

SEVILLE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

AI CHALLENGING WHAT IT MEANS TO BE HUMAN

The magnificent and historical city of Seville and the University of Loyola was the location of our most recent General Assembly which explored the profound philosophical and ethical concerns and revolutionary impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on education and indeed every aspect of human life.

AI has been both a beacon of progress and also a source of anxiety. It promises to revolutionise every aspect of life including education, offering unprecedented opportunities for personalised learning, enhanced accessibility and greater efficiencies in administration. However, it also raises profound philosophical and ethical concerns and questions. In my opening address in Seville, I briefly sketched the framework of the presentations on AI at the assembly, in particular, the challenge posed by it to our understanding of human identity and dignity.

Until recently, we placed the human person at the centre of our story. Humans were the explorers, inventors, discoverers, heroes, leaders, pioneers, saints and martyrs who explored and organised our reality. Now we are entering an era when AI – a human creation – is increasingly entrusted with tasks that previously would have been performed or attempted by human minds. As AI executes these tasks, producing results that approximate or exceed those of human intelligence, it challenges the defining attribute of what it

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means to be human. How will we reconcile AI with concepts like human autonomy and dignity?

In addition to the two traditional ways by which people have known the world, faith and reason, AI adds a third. This shift will test, and in some instances transform our assumptions of the world and of our place in it. Reason revolutionised the sciences, our social lives, and our faith. Now AI will test the principles upon which our self-understanding rests.

Our task will be to understand the transformation that AI brings to human experience, the challenges it presents to human identity and which aspects of these developments require regulation.

For humans accustomed to agency, centrality, and a monopoly on complex intelligence, AI will challenge self-perception. As the potential of AI improves, the uniqueness and the relative value of human capabilities will be challenged. Where will that leave us? While AI will be an effective partner, especially in science, medicine, and education, but humans will have to adjust to a world in which our reason is not the only and perhaps not the most informative, way of knowing or navigating reality. This signifies a shift in human experience more significant than any that has occurred since the advent of printing, according to some experts.

We have possible two reactions to this development: firstly to react/adapt to AI or secondly to dialogue with its potential, drawing on all the elements of human enterprise, aimed at defining AI's role, and in doing so, defining ours. The former path we will find by default. The latter path will require conscious engagement between leaders, educators, philosophers, scientists, theologians, and other thinkers.

Individuals and societies will have to make up their minds which aspects of life to reserve for human intelligence and which to turn over to AI or human AI collaborators. However, AI and humans are not peers. While at the moment, humans have some control and direction over AI as its builder, but this will become more difficult as we become more habituated and reliant on AI. Restricting it will become costly, psychologically challenging and technically complicated.

Our task will be to understand the transformation that AI brings to human experience, the challenges it presents to human identity and which aspects of these developments require regulation. Charting a human future turns on defining a human role in an AI age.

While it is reassuring that teachers and educators as a profession may survive the new AI revolution, it will be transformed. The impact of AI on education is already immense and is still rapidly growing, revolutionising how students interact with their teachers and how they develop their skills.

Education will no longer be a one size fits all with everyone expected to learn at the same pace and in the same way. Furthermore, apart from customised course content, students can access this material any time and from any location breaking down geographical and other constraints. More AI- tailored education will enable students struggling with a particular concept to be provided with supplementary or additional resources and explanations bespoke to their needs.

But there is a danger that the boundary between humans and AI teachers will become porous; students become more habituated and dependant on AI, indeed may prefer AI over human teachers, as a result our dependence on human relationships and on one another may decrease. The irony is that as digitalisation is making an increasing amount of information available, it is diminishing the space for deep and reflective and concentrated thought or contemplation.

As we know, for all its capabilities AI lacks the human 'touch' – an essential element of a Catholic education – it cannot replace the empathy, discernment and moral guidance provided by dedicated educators. Our challenge, therefore, will be to harness the power of AI while maintaining the integrity and depth of our Catholic educational tradition. Above all our Catholic education must continue to provide space for God, love, reflection, prayer. These spiritual practices ground our students in a sense of purpose and remind them of their ultimate vocation to love and serve.

Once again, I express my heartfelt appreciation to Dr Fabio Gomez- Estern, President/ Rector of the University of Loyola, Seville, and to all his colleagues for organising such an enjoyable and successful conference. We look forward to the next conference in KU Leuven in June 2025 which will also see the election of a new President and Board of FUCE.

