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UCSIA continues the Jesuit tradition of involvement in university education, research and community service in the Flemish and Antwerp region. UCSIA is complementary to and supports the scholarly goals of the University of Antwerp with a focus on topics and themes requiring an interdisciplinary approach.



**THIS NEWSLETTER REPORTS** on UCSIA's activities during the second semester of 2011. I bring this account with some diffidence because these projects are the outcome of many people's efforts, inside and outside UCSIA, not least of Professor Christiane Timmerman. Until 30 September, she has been the Director of Academic Affairs combining the job with the part-time directorship of the Centre of Migration and Intercultural

Studies at the University of Antwerp. Professor Timmerman has been managing this thriving research group on a full-time basis from October 2011 onwards. Along with the governing bodies and the staff of UCSIA, I wish to thank her for her pioneering work at UCSIA and I wish her good luck in her new appointment!

Together with my colleague Professor Luc Braeckmans and all the staff, I will continue to encourage and deepen the successful cooperation between UCSIA on the one hand, and Belgian and foreign universities – amongst which the actively pluralist University of Antwerp – as well as target groups of professionals, on the other hand. Our aim is to stimulate intellectual debate on issues of social relevance from innovative scholarly perspectives.

Jacques Haers SJ

Director of Academic Affairs



## SUMMER SEMINAR AND SCRIBANI CONFERENCE

### ■ RELIGION, CULTURE AND SOCIETY

*This took place from 28 August to 4 September 2011 with public lectures by Professor Peter Beyer on 30 August and Professor Scott Thomas on 1 September.*

Junior scholars and PhD students presented their ongoing research on the relationships between religion and globalisation and the role of religion in international relations. In the analyses of many scholars, religion in the West has faded away as a determining factor. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, modernisation went hand-in-hand with a weakening of personal faith, and religion started to function separately from politics. But an analysis of the world as a whole clearly shows a different picture. Religions still count for much in international relations and their scientific explanation, and not just as a security problem. Can one discern *multiple modernities* next to *multiple secularities* and a variance in religiosity? This question 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.

[More info @ UCSIA-Archive](#)

**CONTRIBUTORS:** Peter BEYER (University of Ottawa), Robert William HEFNER (Boston University), John HUTCHINSON (London School of Economics) and Scott THOMAS (University of Bath & Heythrop College).



### ■ MIGRATION AND DETENTION IN EUROPE

*On 23 September 2011 the 3<sup>rd</sup> Scribani workshop took place in Antwerp with public lectures by Professor Christiane Timmerman and Mr. Philip Amaral.*

Incoming migration in Belgium provides a clear illustration of European and international trends: migrants originate from all over the world, they have a measure of 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 sees no room for a migration policy that goes without detention, but its member states deem Europe incompetent for imposing minimal standards. The Jesuit Refugee Service reports that migrants pay too high a price for this policy. Lower priced alternatives for confinement yield the same results without infringement of human rights.

The workshop evaluated the follow-up of the 2010 Scribani conference in Madrid that dealt with European migration and asylum policy. Bruylant will shortly publish a book bringing together the most important scholarly contributions. The workshop further prepared the Scribani conference on European detention policy which will be organised by the Jesuit Centre for Faith and Justice (JCFJ-Dublin) from 5 to 7 September 2012 on campus at Trinity College.



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## INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOPS

### ■ FORGOTTEN GENOCIDES

*This took place from 24 to 25 November 2011 in cooperation with Professor Marc Bossuyt, Professor Bert Ingelaere and Professor Stephan Parmentier. Professor René Lemarchand delivered a public lecture on 24 November on the reasons why historically well-documented genocides are so often neglected, denied or manipulated.*

The recent genocides in Rwanda and Bosnia and international legal actions present questions about the effectiveness of the legal and institutional framework and the responsibility of the international community. Is it useful to distinguish the concept of genocide from other crimes against humanity (conceptual debate)? When must the international political community intervene and on which grounds (political debate)? How should these crimes be punished (legal debate)? To understand how a vicious circle of violence can result in straightforward genocide, a thorough analysis of historical processes and regional interests is crucial. To prevent genocide and intervene in the process at the right time, supposes an understanding of its causes. Unacknowledged or near-genocides are very instructive, for example the situation in Burundi in 1993 that provoked the genocide in Rwanda.

[More info @ UCSIA-Archive](#)



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### ■ VOLUNTEERING

*This took place from 7 tot 9 December 2011 in cooperation with Dr. Caroline Gijssels, Professor Lesley Hustinx, Wim Vandewiele, Professor Emeritus Jan Vranken. 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 being on a mission. 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 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.

