 September 2010, the 4th Scribani conference took place in Madrid in cooperation with the Instituto Universitario de Estudios sobre Migraciones (IEM) of the Universidad Pontificia Comillas Madrid / ICAI-ICADE.

The conference assessed the emerging European migration and asylum policy as based on a tight control of migration flows, the encouraging of highly skilled migration, return of illegal migrants, development aid for countries of origin and the respect for asylum seekers’ rights. More than 20 young scholars from different European universities presented their research: mainly jurists, but also (post-) doctoral researchers of demographics, philosophy and morals, politics, economics, sociology, intercultural and migration studies. Renowned scholars such as Amelie F. Constant (George Washington University, ZA Bonn), Javier de Lucas (University of Valencia) and Oded Stark (Universities of Bonn, Klagenfurt, Tuebingen, Vienna, Warsaw) introduced the major issues: right of asylum, illegal migration, legal migration and co-development.

The new documentary ‘Harvest of Loneliness’ on US-Mexican migration from 1942 to 1964 was introduced by Rubén G. Rumbaut (University of California) as a round-up of the conference.

Workshop on Migration and Detention in Europe - Antwerp

On 23 September 2011 the 3rd Scribani workshop took place in Antwerp with public lectures by Professor Christiane Timmerman (University of Antwerp) and Mr. Philip Amaral (JRS).

Incoming migration in Belgium provides a clear illustration of European and international trends: migrants originate from all over the world, they followed higher education and they are often women. This changes the socio-economic, political, cultural and religious landscape. Everywhere in Europe, migrants are detained under worrying conditions: asylum seekers, illegal migrants, families with children or unaccompanied minors. The European Union links migration policy with detention but its member states deem Europe incompetent for imposing minimal standards. The Jesuit Refugee Service reported on lower-priced alternatives for confinement without infringement of human rights.

The workshop prepared the 2012 Scribani conference on European detention policy organised by the Jesuit Center for Faith and Justice in Dublin. Prison chaplain Leo De Weerdt sj testified to the Belgian legal ‘statute of the prisoner’ in theory and practice.
Inheritance and Wealth

This workshop took place on 5 and 6 March 2010 in cooperation with Professor Guido Erreygers (University of Antwerp) and Professor John Cunliffe (University of Warwick).

In the current debate on social policy, some advocate abolishing all forms of inheritance tax. Others stand for increased inheritance and succession duties, in order to fund new policy proposals such as a basic amount of capital for all. These differing points of departure result from diverging opinions on justice and equality and the relative weight attached to them.

In this academic workshop, scholars from several countries discussed the various systems of inheritance taxes and succession duties along with arguments that are brought forward in the public arena by proponents and opponents of increased wealth taxation.

In the margin of the programme, on 4 March 2010, Professor Jens Beckert (Max Planck Society for the Study of Societies, Cologne) gave a public lecture attributing the differences in inheritance law between the United States, France and Germany to cultural factors. He discussed issues such as the freedom to dispose of one’s own property, the entitlement of family members to the estate, the repeal of the restriction of inheritance to linear descendants and property taxation.

On 6 March 2010, the scholars tested their insights against the current debate on inheritance and gifts in Belgium and Flanders. Participants were representatives of the Knowledge Center for Taxation and Fiscal Policy, the notaries, the Christian trade union and the Foundation King Baudouin. Lowering the rates of inheritance and gift tax in Flanders increased tax proceeds. Civil and taxation laws regulating inheritance matters lag behind the increasing number of divorces and the new forms of parenthood or cohabitation (between persons of the same or different sexes). The Christian trade union acknowledged that the time horizon of employees is often too short and stood for fairer taxation. This implies less tax on labour and more on property, something that runs counter to the European trend.

E-Youth

In cooperation with Professors Michel Walrave and Heidi Vandebosch of MIOS (Media & ICT in Organizations and Society), this international and multidisciplinary conference examined the opportunities and risks of the internet and new media for teenagers and youngsters. It took place on 27 and 28 May 2010. MIOS made public the results of a poll on the positive or negative experiences of youngsters with ICT and social media. Five international keynote speakers gave lectures: Jos De Haan (Erasmus University Rotterdam), Sonia Livingstone (London School of Economics), Yves Poullet (Universities of Namur and Liège), Peter Smith (University of London) and Youn Seounmi (Emerson College Boston). A total of 70 European scholars, who had been selected on the basis of a call for papers, presented their latest research findings on these topics.

Several topics and issues were discussed:
- e-Youth as a heterogeneous group (gaps in access and internet skills, social differences, income inequality, …)
- personal development and growth (identity construction, social networks, privacy, sexual exploitation, social norms, edutainment, …)
- vulnerable groups (electronic marketing, risky contact, cyber-bullying, …)
- awareness, protection and empowerment (risk awareness, parental role, education campaigns, …)
- ethical and legal aspects.

On 26 May, Bern Martens, university lecturer at the secondary teachers’ training course of Leuven University College, read a paper on issues such as cyber-bullying, the health risks of internet surfing and online privacy of minors. He elucidated national and international initiatives that offer a safe environment to children and teenagers. Ann De Bie, journalist at the public broadcasting company VRT, moderated a panel debate on the opportunities and risks for surfing youngsters and the role of parents with the participation of Child Focus, Jeugdwerknet, Kids 2 Marketing, Microsoft and the Flemish Ministry of Education.
Sports and Community Building

This academic workshop took place from 14 to 16 October 2010 in cooperation with Professors Stefan Kesenne, Marc Theeboom and Bart Vanreusel. Public lectures were given by Professors Roland Renson, Sven Güldenpfennig, Cora Burnett and Wolfgang Maennig. On 16 October a panel debate followed with scholars and journalists Marc Mercy and Hans Vandeweghe and with Alain Courtos as a representative of the Royal Belgian Football Association.

Sport as ‘fair-play’ between amateurs is a 19th-century Anglo-Saxon invention. The principle of equal opportunities was less inspired by concerns for democracy than by the concern to make the game more exciting, for equal opportunities from the start entail a less predictable outcome. Professional sportsmen arose among the working classes in their search for new ways of making a living. It was only in 1988 that the Olympic Games abandoned the principle of amateurism and sports became the global industry and show business it is today. Society expects much from sport, but its political contribution to international peace building is more symbolic than permanent. What is the function of major sporting events, such as the world championship football in South Africa (2010), in developing countries? How does the local community experience the economic prosperity promised by FIFA? The panel discussed the Belgian-Dutch bid for the world football championship 2018.

Ethics and the Financial Sector

From 1 to 3 December 2010, at the Antwerp seat of the National Bank of Belgium, UcSia organized an academic conference in cooperation with Professors Luc Van Liedekerke, Marc Deloof and Helma De Smedt.

On 1 December, Catherine Cowley ra (Heythrop College, London) gave a public lecture. She argued that a well-developed financial sector is essential for growth and wellbeing, however the financial crisis proves that the sector can run wild. Undoubtedly, better regulation is necessary, but are the financial institutions and their collaborators really imbued with high moral values? An expert panel discussed these questions, including Etienne de Callataÿ (Bank De Groof), Marcia De Wachter (National Bank of Belgium), Herman Hendrickx (Financial Forum Antwer), Daan Killemaes (Trends) and Michel Vermaere (Febelfin).

The program explored more issues. What are the consequences of the worldwide financial crisis for integrity and trust in the banking sector? What can the traditional banks learn from cooperative banking, microfinance or Islamic banking? What does ‘socially responsible investment’ really mean for banks and other financial institutions? Profit seeking and self-interest continue to be useful incentives, but do they also lead to a satisfactory level of respect for the common good, accurate risk assessment or respect for norms and values?