Rev Prof Michael Mullaney President – FUCE



SAVE THE DATE 

FUCE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

LEUVEN & LOUVAIN
4-6 JUNE 2025

KU Leuven and UCLouvain, Belgium



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ASSESSING THE IMPACT OF AI ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Universidad Loyola Andalucía hosted rectors from throughout Europe for three days at the 2024 FUCE General Assembly to reflect on the future of catholic universities in the artificial intelligence (AI) era.

Universidad Loyola Andalucía hosted the 2024 General Assembly of the European Federation of Catholic Universities (FUCE) in Seville and Dos Hermanas. The meeting was attended by more than 60 rectors, vice-rectors, and heads of Internationalisation and Academic Development from European, Latin American, and Asian Catholic universities. The meeting served both to develop a joint reflection on the future of Catholic universities

in the era of artificial intelligence (AI), as well as to analyse their role in today's higher education.

Attendees also dedicated time to ponder on the impact of other issues such as transparency, control, accountability, regulation, and the ethics of AI.

During the three days, attendees took part in round tables and working groups to share knowledge and experiences to help build a shared answer to the



challenges ahead. There was also time for reflection, communal discernment, and culture, with visits to the Velázquez Center at Los Venerables, the headquarters of the Focus-Loyola Foundation, attendance to the Octave Mass of the feast of Corpus Christi and the Dance of the Sixes at the Seville Cathedral.

In addition, they celebrated the centenary of the International Federation of Catholic Universities (IFCU) with a final round table to share and reflect on the 100 years of internationalisation and cooperation among its members.

Catholic universities shape individuals for service to society

The opening ceremony took place at Hospital de los Venerables, a 17th century building in the centre of Seville which serves as headquarters of the Focus-Loyola Foundation. Attendees included Mons Giovanni Cesare Pagazzi, Secretary of the Vatican Dicastery for Culture and Education; Isabel Capeloa, President of IFCU and Rector of the Catholic University of Portugal; Mons Teodoro León, Auxiliary Bishop of Seville; Michael Mullaney, President of FUCE and Rector of St. Patrick's Pontifical University, Maynooth, Ireland; and Fabio Gómez-Estern, Rector of Universidad Loyola.

According to the rector of Universidad Loyola, "while the development of AI has the potential to contribute positively to the future of humanity and education, there is a mismatch between technological development and human responsibility, values, and conscience. The world of education is still struggling to know how to respond to the educational and ethical impact of AI, and like many events in the past, it is not going to disappear. Educators will have to explore how to leverage its potential as an innovative tool in an academic environment to enhance students' skills and learning objectives."

We engage in the holistic education of the person, not just their intellectual part. We do not prepare people for a job or employment; we prepare them for life.

In this regard, the role of Catholic universities has become even more important in the global educational landscape. Isabel Capeloa stated that we live in a world full of challenges and conflicts, and universities must act as structures of cohesion. "In particular, Catholic universities have an even more important mission. We must all work together to provide education based on moral and human values. Furthermore, we must have the capacity



to inspire and project an image of optimism to society" said the IFCU president during the inauguration."

For Michael Mullaney, the great value of Catholic universities lies in the way they educate society. "We engage in the holistic education of the person, not just their intellectual part. We do not prepare people for a job or employment; we prepare them for life." He also emphasised the important role Catholic universities play in Europe, "of unity, inclusion, and equality in a polarised society".

Regarding AI, the FUCE president emphasised that "for universities and society in general, AI offers opportunities for growth and development, as it allows the quick analysis of large amounts of data. But it also poses risks such as concentration of power or dehumanisation. Catholic universities must be there to remind people of ethics and morality".





IN MEMORIAM

FRANCO ANELLI (1963-2024)

On behalf of Catholic academia and its Administrative Board, the International Federation of Catholic Universities wishes to remember Franco Anelli as a man of great culture and humanity, an eminent academic who led with wisdom and foresight.

He honoured us with his presence at numerous meetings organised by the

Federation over the past 20 years, the last of which was held on the occasion of the Federation's centennial celebrations in Rome in January.

Our deepest condolences go to his family, friends and the entire community of the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart and Policlinico Gemelli, to which he dedicated his life.





Summer school Practicing Resilience - Preparing for Recovery held in Dubrovnik in 2022.

STRONGER TOGETHER

REFLECTIONS ON AN ENDURING RELATIONSHIP

Sofiya Opatska of the Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU) and Hrvoje Štefančić of the Catholic University of Croatia (CUC) look back on the enduring relationship between the two universities.

“When I was a student in the International Relations Department back in 1994, we had many meetings with Ambassadors from different countries to Ukraine,” says Sofiya Opatska. “One of the first meetings which still has a very clear picture in my mind was with the Ambassador of Croatia to Ukraine. Most of the time we were talking during that meeting in 1994 about war in the Balkans and about the vision of Croatian people for peace, justice and future economic prosperity.”

Almost 30 years later, one of the first calls she received in February 2022 when Russia’s invasion into Ukraine started was from friends at the Catholic University of Croatia. “It was not only a call but also a visit to Lviv in 2023. We jointly prayed at the cemetery of Ukrainian soldiers who sacrificed their lives for freedom, including at graves of UCU Alumni. Though our Universities have almost 1,000 kilometers between us, we share a lot in our experience and we value so much support for each other.”

“From the first days of my service at the Catholic University of Croatia, back in 2012, I heard of a small catholic university in western Ukraine with achievements far above what one could expect from its size and resources, working in frequently adverse conditions,” Hrvoje Štefančić recalls. “As I got the opportunity to meet many people from

UCU, many times through meetings of associations such as Catholic University Partnership (CUP), FUCE and IFCU, this extraordinary success became more and more clear to me. For me, an especially impressive aspect of UCU was the extent and quality of support of the Ukrainian diaspora that they succeeded in mobilising since their foundation.”

The connection between the universities, already existing because of their common experience of life under totalitarian communist regimes, has strongly intensified since the aggression of 2022, he adds. “Many people at the CUC, remembering the Croatian struggle in the 1990s, sought ways to help Ukraine, its people and UCU as a sister catholic university. A contribution in that direction was a series of summer schools held in 2022, 2023 and 2024, organized within CUP, named Practicing Resilience - Preparing for Recovery. At these schools, many students from UCU got the opportunity to learn how to develop resilience and start preparing for the recovery of their country.”



Meeting of UCU students with Rector of CUC Zelko Tanjić during visit to Lviv in February 2023.



MEMBER PROFILE

PROMOTING HUMAN VALUES AND COLLECTIVE SERVICE AT SULKHAN-SABA ORBELIANI UNIVERSITY

Sulkhan-Saba Orbeliani University is an accredited higher education institution founded in 2001 by Bishop Giuseppe Pasotto, the Apostolic Administrator of Latin Catholics in the Caucasus. The university is inspired by the vision of Sulkhan-Saba Orbeliani, a Catholic public figure, Georgian scholar, and diplomat, who symbolised the connection between eastern and western Christian traditions.

Originally established as the Institute of Philosophy, Theology, History, and Culture, the university initially had only one faculty: the Faculty of Theology. In this regard, the university was a pioneer in the region, offering theology as an academic field. To this day, the university's accredited theology programmes (BA, MA, PhD) remain the only ones in the Caucasus region.

The university aims not only to establish the academic study of theology but also to create a space for ecumenical relationships, where various religions, especially Eastern and Western Christians, can meet and witness the faith of Christ. This environment fosters the promotion of human values and collective service for the glory of God.

The university emphasises the holistic development of individuals, the creation of appropriate societal conditions, and the promotion of values development. The establishment of new academic programmes supports these goals.

Academic Programmes & Activities

Sulkhan-Saba Orbeliani University offers a diverse range of undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral programmes across various disciplines, including law, business administration, social sciences, and theology. The university's curriculum is designed to provide students with a comprehensive education, blending theoretical knowledge with practical skills to prepare them for successful careers.

The programmes promote critical thinking, creativity, and the practical application of knowledge.

Additionally, the following research institutes and centres operate based on the university's faculties:

- Michel Mouskhely Center for European Studies
- Prince David Institute of Law
- Centre for Crime and Criminal Justice
- Anti-Discrimination Law Center
- Trafficking Research Centre
- Institute for Development Studies
- Gamification Centre of Georgia
- Institute of Theology and Philosophy
- Centre for Social Teaching of the Church

In December 2024, the university will host five international conferences as part of International Scientific Week. For more information about the ISW, visit <https://bitly.cx/KkPN>

International Partnerships

Internationalisation is a key priority at Sulkhan-Saba Orbeliani University. The university actively engages with global networks and partners and holds membership in several prestigious international university associations including IFCU, FUCE, CUP, ELFA.

The university's international relationships provide students with opportunities for self-discovery, new horizons, and professional development.

Exchange programmes and short-term summer schools offer valuable experiences. Feedback from students indicates that such programmes contribute significantly to their professional and personal growth, fostering independence, openness to diversity, and cross-cultural understanding. Sulkhan-Saba Orbeliani University students and staff benefit from Erasmus+ International Credit



The establishment of the student dormitory aims to foster a culture of student communities focused on the common good and spiritual enrichment

Mobility (ICM), academic exchange programmes based on bilateral agreements, and the FUCE scholarship, available since 2018.