Intellectuals in the Public Sphere

Professors Bert De Munck, Tim Heyse, Peter Thijssen and Walter Weyns cooperated with UcSia in organizing this academic workshop from 23 to 25 March 2011. The Enlightenment brought us the notion of a universal public sphere and of an impartial, discerning and rational ‘philosophe’ who participates in the public debates held there. But the public sphere is neither uniform nor unchanging. Moreover, the spread of the internet and of social network sites has drastically changed the space for public debate and the role and authority of intellectuals. In cyberspace, anyone can vent his opinion on social issues and influence public opinion (or a small group of the like-minded) through numerous new and informal e-communities. Moreover, television has privileged the importance of image and appearance over content. The profile of the intellectual has also changed. He or she took up the role of an avant-garde revolutionary or a respected public figure with great moral authority who was loved by the public (Sartre for example). Nowadays, writers or scholars are given the role of public intellectual. They often find it difficult to guard their academic independence and literary freedom. Finally, a new type of ‘embedded’ intellectual is trying to nourish public opinion at grassroots level.
Pilgrimage in Pluralist Europe Today
This workshop was organized in cooperation with Professors Veerle Fraeters, Frank Willaert, Peter Stabel and Peter Jan Margry on 19 and 20 May 2011. In a public lecture on 19 May, Professor Simon Coleman assessed the meaning of pilgrimage today by taking the site of Walsingham (UK) as a reference point.

Pilgrimage is on the rise in Europe. Traditional practices are being revived and new secular practices developed. What drives a pilgrim and should religious motives be distinguished from a spiritual drive? Alternative modes of spirituality have replaced the existing institutional forms. Globalisation and migration are bringing in new influences.

In the 19th century, pilgrimage was used as an instrument for combating the Enlightenment and reinforcing national churches. In the 20th century it served as a buffer against atheist political ideologies. Nowadays, the phenomenon contributes to redefining European Christian identity, whilst sites of pilgrimage serve nationalistic purposes in Eastern Europe and elsewhere.

Forgotten Genocides
This workshop took place from 24 to 25 November 2011 in cooperation with Professors Marc Bossuyt, Bert Ingelaere and Stephan Parmentier. Professor René Lemarchand read a public paper on 24 November. The recent genocides in Rwanda and Bosnia and international criminal procedures raise questions about the efficacy of the legal and institutional frameworks and the responsibility of the international community. Is it useful to distinguish the concept of genocide from other crimes against humanity? When must the international political community intervene and on which grounds? How must these crimes be punished by the law? To understand how a vicious circle of violence may result in straightforward genocide, it is crucial to thoroughly analyse historical processes and regional interests. If one wants to prevent genocide and intervene in the process at the right time, it is important to see the underlying causes. Unacknowledged or near-genocides can teach us much, for example the situation in Burundi in 1993 that triggered the genocide in Rwanda.

Volunteering
This took place from 7 to 9 December 2011 in cooperation with Professors Caroline Gijselinckx, Lesley Hustinx, Emeritus Jan Vranken and Drs. Wim Vandewiele. On 7 December, Professor Paul Lichterman compared the many forms of volunteering in the United States and Europe. The workshop examined the concept of volunteering in the framework of social organisations and religious movements. It became apparent that volunteering differs from other forms of citizenship and community action, deeds of solidarity and compassion, or doing missionary work. Traditional modes of volunteering have become less attractive and are making way for new forms of social commitment. Professor Paul Lichterman referred to the shift from ‘club-based volunteering’ to ‘plug-in volunteering’. It is a cultural shift whereby people become less motivated by ‘fulfilling a role in society’ than by self-expression. Institutional changes and developments on the labour market are also at stake. The institutional roles that people used to play out of a sense of obligation are exchanged for individually-defined roles with greater personal responsibility. The clear distinction between work and leisure has been blurred and the borders between labour and professional service on the one hand, family life and voluntary commitment on the other, have become more diffuse.
The Paradox of Tolerance
Tolerance is a paradox: to tolerate opinions or practices implies that one in truth rejects them. During 2009, UCSIA examined this paradox in a series of five double lectures. On 14 January 2010, Professor James Hanvey held the closing lecture. He is a theologian at Heythrop College London and stated that tolerance plays a central role in maintaining social peace in the present-day liberal culture. Laying down what is tolerable through rules at the same time delineates the domain of what is not tolerable. Who draws the line? Tolerance should rather be a social virtue and one should learn to give it time and space. Theology, and more in particular the notion of God’s patience as developed by Karl Barth, can offer inspiration. God lays down a Plan of Love, but He leaves us the time and alternative ways to accomplish it.

Jacques Haers sj (KU Leuven) raised some poignant questions as a respondent, such as whether pleading for patience cannot also be a way to cover injustice, and whether truth-seeking is intolerant by definition?

Brain and Self
In 2010, UCSIA offered a lecture series on ‘brain and self’ in cooperation with the Department of Philosophy of the University of Antwerp. Each lecture presented an area in which neuroscience has made remarkable progress and the claims on human self-understanding resulting from it. A master class at the University of Antwerp preceded every lecture.

Brain Science in Context
On 6 May 2010, Joachim Leilich and Erik Myin read introductory lectures. Both are professors at the Centre for Philosophical Psychology, Department of Philosophy, University of Antwerp. The neurosciences have a young and vibrant image and attract much attention. They reveal how material neural processes – electrical impulses and chemical processes – direct our muscular movements according to inherent patterns. Neuroscience reduces emotional reactions such as regret, guilt or pride to fluctuations in the limbic system. No ‘me’, ‘self’ or ‘conscience’ enter into the matter. This conflicts with our subjective experience and with the dual portrayal of mankind by Descartes: an immaterial spirit in a material body. Scientists and philosophers now share a ‘minimal materialist consensus’ and agree that every mental process has its material correlate and vice-versa. But the question remains: who is responsible, me or my brain?

To Be Conscious
On 7 October 2010, Audrey Vanhaudenhuyse (Coma Science Group, University of Liège) stressed the ethical and clinical importance of the results of systemic measurements of brain activity, using new techniques – in conditions such as coma, vegetative state or locked-in syndrome. In unexpected cases, researchers measure a significant degree of awareness or consciousness and patients are able to communicate with their environment using computer interfaces. Philosopher Tim Bayne (University of Oxford) questioned the neuro-scientific definition of consciousness and the method of measuring consciousness by counting single video signals.

To Sense
On 13 October 2010, Kevin O’Regan (Université René Descartes) and Helena De Preester (Hogeschool Gent) presented surprising insights in the awareness of corporality. Our observations are not shaped by receiving information in the brain, but they are the way in which we act in the world. Sensory-motor laws explain, for example, why we don’t feel a manual touch in our brain but on our hand. The laws explain illusions such as the rubber hand or extracorporeal experiences. Sensor substitution enables us to look through skin or ears.

To Will
On 27 October 2010, John-Dylan Haynes (Bernstein Centre for Computational Neuroscience, Berlin) and Joachim Leilich (University of Antwerp) discussed free will. The Libet-experiment shows that human beings make a locomotory choice before they become consciously aware of having chosen. But does such a simple experiment suffice to unsettle the notion of free will?
To Interact
On 17 November 2010, Corrado Sinigaglia (University of Milan) and Bence Nanay (University of Antwerp) explained the mechanism of mirror neurons. To perceive and to perform an act involves separate neurological processes, which do, however, take place in the same parts of the brain. We learn by performing an act ourselves or by observing another person performing it. A natural biological mechanism enables social cognition and interaction.