By participating in university federations and associations, the university fosters global collaboration, enriches academic exchange, and creates opportunities for students and faculty to engage with diverse perspectives and resources.

Student Life

Student life at Sabauni is vibrant and dynamic, offering a wide range of activities and clubs. Students are encouraged to initiate new clubs, creating an inclusive environment where they can tailor their experiences to their interests.

Students also have opportunities to attend public lectures, international conferences, and roundtable discussions aligned with their interests. Additionally, the university conducts various training sessions aimed at personal and professional development.

Starting in autumn 2024, Sabauni students will have the opportunity to reside in a newly constructed student dormitory. The establishment of the student dormitory aims to foster a culture of student communities focused on the common good and spiritual enrichment, including the formation of youth unions and the development of new cultural and coexisting practices. The construction of the dormitory was made possible with support from the Renovabis Foundation.

Important ecumenical & spiritual events

February 13, 2023, was a significant day for the Sabauni community, as Pope Francis received Sabauni students and staff in a private audience. Additionally, in December 2023, Sabauni staff visited His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew.

Future Plans

Sulkhan-Saba Orbeliani University is committed to expanding its academic offerings and enhancing its facilities. Future plans include strengthening international collaborations, developing new partnerships to enrich the academic experience, and undertaking infrastructural development, such as constructing a new academic campus. The university also plans to intensify joint research projects and establish double diploma programmes.



A TRANSFORMATIVE EXPERIENCE FOCUSED ON HUMANITY

The annual FUCE Summer School found a new home for its fifth edition in 2024. The Université Catholique de Lille (UCL) has taken over as host for the school's three year cycle up to 2026, following LUMSA University in Italy which hosted the first cycle. The university's International Relations Department played an active role in the organisation of the school.

Co-funded by the Erasmus programme, an interdisciplinary group of 30 bachelor students from nine Western European, three Eastern European and three Lebanese universities and the team of eight teachers met online for an initial session in May that aimed at focusing collaborative discussions on the chosen topic.

In the first week of July, they were warmly welcomed to the UCL campus by the Vice-Rector for Humanities, theologian and physicist, Thierry Magnin, who initiated the idea of the summer school during his presidency of FUCE. He opened the proceedings with a public lecture dedicated to this year's topic of AI challenging European humanism.



He addressed the questions of how we can preserve our freedom of thought and action while benefitting from new forms of intelligence in our striving for the common good and how AI changes our relationship to reality, our approach to science and our conception of what it means to be human.

The students had already been introduced to the topic by professor of ethics Paolo Monti in a preliminary webinar stimulating a debate on how AI impacts their lives and what it means for authorship and creativity.



**Université
Catholique
de Lille 1875**



All morning lectures at the summer school addressed the theme from their respective perspectives: the definition and institutionalisation of the European idea within a law, ethics and technology framework; AI, literary creation and (dystopian) narratives of the future; religion and science and the rise of new forms of intelligence; political philosophy and the organisation of the ideal (utopian) state.

This theoretical approach was deepened in applied activities in the afternoon, such as group discussions, a writing class and a visit to the virtual lab.

A trip to Brussels, with a visit to the House of European History Museum and the Parliamentarium, gave additional insights into the contemporary workings of the European institutions. At the Chapel of Europe, the European Nuntius, Mgr Noël Treanor, addressed the students and informed them of the current policy issues being debated at the European level.

Contributing to the social construction of Europe

In the evening the group joined the graduation ceremony of the European Leadership Programme of the Jesuit European Social Centre, a formation programme for young future leaders of Europe. This gave the Summer School students a sense of how they, as members of the new generation, might also contribute to the social construction of Europe. This aspect was further elaborated in a presentation

of the award-winning community service learning project the UCL law faculty has initiated: a bus for mobile juridical advice with volunteer lawyers and students going to communities that have little access to legal support.

The Summer School students were invited to take the floor and share their reflections in a closing session where they presented their group work and the dystopian stories they composed. Some of them shared their vision for the future of Europe in a public panel, while all of them completed a portfolio documenting their individual trajectory throughout the course.

In the public panel 'My Europe' students first highlighted the context from which they spoke (from countries voting for extremist parties, over euro-sceptic governmental regimes, to non-EU regimes with European aspirations). They then discussed the potential of Europe as a project for peace in light of ongoing conflict and war. They voiced their fears in defence of the values Europe stands (or should be standing) for: loss of faith in politics (democracy means nothing to older generations in Eastern Europe), loss of belief in values such as solidarity (stop using it as a cliché phrase from a superior stance), Europe not offering a safe haven to migrants and engendering new forms of inequality.

They reflected on how artificial intelligence impacts their education and job opportunities and what values should accompany beneficial use of these new technologies. The panel concluded with a message of hope in the belief that new generations can creatively overcome these new barriers, taking into account lessons from the past.

Learning to listen and rethink

In their evaluation, students especially valued the exposure to new ideas from different cultures, which for many was a first intercultural experience. They learnt to suspend their own judgement, listen to other experiences and rethink their pre-given perspective. It left them with more questions than answers, which they found enriching in defining their proper position. They felt challenged to think about what Europe means to them. On the topic of AI, they asserted taking account of the advantages and disadvantages, while not refraining from using it, but learning to use it in a more effective and ethical manner.

Overall, as stated by one of the students: "the summer school was a transformative experience that allowed me to feel both more European and more human. I felt connected to all the students in a profound manner, and I truly believe I became a better person. It was amazing to learn so much in just one week, and to be filled with energy for the next chapters of my life".

NEWS IN BRIEF

BELGIUM

EXPLORING THE FUTURE OF HOPE

The Future of Hope: An Interdisciplinary Dialogue will arrive in Brussels in November to address some of the most pressing issues emerging in European society. The three-year cross-disciplinary research project aims to establish a cultural discussion with institutions and decision-makers based on scientific investigations on the topic of hope.

Promoted by the European University of Rome under the patronage of FUCE, it is particularly aligned with the activities of European Union. As a result, the public events scheduled for 2024 will take place in Brussels.

On Tuesday, November 19, the proceedings will be held in collaboration with COMECE, the association of European Bishops' Conferences. Key topics to be addressed include education, migration and European cultures, ethics and artificial intelligence, university and innovation, peacebuilding, and cultural processes.

On Wednesday, November 20, and Thursday, November 21, an international academic conference will be held at the Dominicans' Centre.

About the research project www.universitaeuropadiroma.it/formazioneintegrale/eccellenza-umana/the-future-of-hope

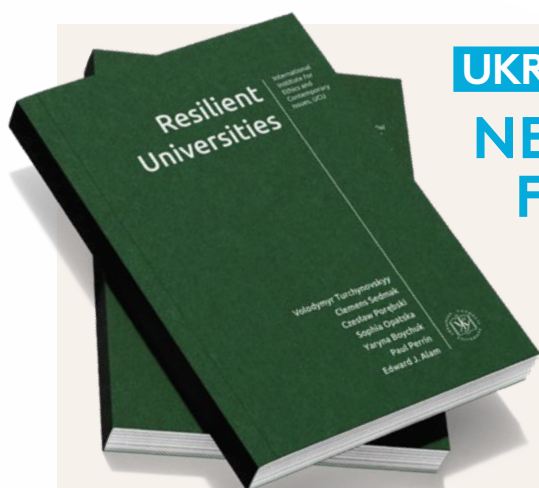
For information, proposals & reservations: formazioneintegrale@unier.it



ITALY

INTEGRATING TRADITION WITH INNOVATION

The Pontifical Athenaeum Regina Apostolorum (APRA) hosted an inter-university conference titled "Educational Innovation for an Outgoing Church" on September 17 last. The conference explored the role of technology in enhancing ecclesiastical education. This will be followed by the official Inauguration of the Academic Year 2024-'25 on October 10, 2024, featuring a keynote address by Mons. Antonio Suetta, Bishop of Ventimiglia-Sanremo. These events underscore APRA's commitment to integrating tradition with innovation in Catholic education.



UKRAINE

NEW PUBLICATION FROM UCU

The International Institute for Ethics and Contemporary Issues (IHD) at the Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU) has published a collection of essays "Resilient Universities" exploring university resilience during the war initiated by Russia against Ukraine. This publication is an essential contribution to Ukraine's post-war recovery, outlining the sources and principles of institutional and community resilience.

NEW FACES

In this edition we introduce FUCE member university rectors who were appointed during 2024.



Professor Françoise Smets Rector UCLouvain

Professor Françoise Smets was elected Rector of UCLouvain in April of this year. Professor Smets lives in Brussels and is married and a mother of married children. She is full professor of paediatrics at UCLouvain and senior member in the Paediatric Gastro-Enterology and Hepatology Unit at the Cliniques Universitaires Saint-Luc.