To Believe
On 25 November 2010, Dirk De Ridder (Brain Research Centre Antwerp for Innovative and Interdisciplinary Neumodulation) and Walter Van Herck (University of Antwerp) debated the question of the brain and belief in God. From the perspective of an evolutionary brain researcher such as Dirk De Ridder, God seems to be the consequence of developing self-consciousness. The system of mirror neurons enables the brain to create God from the image of man. Suppressing this self-consciousness, willingly or unwillingly, calls the ‘God feeling’ into being as a phantom. However, philosopher Walter Van Herck doesn’t agree with a simple way of defining religion and belief. He does not believe that the essence of faith consists of believing in supernatural beings but rather in orthopraxis and religious experience.

Communicating on Climate Change
The scientific community agrees that the planet is warming up due to human interference, but there is no consensus on the nature and the extent of the risks and how to tackle them. Each stakeholder interprets risks and solutions as he sees fit and communicates accordingly. People find it very difficult to understand or interpret the facts underlying climate change that can actually be verified scientifically. Those who want to know and assess facts, risks or responsibilities, have to turn to what the media publish. This series of lectures and ensuing master classes examined the communication on climate change.

Media Discourse
Media professionals sift through the huge mass of information provided to them by scientists, politicians, industry, think-tanks, social movements and pressure groups according to their values or ideological beliefs. On 6 May 2011, Anabela Carvalho (Professor of Communication Sciences, University of Minho) showed how European newspapers report on climate change and, by selecting scientists, influence the news coverage. In a panel debate, Pieter Maeseele (Department of Communication, University of Antwerp) tested these findings against the backdrop of media practices in Flanders.

The Discourse of Environmental Economists
On 26 May 2011, two environmental economists illustrated the broad range of opinion within the prevailing discourse on the costs and benefits of climate policy. Jeroen Van Den Bergh (researcher at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, vU University Amsterdam) presented twelve visions that are acceptable in his opinion. Peter Tom Jones (research manager, kU Leuven) pointed out the implications of the goal to reduce environmental emissions by factor 10. This would necessitate a drastic shift in structures, cultures and practices which public authorities are very reluctant to follow through.

A Social-Cultural Discourse
On 9 June 2011, Mike Hulme (Professor of Climate Change, University of East Anglia) projected an alternative setting for the debate. It is utopian to view climate change as a universal problem that can be solved once all noses point in the same direction. It is better if the debate were transformed into a creative exchange on the new economic, political, social and cultural project we would like to share as citizens of the world. Stijn Neuteleers (kU Leuven) unveiled the new ecological political theory that is in the making between liberal egalitarianism and communitarianism.
Taboos in the Margin of Care
The aim of this lecture series was to direct the attention of scholars, professional health care providers and policy makers toward vulnerable groups in society.

Intimacy with Vulnerable Groups
In 2011, intimacy with vulnerable groups was the common denominator of these lectures. In every session, a scholar and a professional expert panel analyzed an issue at stake and discussed it with a public of professional health care workers.

Teenage Parents
On 12 May 2011, a scholar and a field panel discussed the issue of teenage parents in Flanders. Professor Marjolijn De Wilde (Center for Social Policy Herman Deleeck, University of Antwerp) indicated that Flanders has few teenage mothers compared to the United Kingdom, but that no public policy currently exists. Teenage mothers are entitled to social benefits and some local social welfare institutions offer support to the new parents and grandparents. To have to disrupt their school career is the biggest problem juvenile mothers face, but the Catholic school network has developed a plan to tackle it. Joris Ghyssels (University of Antwerp) moderated a panel debate with representatives of social welfare institutions to evaluate whether or not a tailor-made policy for this target group is desirable.

Disabled Persons and Sexuality
On 6 October 2011, a scholar, a panel and an audience of social care workers discussed the way disabled people experience sexuality. Professor Jo Lebeer (Faculty of Medicine, University of Antwerp) praised some recent popular movies that bring the issue to the fore in a delicate manner. Educational worker Greet Conix (vmc ngo) testified that many social workers find it difficult to differentiate acceptable acts from inappropriate ones in spite of their professional experience in dealing with intimacy. Both with coaches and the coached, many gender differences arise. Experience on the shop floor contrasts with the large number of policy documents of institutions and organisations. Professor Frederik Swennen (Faculty of Law, University of Antwerp) moderated a debate and pointed out the legal answers: some institutions have developed household rules or protocols. Parents of disabled children are also looking for legal rules to hold on to.

Youngsters and Transgressive Sexual Behavior
On 17 November 2011, a broad audience of students and professionals carefully followed an analysis of youngsters and transgressive sexual behavior. The approach was twofold: Dr. Corine Faché (child and youth psychiatrist) examined girls as victims and Dr. Dirk van West (forensic psychiatrist) presented boys as perpetrators. Both speakers are associated with the University Center for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry Antwerp. Dr. Dirk Deboutte (child and youth psychiatrist at the University of Antwerp) moderated a panel with representatives of Child Focus (European Centre for Missing and Sexually Abused Children), Sensoa (Expertise Centre for Sexual Health) and the Center for Confidential Treatment of Child Abuse Antwerp).
Academy of Theology

UCSIA organises a series of lectures on the topic of theology and the Church in cooperation with the faculties of theology of KU Leuven and UCL/Louvain-la-Neuve and the Protestant Faculty of Theology. Until 2010, the KVHE (Catholic Higher Education Extension Movement) was also involved in the organisation.

Defecting to the Barbarians

On 29 March 2010, Dominican and Professor of Theology Erik Borgman (Tilburg University) quoted Frédéric Ozanam who in 1848 called on the Catholic Church to side with the city proletariat against the ruling classes. The Bible and social teaching show that the Church should always read the ‘sign of the times’ following the suffering Christ and denounce injustice. The principle of subsidiarity embodies the Church’s conviction that society will think up surprising solutions for the crises that challenge her cohesion from within. Politicians should not be afraid of unexpected outcomes and should certainly not prevent people from working out their own solutions.

An Archbishop

On 20 December 2010, the newly appointed archbishop Mgr. André Leonard interpreted the challenges of his office in terms of simultaneously being a shepherd, a prophet and a priest. Christ inspires and intrigues because of his inherent contradiction: Jesus claimed to equal God and yet He died forsaken. The Christian doctrine brings hope in the present life and does not postpone salvation until the end of days.

Jesus

On 4 April 2011, Professor Larry Hurtado (University of Edinburgh) conducted a doctoral seminar which discussed his pioneering research on the incipient worship of the historical Jesus and the term ‘binitarism’ coined to indicate the exceptional position that the first Christians cleared out for Jesus next to God. In a public lecture he examined the Biblical story of the resurrection. The belief in Jesus’ resurrection retroactively validated His earthly mission, but equally it testifies to the strong faith in God of the first Jewish Christians.

Paul

On 12 December 2011, Professor Emeritus James D.G. Dunn (University of Durham) highlighted the unique features of Saint Paul’s acts and thoughts that can be derived from biblical and Pauline studies and that reveal the stakes in our own lives. The doctoral seminar focused on scholarly controversies with regard to the relationship of Paul as a Christian and Saul as a Jew and his originality as a follower of Jesus.
UCSIA offers activities on pastoral care in cooperation with the Pastoral Service of the University of Antwerp (Johan Vanhoutte sj and Gert Van Langendonck) and unfolds initiatives of its own.

Images of God
On 14 and 15 January 2010, a seminar for pastors at universities and schools for higher education took place entitled 'Images of God; you stand on holy ground'. Thirty-five-odd pastors at universities and schools for higher education gave testimony of their personal image of God. Martin E. Brinkman, Professor of Theology at the Free University of Amsterdam, deepened these perspectives by bringing forward some images of a non-western Jesus: as a bodhisattva, an avatar, a guru, a prophet, an ancestor or a healer. The centre of gravity of Christianity is in the South, but Christians over there are surrounded by majorities of Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, shamans or Taoists. This injects new images and concepts into Christianity. Dr. Els Cooremans, psychotherapist, introduced the pastors to the skill of the therapeutic conversation. Word painter Tine Ruysschaert carried out the soliloquy 'My son Damian'.

Jacob's Ladder
The seminar on 13 and 14 January 2011 introduced pastors at universities and schools for higher education with Nico ter Linden, Dutch minister and author. He argued that contemporary pastoral care should still transmit sufficient knowledge of Bible stories and their historical context. Jesuit Father Roger Lenaers sj projected an image of God that fits the modernity of the Age of Reason.

The Diocese of Antwerp
On 15 and 16 March 2011, UCSIA animated a residential seminar on territorial pastoral care with 60 participants of the diocese of Antwerp. The seminar was a stepping stone in the development of a 'Pastoral Vision 2012-2022' of which the project 'Kerk Onder Stroom: (4)50 years of Antwerp diocese at the Scheldt' forms a part. Two scholars, Professor Staf Helleman (Tilburg University) and Professor Mathijs Lamberigs (kU Leuven), and Ms. Lea Verstricht (ccv) moderated the exchange of thoughts on the key question: 'what determines the vitality of a contemporary community of faith?'.

Pastoral Care in Health Care and Welfare
On 17 February 2011, a conference took place for pastors in health care and welfare institutions. A spiritual calling and voluntary commitment are no longer sufficient the way they used to be. Welfare facilities and health care institutions have undergone profound changes and the pastor operates in an environment rife with technology, as an expert amongst fellow professionals such as doctors, nurses and managers. He must be 'present' for patient and family and he must both critically question policy and structures as well as influence them. Pastors have overcome their fear of professionalisation and no longer consider this as another step forward for managerial thinking or a harm to devotion. Some participants testified that the findings of this conference may also inspire pastoral workers in other areas such as prison chaplains, city pastors and pastors in Church parishes.

Axel Liégeois (KU Leuven) mapped developments in the pastoral work, Carlo Leget (Tilburg University) discussed the role of the pastoral worker in spiritual care and Doris Nauer (Hochschule Vallendar) analysed the pastoral worker as a theologian and a prophet. Workshop participants testified to the interreligious dialogue in hospitals, the managerial instrument of competency profiles, the pastor as a supervisor of trainees and his role as an ethicist.
Pedagogical Conferences on Teaching Religion

From its outset, UCSIA has organised pedagogical conferences on the teaching of religion in secondary education. Teaching religion to youngsters is very exacting: more than in any other school course, personal commitment and beliefs play a role in the classroom. Pupils – either when asked, or spontaneously – raise questions they cannot vent in other courses. Teachers of religion appreciate the gain of new scholarly insights in their subject matter, appropriate pedagogical methods and can share their daily experiences and approaches with colleagues from other schools. They are faced with the modified status of religion in Flemish society and culture.

UCSIA develops these conferences in close cooperation with the competent authorities and the inspectorate of religious courses in both the Catholic and state schools. Gradually, it broadened its scope and since 2010, three series of conferences are offered: for teachers of Roman Catholicism, for teachers of Islam and – something quite new – mixed conferences bringing together teachers from both religions. Some specific reasons argue for this step: the official curricula prescribe an introduction to the ‘other’ religion and in state schools teachers of both religions are colleagues. The religious diversity and the diverse geographical origins of the pupils prompt them to acquire a thorough knowledge of the other religious and cultural groups in the classroom and to a focus on interspiritual dialogue.

Professional Perspectives of the Course Roman Catholicism

The pedagogical conference ‘Fathoming the Deep’ on 17 November 2011 examined the course dynamics. How can teachers of Roman Catholicism activate the philosophical skills of their pupils and encourage them to practise theology? Scientific insights and approaches from other courses form the input. The teacher has to link them with theological insights (ingredients) and help them to practise their philosophical skills. Teachers could put this trajectory into practice during the conference. Taede Smedes presented some prominent scientific ideas that are relevant to human understanding and religious experience, such as evolution, free will and determinism, cognitive sciences of religion, cosmology. Bart Verbesselt examined issues that make good material for ‘theologising’ or to re-contextualise. Teachers were invited to reflect upon these presentations and exchange thoughts and experiences in workshops.

How Should a Teacher of Islam Handle Problematic Behavior at School?

On 30 April 2010, UCSIA organised a second conference on teaching Islam in cooperation with Erasmus Hogeschool and the above-mentioned authorities.

Mr. Abkader Chrifi testified how he made his way through the prevailing patterns of values and norms in a precarious Dutch society. His testimony gave the participating teachers something to hold on to when imparting to youngsters ways of directing their own lives positively. A panel with representatives from provincial schools, a state high school, and a schools advisory service examined the challenge.

The teachers participated in workshops dealing with the role and approach of teachers of Islam in the learning and pedagogical process, the difficulties experienced by youngsters from different countries of origin when bringing together different (sub-)cultural values, the coaching of youngsters with problematic behavior and dealing with pupils from diverse backgrounds.
Educating Young Muslims in a Multicultural Context

On 28 April 2011, UCSIA organised its third conference for teachers of Islam. Gé Speelman (Theologische Universiteit Kampen) presented the findings of a large-scale poll of young Dutch Muslims. Migration and the social media, among other determinants, loosened the firm bond between religion, extended family, local community, imam and religious practices. Muslims meet more diverse interpretations and look for the universal core of their faith. On the other hand, there is more room for emotion and internalisation. Some youngsters shape their Muslim identity by being opposed to the mainstream of non-Muslims.

Abied Alsulaiman (Lessius School of Higher Education Antwerp) reminded people that Islam had no choice but to be both pragmatic and actively tolerant during its ascendancy. This is still valid today and youngsters should learn how to distinguish differences of interpretation from obscure false truths that find expression via the internet. Their intellectual development also includes openness towards other ideologies and fellow citizens.

More lectures and a panel debate discussed didactic matters and general issues facing teachers of Islam such as intercultural and interreligious tensions, difficult school careers or limited access to the labour market. The teacher of Islam is often a relief worker particularly when pupils don’t find fertile ground at home for their thorny questions. Teachers of Islam are part of the educational system which, according to research, enjoys great confidence from society and they are therefore important social actors. But the fruit of their work only comes to light after a delay of one generation.

Roman Catholicism and Islam 2010

On 8 November 2010, the inspectors of religious secondary education, along with 350 teachers of Islam and Catholicism, presented a scoop in Flanders: the first joint conference on the function of the confessional course in present-day society. Experts – theologians, students of religion and educationalists – explored the common ground. What does the ‘confessional course’ mean for cohesion in society and for personal development? What competence does it require?