She graduated as an MD in 1998 and obtained her PhD degree in 2002, both at UCLouvain. She worked for one year at the Children's Memorial Hospital and Northwestern University in Chicago (grant B.A.E.F) as a postdoctoral fellow. She teaches paediatrics to medical, biomedical sciences and dietitian students. Since 2019, she has been Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Dental Medicine at UCLouvain. Her main clinical and research activity is in the field of paediatric liver diseases, GI diseases and allergies, and liver transplantation. She was an active board member in several national and international scientific societies and is an associate member of the Académie Royale de Médecine de Belgique.



Grégory Woimbée Rector, Catholic University of Lyon

Grégory Woimbée, Doctor of History and Theology, took up his post as Rector of the Catholic University of Lyon on July 1st, 2024 for a five year term.

At 48, Grégory Woimbée becomes one of the youngest rectors in the history of this university, which will soon celebrate its 150th anniversary. With his research experience and commitment to the internationalisation of Catholic universities, he brings with him a wealth of experience and a vision that matches UCLy's values.

His career has been marked by a deep understanding of the challenges of higher education as Vice-Rector for Research and International Relations at the Institut Catholique de Toulouse, then Director of Doctoral Studies at the Faculty of Theology of the Institut Catholique de Paris (ICP).

He arrives in Lyon with a clear vision: to promote UCLy's values of academic excellence, rigorous research and community involvement, while striving to internationalize the University and cultivate "excellence through empathy".

NEWS IN BRIEF



FRANCE

L'ICP INAUGURE UN NOUVEAU CAMPUS À ROUEN

L'Institut Catholique de Paris a inauguré le 27 juin 2024 son second campus en région, à Rouen. Avec ce nouvel ancrage territorial, l'ICP réaffirme son ambition de servir le développement de l'enseignement supérieur et participe à la notoriété du territoire. Le campus rouennais de l'ICP permet aux lycéens normands de bénéficier d'un choix plus large de formations dans l'enseignement supérieur de proximité.

Pour favoriser l'accès de tous aux savoirs, les frais d'inscription à l'ICP sont modulés en fonction des revenus du foyer. Les étudiants en difficulté financière peuvent également bénéficier de bourses ICP. Pour mener à bien ce projet, l'ICP a associé des partenaires publics et des entreprises privées au sein d'un conseil d'orientation du nouveau campus afin d'élaborer des programmes universitaires en phase avec les besoins du territoire.

5 licences sont proposées sur ce nouveau campus, qui devrait accueillir d'ici 5 ans 1000 étudiants.



SPAIN

DOCTORATE FOR NOBEL WINNER DR DAVID MACMILLAN

Dr David MacMillan, Princeton University professor and recipient of the 2021 Nobel Prize in Chemistry (with Dr Benjamin List, Max Planck Institute professor), was invested Doctor Honoris Causa by Ramon Llull University, at the proposal of its institution IQS-URL. In her laudatio, Dr Ana Belén Cuenca, professor and Head of the Organic and Pharmaceutical Chemistry Department at IQS-URL, celebrated his notable work in the field of organic chemistry, particularly asymmetric organo-catalysis, and especially his humble, generous and invigorating character. Dr MacMillan had, during his Nobel Prize lecture, mentioned the research in his field developed by Dr Julià and his team, from IQS-URL, as one of the precursors of his own research. During the ceremony, he said that "it's a great honour to become part of the incredible Ramon Llull Family."



BELGIUM

ALMOST 600 YEARS OF KU LEUVEN

The year 2025 will be one big celebration at KU Leuven as the university will be celebrating six centuries of groundbreaking research, inspiring teaching and active engagement in the world. Festivities will kick off on 15 and 16 February with the grand opening ceremony: KU Leuven Inside. Celebrations will also feature a homecoming weekend for international alumni. All details of the vibrant programme can be found on www.kuleuven.be/600years

NEWS IN BRIEF



NEW CONFIGURATION OF THE PONTIFICAL GREGORIAN UNIVERSITY

Since 19 May 2024, Pentecost Sunday, the Pontifical Biblical Institute and the Pontifical Oriental Institute have been permanently incorporated into the Pontifical Gregorian University. The three institutions have a common bond, having all been entrusted by the Pope to the Society of Jesus.

According to its new statutes, the Gregorian University is governed by a single Rector, Fr Mark Lewis SJ, who is assisted by a council. The council comprises the three Presidents who share responsibility for running the entire university. They oversee and promote the fulfilment of the missions of the Pontifical Biblical Institute, the Pontifical Oriental Institute and the Collegium Maximum. The latter body represents the academic units that have been created at the Gregorian up until now.

The three presidents are Fr Pino Di Luccio S.J. (Collegium Maximum), Fr Peter Dubovský SJ (Pontifical Biblical Institute) and Fr Sunny Kokkaravalayil SJ (Pontifical Oriental Institute). The council also includes the Administrative Director of the University, Fr David Nazar SJ, and the Secretary General Luigi Allena.