The teachers reflected in working groups: what do the respective courses teach about the religious calendar and feast days? Which sources, quotations and impulses can introduce youngsters to each other’s religion? Which common values are at the root of both religious traditions? How can youngsters learn to cope with written sources? How can teachers from both religions work out common classes?
Art

Since 2009, UCSIA organizes lectures and art workshops with artists and philosophers and sociologists of art, students as well as professionals, to stimulate critical reflection on culture, religion and justice. UCSIA stages these activities in cooperation with the Center for Philosophy of Culture (University of Antwerp), the Royal Academy of Fine Arts (Artesis), Sint Lucas Antwerp (Karel de Grote-Hogeschool), the modern art museum M HKA and Cinema Zuid.

Craigie Horsfield

On 20 October and 8 December 2010, art photographer Craigie Horsfield was UCSIA’s guest. His name is wedded to the struggle for recognition of photography as an art in the 1970s. Horsfield openly works against the romanticised isolation of the idealised artist and distances himself from an avant-gardism propelled by technological renewal and arid academism.

The art is to consciously hold on to the present by lengthening the shutter time, weaving images instead of reducing them to snapshots, creating room for reflection.

Horsfield is convinced that art should have a radical engagement in society. Art only comes into being through dialogue with and recognition of the spectator. The artist debated his views with sociologist of art Pascal Gielen (Rijksuniversiteit Groningen), historian of art Hans de Wolf (Free University of Brussels) and scholar of art Joris Capenberghs.

Anri Sala

On 8 November 2011, visual and sound artist Anri Sala reflected on the resonance generated by the encounter between sound and architecture. He showed fragments of video movies that integrate space and rhythm to express emotions. Peter Swinnen, Master Builder of the Government of Flanders, showed how he and Sala have tried to reconstruct Skanderberg square in Tirana in a way that respects the historicity of the square and balances architecture with art. A project in Kortrijk explored the borders between public and private space. Sala further coached a workshop with students of arts and the philosophy of arts.

On 15 November, Professor Pascal Gielen (Fontys School of Fine and Performing Arts, Tilburg) interpreted the role of art in exploring the links between global social trends and as a factor of community building. Paul De Bruyne (Fontys) moderated a debate with artists David Bade, Nico Dockx and theatre performer Bart Van Nuffelen. The term ‘community art’ epitomises the commitment of artists to society and against the art establishment. Social policy has recently revitalised the concept.
China, Africa and Europe

In cooperation with Professors Daniel Van Den Bulcke (Euro-China Centre, Antwerp Management School) and Stefaan Marysse (Institute of Development Policy and Management) ucsia organized a conference and a public lecture on this theme on 21 and 22 April 2010. Chinese power and influence in Africa are evident and they put a strain on the traditional ties between Africa and the international community. The European Community aims at a trilateral partnership with China and Africa with respect to peace, stability and sustainable development. Should one consider China as a partner or an economic competitor regarding development cooperation?

Statistics illustrate the weight of the Chinese presence in Africa: in 2008, China invested 55 billion US$ amongst others in trading estates and free-trade zones. Yet, this represents just 4% of all Chinese foreign investment. With 100 billion US$, China comes second as a trade partner after the USA. China also puts in development aid: 2 billion US$ spread out over 900 projects, involving more than a 1000 Chinese companies.

China is not only interested in African natural resources and sources of energy. By developing a labour-intensive, export-oriented manufacturing industry, it pilots the continent in the global economic value chain.

The geopolitical importance of China is on the rise: in 2000, the Chinese economy was nearly half as big as the American economy, but it is predicted to outstrip the USA by a factor of three in 2040. The West blames China for neo-colonialism and imperialism, but it employs its own aid programs in a rather paternalistic way. Many Africans consider the EU and the USA as one cartel with a stranglehold on African economies. They search for new allies among the ascending economies outside this cartel. China cooperates with African countries on the basis of non-involvement, respect for national sovereignty and mutual interest. But some of the Chinese contracts turn out to be unbalanced on close examination, such as a 2008 contract guaranteeing 8.5 billion US$ of Chinese investment in infrastructure in return for a guaranteed supply of copper and cobalt over 30 years worth 40 billion US$. According to the Chinese, development is an African domestic affair.

Mission in Africa

On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Congo’s independence, ucsia organized this conference on 22 January 2010 at the Bourla Theatre in cooperation with the Jesuit Missions Office. Directly afterwards, participants watched the theatrical monologue ‘Mission’. Martin Ekwa bis Isal sj testified to the post-independence development of the educational system in the Congo and he discussed his analysis with researcher Antoine Alimasi Utizikisi sj who referred to the work of Anicet N’teba sj.

Gie Goris, editor in chief of MO’Magazine, moderated a debate in which former journalists Guy Poppe and Walter Zinzen critically interpreted what is responsible for Congo’s backwardness. Tom De Herdt and Filip Reyntjens, both researchers at the Institute of Development Policy and Management of the University of Antwerp, pointed to the many manifestations of the ‘state’ in the Congo: from a ‘predator state’ in the capital to a marginal presence in rural areas. Many organisations take on public functions and bear an indirect public policy responsibility; e.g. the Church or NGOs. The lack of sovereign power in domestic affairs is out of balance with the casualness with which the national elites represent the country on the international diplomatic scene.

Foreign companies appropriate natural resources but evade control. All panel members were afraid that devolution would enhance the administrative and economic deadlock. The donor countries would do better to map out roads and force local authorities to guarantee a minimum of safety, public finance and legal certainty.

Jo Deneckere, a missionary of Scheut, and Jesuit Ludwig Van Heucke agreed with the analysis that the Church fills a gap in public policy since it is a powerful actor. Colonial rule mandated the Church to satisfy social, medical and educational needs. Missionaries are currently working with the Congolese at grass roots level. This results in new private schools which starts off a vicious circle. The efforts of the Church provide officials with an ideal excuse not to stretch themselves. Nevertheless, one cannot just dismiss the missionaries who strive for ‘quality education for all’ as ‘the ones who educate corrupt elites’.

Other Projects
African governments are weak and appeals are made to civil society to fill the gap. This is an unknown tradition to the Chinese authorities. Moreover, the increasing Chinese presence in Africa is accompanied by increasing safety risks, even sinofobia, with respect to Chinese citizens and goods. China can no longer stay aloof and will from sheer necessity have to assume an increased political and even military responsibility for internal African developments.

The Lure of Eastern Religions
On 18 and 19 March 2010, three guest speakers scrutinized the Western spiritual yearning for Hinduism and Buddhism during a conference and an evening lecture. Johan Vanhoutte sj, in charge of pastoral care at the University of Antwerp, testified that an intense submersion in Buddhist spirituality brings fresh surprise and curiosity. It teaches to let go and pay attention to the here and now.

Peter Baekelmans, a missionary of Scheut at the Orient Institute for Religious Research (Japan) and Maryhill School of Theology (Philippines), learnt religious humility from his contact with Shingon-Buddhism. ‘Rite’ refers to the Indian ‘rita’ or ‘world order’ but to many Westerners, rituals have lost their deeper meaning. Reuniting body and soul, God and mankind, does not only require theory but daily practice. Christians should learn to make time for prayer and to rediscover its corporal dimension.

Francis Britto sj, a teacher of Indian Religion at Sophia University (Japan), presented the conclusions of American value research: us-citizens increasingly open their minds to elements of Hinduism: cremation, reincarnation, a multitude of interpretations of one and the same religious truth. Hindus are very religious; their god is patient. Western Christians claim ever less exclusivity and believe that there is a place in heaven for anyone who lives a good life. Christian theologians such as Karl Rahner clear a path for those ‘different’ believers. Recent ‘political’ Hinduism in India is exclusivist and fundamentalist and does not enjoy support from large sections of the population.

Care for Tomorrow
On 10 May 2010 UCSIA organised a conference in cooperation with Professor Jef Breda and Dr. Louis Ferrant, both from the University of Antwerp, and Saloua Berdaï (Antwerps Minderhedencentrum). A broad audience of professionals gathered knowledge and exchanged ideas on an appropriate handling of elderly foreigners in health care. Edith Lodewijckx (Study Department Government of Flanders) analysed demographical developments. Ibrahim Yerden (Institute for Migration and Ethical Studies - University of Amsterdam) and Yvonne Denier (Zorgnet Vlaanderen and Center of Biomedical Ethics, kU Leuven) gave a socio-anthropological and ethical interpretation.

In Flanders, 80,000 people older than 55 were born abroad representing 4.6% of all the elderly. Half of them originate from other West-European countries, mainly the Netherlands. Other groups are: 17% Italians, 9% Moroccans and 7% Turkish. Non-European elderly foreigners are mainly first-generation migrants, relatively young, badly trained and living together in families spanning several generations.

Getting old in our regions brings along specific problems for the foreign elderly: adaptation problems, home sickness, a diminished social status for elderly compared to their countries of origin. They often resent staying in a home for the elderly, however, voluntary care by their family is not always self-evident because their children have mostly adopted ways of living that are the norm in Flanders. This may be a reason that the foreign elderly often stay in hospitals. Professional caretakers have little experience in handling intercultural differences and may therefore paradoxically dwell too long on the foreign origin of the people they help. Good ethics of care requires confidence, respect for individual autonomy and equal treatment of both foreign and native elderly people. One should pay attention to cultural aspects and to the most vulnerable people.

In panel debates, the parties involved examined how one can improve adapting the supply to the needs of the foreign elderly. The self-help organisations of foreigners can play a mediating role with the support of research centres. Native and foreign elderly people share many needs and therefore one should not overdo cultural
interpretation. Jews, Turks and Moroccans ex-
pointed their preferred approach, ranging from
self-run services to an integrated approach pay-
ing attention to prayer and prescriptions regard-
ing food and clothing. Family members of the
foreign elderly often experience volunteer aid
as a heavy charge, but they hesitate to call upon
professional homecare provided by outsiders to
the family. The Antwerp social sector can boast
successful models of organised care that meet the
specific needs of foreign elderly people without
splitting up provisions according to categories. In
the short-run, more intercultural mediation in
primary health care is needed.

Banishing Youth Unemployment:
a European Challenge?
On 12 October 2010, UCSIA and the Jesuit Euro-
pean Office (OCJRE, now called JESC) organised
a panel debate. OCJRE guides the professional and
spiritual discernment of EU civil servants and it
stimulates critical reflection on European values
and responsibilities from the perspective of the
Christian faith.
The economic crisis hit European youngsters
hard. In December 2009, 21,4% of the youngsters
aged under 25 were unemployed, against 16,9 %
a year before. In Spain, youth unemployment
is as high as 40 %. With ‘Europe 2020’ the Eu-
ropean Commission has designed a strategy for
smart, sustainable and inclusive growth. One of
the ‘flagship projects’ of the European Commis-
sion wants to improve the education of the Euro-
pean youngsters, to increase their mobility and
to broaden their access to the labour market.
A round table moderated by François Vandamme
(Federal Service of Employment, College of Eu-
rope) examined the efficaciousness of these poli-
cies. Ides Nicaise (HIVA, KU Leuven) underlined
that European youngsters on the whole are better
prepared for the labour market than ever before,
but specific groups such as school dropouts and
ethnic minorities may not benefit from any up-
swing of the business cycle. Europe could offer an
‘educational guarantee’. Antoine Bobot explained
how the ‘Ecole de Production’ in Lille prevents
youngsters between 15 and 17 from dropping out
of school through intensive accompaniment and
work experience. Misa Labarile (DG Employ-
ment) stressed that the European Commission
can only play a complimentary role since the
Member States have the relevant competencies.
The participants remarked that, in order to in-
crease the rate of employment, the European
Commission is mainly stimulating older work-
ners. To what extent do European, national and re-
gional policies integrate the development of wage
costs and their influence on employment in their
policy considerations?

Pilgrimage
On 25 November 2010 and as a run-up to an inter-
national workshop, Peter Jan Margry (Meertens
Institute Amsterdam) analysed the way in which
politicians, the EU, Christian churches and indi-
vidual pilgrims instrumentalise the ritual of pil-
grimage. Cristina Sánchez-Carretero presented
the preliminary results of a research project on
the effects of and motives for the ‘camino’ be-
tween Santiago and Fisterra.

Heroic Leadership
On 20 November 2010, the second conference in
cooperation with the Federation of Alumni Asso-
ciations of the Jesuit Colleges in Flanders and CE-
beco, the Federation of Jesuit Colleges in Flan-
ders, paid attention to the issue of leadership. It
united 400 participants from the business world
and secondary education.
Chris Lowney, former Managing Director of J.P.
Morgan, recapitulated the principles of leader-
ship in a modern company that are shared and in-
spired by the Society of Jesus. Jesuits distinguish
a spiritual dimension of leadership. They estab-
lished an unequaled network of higher education
having an eye for personal leadership rooted in
self-knowledge (to know who one is and what
one aims at), inventiveness (continuous learning
to be able to respond to changing circumstances),
heroism (energy and passion to surprise oneself)
and love (to be positively involved with others
to unlock their potential). The etymology of
the original name ‘Company of Jesus’ – to share
bread – refers to the conviction that leadership is
teamwork combining individual strengths for a
common goal.
Mark Rotsaert SJ looked backed on his ten-year
presidency of the Conference of European SJ-
Provincials. The continental Jesuit conferences
are a relatively new level of decision-making
in between the General Superior and the local Provincials. Their position and activity is still in development. A phase of discernment precedes every decision by Jesuits. This constitutes the core of the Spiritual Exercises and it implies that one tests one’s actions against the Gospel. Within the Society of Jesus, Jesuits decide after mutual deliberation and in dialogue with Church and society. Within the European Conference, the principle of consensus makes this a long and complex process since it encompasses 25 countries in Europe, the Middle-East and Russia. Cultural diversity, globalisation and the decreasing number of vocations don’t make for an easy job. Five basic attitudes characterise good leadership: inner freedom, passion, a sense of the common good, patience and humour.

Hans Geybels, in charge of communications with the Jesuits of Flanders, moderated a panel debate with other witnesses. Joost Van Roost, director of ExxonMobil Benelux, testified to his leadership bridging the gap between a direct Anglo-Saxon style of decision making and the local custom of participation. Geert Devos (Pedagogy, Ghent University), translated this into charismatic leadership characterized by vision, direct and transparent communication using images and metaphors and an authenticity that invites identification. Member of parliament and Professor Rik Torfs gave an apt description of leadership mentioning attention, self-criticism, esteem of the person, independence, non-conformism, informal skills and a frame of reference broader than the ‘me’ (making room for God).

Transmitting Culture and Education in a Multicultural Setting

On the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the Jesuit school ‘Xaveriuscollege Borgerhout’, on 10 and 11 February 2011, ucsia organized a pedagogical conference and a research workshop on the transmission of culture and education in a multicultural setting.