NOTICIA DE SAN PACIA

El 5 de junio de 2023, el Papa Francisco nombró al Dr. Armand Puig i Tàrrach, hasta entonces rector del Ateneo Sant Pacià (Barcelona), como presidente de la Agencia de Verificación y Promoción de la Calidad de la Enseñanza en las Universidades y Facultades Eclesiásticas (AVEPRO). Desde entonces, el Dr. Joan Torra Bitlloch ha ejercido como pro-rector para llevar adelante la institución. El pasado 10 de mayo el Cardenal Joan Josep Omella firmó el nombramiento del Dr. Torra como rector para el trienio 2023-2026.

«Comienza ahora un momento nuevo para la vida del Ateneo, donde será necesario constituir bien los equipos y encontrar la mejor manera de funcionar, teniendo presente que todo esto coincide con el pleno funcionamiento de las tres Facultades, Teología, Filosofía e Historia, Arqueología y Artes Cristianas, y del Instituto de Liturgia ad instar Facultatis... Debemos poder hacer este servicio a favor de la Iglesia de nuestro país y de toda nuestra sociedad, con la docencia, con la investigación, con las publicaciones, y con aquellas misiones que se nos pidan a favor de la cultura cristiana». Estas fueron unas de las primeras palabras del Dr. Torra a la comunidad académica. Ad multos años!

NEWS IN BRIEF



NOTICIAS DE UNIVERSIDAD DE DEUSTO

El Campus de Bilbao de la Universidad de Deusto acogerá los días 22 y 23 de octubre de 2024 el FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS. Organizado por UD y auspiciado por el Secretariado de la Coalición Local2030 de Naciones Unidas, con el apoyo del Gobierno Vasco, este foro reunirá a expertos mundiales bajo el título Connecting academic research and public policies for SDG localization. Se contará con una destacada presencia de representantes de las Naciones Unidas y las distintas administraciones, así como de investigadores y académicos internacionales para abordar aspectos sustantivos en la Agenda 2030: a) los retos de la localización de la agenda global de los SDG; b) cómo afianzar la colaboración entre la universidad y el diseño de políticas públicas. Durante dos días, la Universidad de Deusto y Local2030 de Naciones Unidas pondrán el foco en alguno de los retos fundamentales de la agenda global, desde una mirada local, buscando conectar la cultura científica con la acción pública.



FRANCE

L'UCLY RENFORCE LE LOGEMENT ÉTUDIANT

Après deux ans de travaux, la résidence étudiante Saint-Bernard de l'UCLy a été ré-inaugurée en avril. Ce projet, d'un coût de 5 millions d'euros au total, était la priorité immobilière de l'université pour renforcer l'offre de son service logement.

Les travaux sur la résidence située à 10 minutes à pied du campus ont été plus qu'une rénovation, le bâtiment vieillissant a été repensé de fond en comble. Il comprend désormais 150 chambres de 10m², toutes climatisées et meublées (lit, frigo, penderie, bureau) et disposant de sanitaires privés.

La résidence a été pensée pour faciliter les rencontres et la solidarité entre étudiants. Chaque étage comprend deux cuisines collectives, qui permettent aux étudiants de se retrouver pour partager un repas. Au rez-de-chaussée, la résidence comprend aussi une bibliothèque, des salles d'étude et de co-working, une salle de sport, une salle de jeux (ping-pong, babyfoot...), une chapelle et un jardin privatif avec terrasse.

NEWS IN BRIEF

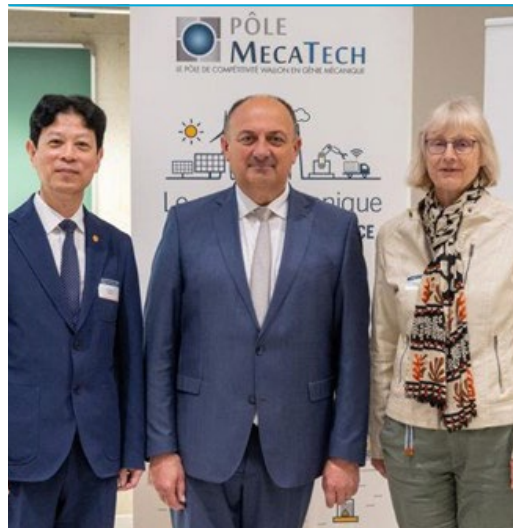
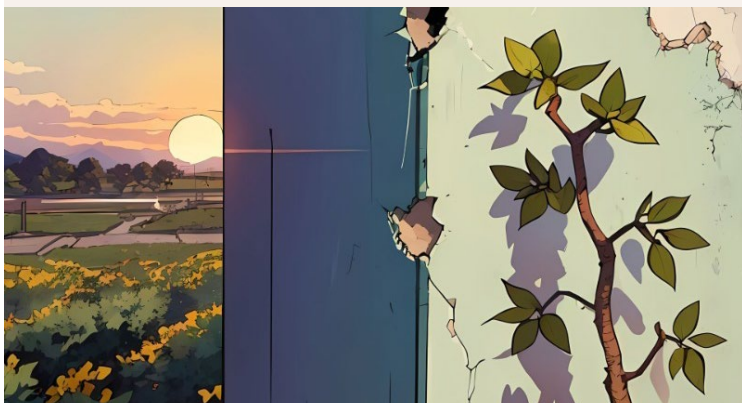