Nowadays, pupils from many cultures and very diverse philosophical backgrounds share the classroom and school culture differs from home culture. This poses extra challenges for schools. Professor Martha Montero-Sieburth (Institute of Migration and Ethnic Studies, University of Amsterdam) examined the educational system as a common learning process and she explored the link between culture, identity and social class. Professor Piet Van Avermaet (Knowledge Centre on Diversity and Learning, Ghent University) contended that multiculturalism in education is a fact of life. It’s just as true, however, that society at large and many schools do not know how to handle diversity or develop new norms and codes of conduct.

Workshops with teachers and a panel of ‘hands-on’ experts from foreign descent examined a multitude of questions and insights: is it the core job of the educational system to transmit knowledge and insights to the next generation? Should the responsibility for educating children – socialising and disciplining are not the same as transmitting knowledge – be given back to the parents? Who determines which culture should be transmitted by the school as the accepted standard?

In a public lecture, the renowned British sociologist of culture Frank Furedi raised the question whether the educational system gets round to its key job of transferring knowledge. He also examined what can go wrong with parental authority and the allocation of tasks between home and school.
3

TEACHING CHAIRS & SCHOLARSHIPS
UCSIA supports a teaching chair at the University of Antwerp for foreign scholars who adopt a multidisciplinary approach, deepen the ideological or philosophical discourse and increase the societal commitment of academic research. The guest lecturers teach optional courses in the Bachelor and Master programmes, lead doctoral seminars and take part in scientific research.

Paul Collier

In the academic year 2010–2011, Professor Paul Collier held the Teaching Chair. On 15 and 16 November 2010, he read a public paper, taught a master class and moderated a doctoral seminar. UCSIA cooperated with the Institute of Development Policy and Management of the University of Antwerp to shape these activities.

Paul Collier is the Director of the Centre for the Study of African Economies (University of Oxford). His thorough scholarly work has earned him considerable influence with the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and many governments. He became well-known with the general public through his book *The Bottom Billion. Why Are the Poorest Countries Failing and What Can Be Done About It*. More recent books such as *Wars, Guns and Votes* and *The Plundered Planet* give proof of an original perspective on development, leaving behind conventional ideas. Professor Collier relies on scientific research underpinned by econometrics, and works with a multidisciplinary team of scholars.

During his Antwerp stay, he closely examined natural resources as a lever for development. High prices of raw materials offer an excellent opportunity for initiating productive investment in cooperation with the private sector in those countries which have no other development potential. But this requires a policy implemented with discernment and leaders who are not after personal enrichment. Recent research papers indicate what can go wrong before, during and after elections in developing countries and they reveal the calculus and mechanisms at stake. The international community of ethical citizens can put pressure on the regimes and confront them with international charters and codes of conduct.

A panel debate elucidated the relevance of his vision for Belgian development policy. Professor Robrecht Renard, President of the Institute for Development Policy and Management (IoB), moderated the exchange between Paul Collier and Nadja Molenaers (IoB), Bogdan Vanden Berghe (11.11.11), Renier Nijskens (ambassador, FOD Foreign Affairs) and John Vandaele (MO*Magazine).

Teaching Chair Jef Van Gerwen SJ

In 2006, the Jef Van Gerwen SJ Chair was established in commemoration of Jef Van Gerwen SJ, an Antwerp Jesuit who pioneered the field of corporate ethics in Flanders and who co-founded UCSIA. Professor Luc Van Liedekerke is the promoter of the chair.

Johan Verstraeten

Professor Johan Verstraeten is associated with the Research Unity Theological Ethics at the kU Leuven. On 11 February 2010, he was the fifth guest lecturer and discussed the issue of leadership and spirituality. He strongly disapproved of models of management that sell like hot cakes but do not lead to genuine leadership. The essence of leadership is to appreciate the other as an autonomous being with a sense of responsibility to whom one can appeal thus making them a leader in his/her turn, without subjugating him/her.

A leader seeks for deep roots in spiritual traditions that have brought wisdom and understanding for centuries and not in number fetishism or the language of calculated utility that expresses distrust. His language listens to what touches people, it encourages their creativity and invites to dialogue. In the Ignatian tradition, a leader contemplatively discerns the essential from the incidental. Meditation makes him see and accept his own finiteness and failings.

Thomas Maak & Nicola Pless

Thomas Maak and Nicola Pless, husband and wife and both teachers of business ethics at the ESADE Business School in Barcelona, occupied the Chair on 7 April 2011. They examined the typology and main characteristics of responsible leaders and they expanded on their research project ‘Ulysses
Program’. The guest speakers distinguished ‘integrators’ – for example Anita Roddick of The Body Shop – as the business leaders who are most ethical and socially responsible by pursuing both materialistic and humanistic values while putting profit at the disposal of social uses. They listen to everyone and are devoted to all stakeholders, motivated by doing the right thing rather than merely the cause of profit or strategic benefit. The ‘Ulysses Program’ thoroughly changed the mindset and commitment of the junior employees of a global accountancy firm by involving them in an overseas development project.

UCSIA/IJS Chair Jewish-Christian Relations

The chair aims to encourage the study of Judaic history from the perspective of Jewish-Christian dialogue in order to interpret its place in contemporary European culture and to investigate its contribution to interreligious dialogue.

David Meyer & Hendrik Hoet

On 11 February 2010, Rabbi David Meyer and Canon Hendrik Hoet discussed the elements in the Jewish and the Christian Holy Scripture that praise violence and hate and reject the ‘other’s’ tradition.

David Meyer struggled with the story of the Amalekites that occurs in the Torah, the Bible and the Talmud. King Saul must destroy the Amalekites by divine order, a literal order to the Jewish people to commit genocide! This led Meyer to the theology of transgression. Judaism does not depart as much from dogmas but it honours compliance with obligations. But even a legalistic tradition such as Judaism can never dispense the believer from passing a personal judgment. He remains a free being who can opt to comply with the law or to trespass it. Holy Scripture contains many indications in this respect.

Canon Hoet pointed to Bible verses that diabolise the Jews. One cannot obliterate these verses but one could reinterpret them within their particular literary and historical context. Christianity is a religion of Jesus’ spirit rather than a religion of the book. Dialogue is necessary in order to understand this spirit.

Elisheva Carlebach

In a lecture on 17 February 2011, Elisheva Carlebach, Professor of Jewish History and Culture at Columbia University, gave an account of the inner struggle of Jews who converted to Christianity in the 17th century and of their ambivalent position between two cultures.

On 22 February 2011 she showed how the new Gregorian calendar impacted on the way in which Jews experienced their culture and religion in a changed social context. Louis Caruana sj (Heythrop College, UK) philosophised on different concepts of time (chronology, eschatology ...) as conceptualised by Aristotle, Saint Augustine, Martin Heidegger and Paul Ricoeur. Amongst other things, the experience of time constitutes the identity of a group. For example, the early Jewish community shared a linear experience of time. The human character of Jesus shifted the perspective to the present and the action of the individual: from ‘chronos’ (time as duration) to ‘kairos’ (a decisive moment).
UCSIA offers the University of Antwerp the opportunity of inviting a number of foreign academics for a period of up to three months and to involve them in research activities at the institution. These academics have been residents at the University of Antwerp:

**Judith Pollmann**
On 11 May 2010, Judith Pollmann (University of Leiden) lectured on 'Remembrance and Religious Identity in the 17th century Low Countries'. Her promoter was Professor Guido Marnef. Religious violence and civil war disfigured Europe and the Habsburg Netherlands in the 16th century. This war had repercussions long after. The North saw a secular culture of remembrance – emphasizing the common struggle for freedom – and diverse cultures of religious remembrance according to the particular branch of Protestantism. The Catholic South experienced the past homogeneously as a period of religious struggle. During her stay in Antwerp, she prepared her book *Catholic Identity and the Revolt of the Netherlands, 1520–1635* (2011, Oxford University Press).

**Patricia Dailey**
The American medievalist Patricia Dailey (Columbia University, New York) stayed at the University of Antwerp upon invitation by Professor Veerle Fraeters (Ruusbroec Genootschap). On 14 June 2010 she illuminated what touched her most in Hadewijch's writings. In her 7th Vision, Hadewijch uses remarkably physical and sensual terms to express the union of her 'lichame' with Christ. To interpret them one should understand the medieval Christian tradition. Following Augustine, Hadewijch distinguishes a material body ('materie') from an inner body ('lichame'). To return completely to the inner body means to dwell fully in perfection, a perfection reserved for life after death but becoming visible in 'visions'.

**Peter Losonczi**
Peter Losonczi (Centre for Intercultural Studies, Department of Philosophy, University of West Hungary) completed a research project entitled 'From an Archimedean Pluralism Towards a Negotiated Pluralism: the Relevance of Indian Views on Pluralism for a Reconceptualization of the European Context – A Study of the Work of Bilgrami'. His promoter was Professor Walter Van Herck and on 7 December 2010 he gave a lecture comparing Europe and India as post-sectarian democracies.

**Xianglong Zhang**
On 17 March 2011, UCSIA-scholar Xianglong Zhang (Department of Philosophy and Religious Studies of Peking University, Beijing) read a lecture on 'The Philosophical Feauture of Confucianism'. With promoter Professor Rob Faesen he worked on the translation of 'Die geestelike brulocht' written by the 14th century Flemish mystic Ruusbroec. Because Confucianism doesn’t seek converts or territorial gains, it could coexist with Buddhism, Taoism or Hinduism, but more difficult with Christianity. Once adopted by the Han Dynasty as an official religion, it existed for two millennia until communism tried to erase it. Confucianism revives in China which is possible to the extent that it enters into dialogue with other cultures and worldviews.

**Verónica Rodriguez Blanco**
Professor Verónica Rodríguez Blanco (Birmingham Law School, University of Birmingham) led a project entitled: 'Law Under the Guise of the Good. The Normativity of Law: an Aristotelian Understanding of the Authority of Law'. Her promoter was Professor Georgios Pavlakos (Centre for Law and Cosmopolitan Values, University of Antwerp).
On 17 November 2011, she questioned the prevailing model of the philosopher of law H.L.A. Hart and presented an alternative model of 'law under the guise of the good'. Its essence is that we follow rules because we identify and agree with their beneficial characteristics, and not because of their mere existence.
ANNEXES
Annex 1  Members of the Scribani Network

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 (eccc), Warsaw, Poland
www.eccc.pl

Faculty of Social Sciences, Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome, Italy / Institute for the Interdisciplinary Studies of Religions and Cultures (isirc), Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome, Italy
www.unigre.it/struttura_didattica/scienze_sociali/index.php
www.unigre.it/struttura_didattica/isirc/index.php

Heythrop Institute for Religion, Ethics and Public Life, University of London, UK
www.heythrop.ac.uk

Human Rights Institute, University of Deusto, Bilbao, Spain
www.idh.deusto.es

Institute for Social and Development Studies, Munich School of Philosophy, Munich, Germany
www.hfph.mwn.de/igp

Jesuit Centre for Faith and Justice, Dublin, Ireland
www.jcfj.ie

Jesuit European Social Centre, Brussels, Belgium
www.jesc.net

Jesuit Refugee Service Europe, Brussels, Belgium
www.jrseurope.org

‘Pedro Arrupe’ Institute for Political Formation, Palermo, Italy
www.istitutoarrupe.it

University Centre Saint-Ignatius Antwerp, Belgium
www.uwscia.org

University Institute of Migration Studies, Comillas Pontifical University, Madrid, Spain
www.upcomillas.es/centros/lem/cent_lem_pres.aspx
## Academic Guests 2010–2011

This list enumerates the guest speakers of one or more of the events in 2010 and 2011 who hold a doctoral degree and have a mandate as professor, including as emeritus, at a university or an associated research institute.

### SUMMER SEMINAR ‘RELIGION, CULTURE AND SOCIETY’

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<td>Peter Beyer</td>
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<td>Jeremy Carrette</td>
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<td>Jeffrey Haynes</td>
<td>London Metropolitan University</td>
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<td>Robert William Hefner</td>
<td>Boston University</td>
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<td>John Hutchinson</td>
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<td>David Martin</td>
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<td>Tulasi Srinivas</td>
<td>Emerson College</td>
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<td>Scott Thomas</td>
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### SCRIBANI CONFERENCE ‘EUROPEAN MIGRATION AND ASYLUM POLICY’

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<td>Joaquín Arango Vila-Belda</td>
<td>Complutense University of Madrid</td>
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<td>Amelie F. Constant</td>
<td>George Washington University, IZA Bonn</td>
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<td>Guy S. Goodwin-Gill</td>
<td>University of Oxford</td>
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<td>Javier de Lucas</td>
<td>University of Valencia</td>
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<td>Cristina Gortázar Rotaeché</td>
<td>Institute for Migration Studies, Comillas Pontifical University</td>
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<td>Rubén G. Rumbaut</td>
<td>University of California</td>
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<tr>
<td>Oded Stark</td>
<td>Universities of Bonn, Klagenfurt, Tuebingen, Vienna, Warsaw</td>
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### SCRIBANI WORKSHOP ‘EUROPEAN MIGRATION AND ASYLUM POLICY’

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<td>Jacques Haers sj</td>
<td>KU Leuven</td>
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<td>Christiane Timmerman</td>
<td>University of Antwerp, CeMIS</td>
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### INHERITANCE AND WEALTH

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<td>Luc Arrondel</td>
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<td>Jens Beckert</td>
<td>Max Planck Society, Cologne</td>
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<td>Matthew Clayton</td>
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<td>John Cumilffe</td>
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<td>Guido Erreygers</td>
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<td>Axel Gossereis</td>
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<td>Robert Lamb</td>
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<td>André Masson</td>
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<td>Ann Mumford</td>
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<td>Barbara Willenbacher</td>
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<td>Jos De Haan</td>
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<td>Sonia Livingstone</td>
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<td>Bern Martens</td>
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<td>Yves Poullet</td>
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<td>Peter Smith</td>
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<td>Heidi Vandebosch</td>
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<td>Michel Walrave</td>
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## SPORTS AND COMMUNITY BUILDING

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<td>Hans Bruyninckx</td>
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<td>Cora Burnett</td>
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<td>Fred Coalter</td>
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<td>Richard Giulianotti</td>
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<td>Sven Güldenpfennig</td>
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## ETHICS AND THE FINANCIAL SECTOR

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<td>John R. Boatright</td>
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<td>Catherine Cowley</td>
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<td>Kees Koedijk</td>
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<td>Volker Nienhaus</td>
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<td>Cathie Carmichael</td>
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<td>René Lemarchand</td>
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<td>Stephan Parmentier</td>
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<td>Filip Reymtens</td>
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<td>Philip Verwimp</td>
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<td>Martin Shaw</td>
<td>University of Roehampton / University of Sussex</td>
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<td>VOLUNTEERING</td>
<td>Rene Bekkers (vu University Amsterdam)</td>
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<td>Adalbert Evers (Justus-Liebig University Giessen)</td>
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## OTHER ACTIVITIES

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