ITALY

TRAUMA TRAINING COURSE AT SALESIAN PONTIFICAL UNIVERSITY

The Salesian Pontifical University in Rome hosted a significant training program on "Accompanying When Trauma Hits" in April. The course was designed to equip educators working in conflict zones with essential trauma management and prevention skills. Participants from the Salesian provinces in the Middle East and Ukraine, as well as from the diocese of Donetsk, attended, highlighting the urgent need for specialised training in these high-risk areas. The training focused on a Salesian model of education and psychological support, emphasising pedagogical, psychological, and Salesian methodologies to effectively prevent, address and mitigate the impacts of trauma. This comprehensive approach aimed to transform the socio-educational environments of the participants, empowering them to manage traumatic experiences preventively.

fse.unisal.it/article/6028-accompanying-when-trauma-hits



Le Professeur Bao Lian Su, le Ministre Willy Borsus, chargé de la Recherche en Région wallonne et Carine Michiels, Vice-Rectrice à la Recherche de l'UNamur

FRANCE

PROJET BATFACTORY À L'UNAMUR : LES BATTERIES EN WALLONIE, PLUS QU'UNE RÉALITÉ

Le 5 juin 2024, l'UNamur a accueilli le lancement de BatFactory, un portefeuille de projets visant à produire des batteries et des matériaux pour stockage d'énergie stationnaire. Financé à hauteur de 11,4 millions d'euros par le Plan de Relance de la Wallonie, BatFactory mobilise les compétences des cinq universités en FWB et de trois centres de recherche agréés : l'UNamur, l'UMONS, l'ULiège, l'UCLouvain, l'ULB, Materia Nova, le CRM, CENAERO, avec le soutien du pôle MecaTech.

BatFactory, a pour objectif de produire des matériaux haute performance pour batteries de stockage, par des procédés respectueux de l'environnement, intelligents, et facilitant la circularité au bénéfice du tissu industriel wallon.

NEWS IN BRIEF



NETHERLANDS

TITUS DAY AT RADBOUD UNIVERSITY NIJMEGEN

On the May 15th last, Radboud University Nijmegen celebrated its annual Titus Day. This special day honours the university's former Rector Magnificus Titus Brandsma (1881-1942). The Carmelite priest was canonised in 2022, making him the first rector of a Dutch university to receive this honour.

During this year's Titus Day festivities, the Campus Choir performed its new composition about Brandsma's life and suffering. Also, a new biography about Brandsma was



launched in the University's Chapel. The biography was officially presented to the Prior Provincial of the Dutch Carmel Province, Huub Welzen, and the current rector José Sanders. Present also were Bishops Gerard de Korte and Ad van Luyn. The day's celebrations were concluded with a shared dinner in the Student Church. The accompanying conversation amongst students revolved around the question "What do you do for others?", which was the day's motto.



PORTUGAL

UCP CELEBRATES EPISCOPAL ORDINATION

Universidade Católica Portuguesa (UCP) has celebrated the appointment by Pope Francis of Alexandre Palma as auxiliary bishop of the Patriarchate of Lisboa. Alexandre Palma has a doctorate in Dogmatic Theology from the Gregorian University and is a member of the Board of the Faculty of Theology and Director of the UCP Centre for Research in Theology and Studies in Religion.

In a note of greeting, Isabel Gil, President of the Universidade Católica Portuguesa (UCP), said: "The University is grateful for his extraordinary contribution to theological studies and the way in which he has created a community of knowledge that is also a spiritual witness to the Christian message. We joyfully wish him every success in his new mission."

European Federation of Catholic Universities
Fédération des Universités Catholiques Européennes
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