[More info @ UCSIA-Archive](#)



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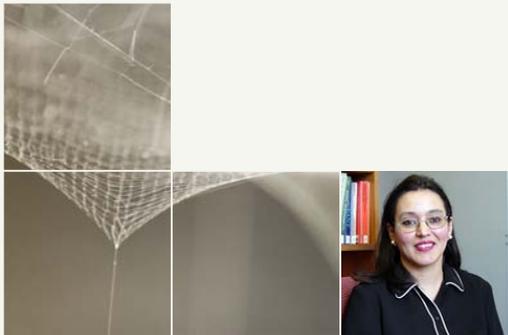
## TEACHING CHAIRS AND STIPENDIA

### ■ **NORMATIVITY OF LAW**

Professor Verónica RODRÍGUEZ BLANCO (Birmingham Law School, University of Birmingham) led a research 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.

[More info @ UCSIA-Archive](#)



## LECTURE SERIES

### ■ TABOOS IN THE MARGINS OF CARE – INTIMACY OF VULNERABLE PEOPLE

*The aim of the lecture series is to lead the attention of scholars, professional health care providers and the policy makers toward vulnerable groups in society. In 2011, sexuality was the common denominator of a number of these lectures.*

In the autumn, two lectures took place:

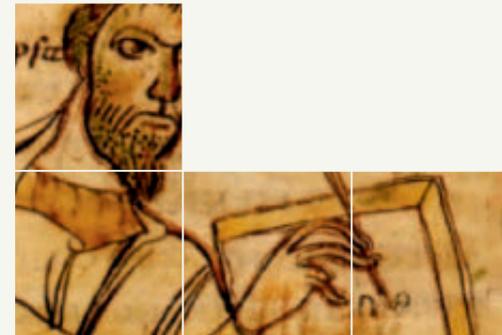
- ▶ On 6 October 2011, a scholar, a panel and an audience of social care workers discussed the way disabled people experience sexuality. Professor Jo LEBBEER (Faculty of Medicine, University of Antwerp) praised some recent popular movies that bring the issue to the fore in a delicate manner. Educational worker Greet CONIX (VMG ngo) claimed that many social workers find it difficult to distinguish appropriate from inappropriate acts in spite of their professional experience in dealing with intimacy. Experience on the shop floor contrasts with the policy documents and mission statements 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.
- ▶ On 17 November 2011, a large audience of professionals and students attended the lecture on youngsters and transgressive sexual behavior. The guest speakers followed two approaches. Corine FACHÉ, a child and youth psychiatrist, dealt with girls as victims and Dirk VAN WEST, forensic psychiatrist, discussed boys

as perpetrators. They are colleagues at the University Centre for Child- and Youth Psychiatry of the University of Antwerp. Dirk DEBOUTTE, child and youth psychiatrist at the University of Antwerp, moderated a debate between representatives of Child Focus (the foundation for missing and sexually abused children), SENSOA (the Flemish center of expertise for sexual health) and the Advice Center for Child Abuse Antwerp.

### ■ ACADEMY OF THEOLOGY

On 12 December 2011, Professor Emeritus James D.G. DUNN (University of Durham) elucidated the theological importance of the historical Paul based on his *Letters* and the *Acts of the Apostles*.

UCSIA elaborated this lecture in cooperation with the faculties of theology of the universities of Leuven and Louvain and the Protestant Faculty of Theology.



## WORKSHOPS, SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES

### ■ ART AND STREET

*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) (Faculty of Arts, AUHA), the Royal Academy of Fine Arts, Sint Lucas Antwerp, the modern art museum M HKA and Cinema Zuid.*

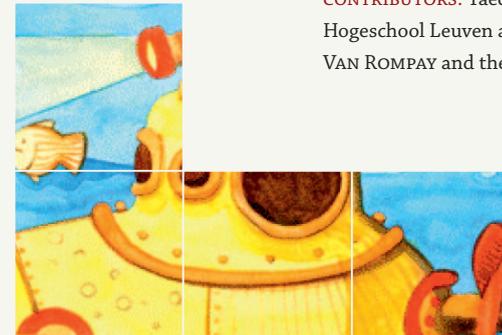
On 8 November 2011, visual and sound artist Anri SALA presented some video fragments that integrate rhythm and space to express emotions. Peter SWINNEN, Master Builder of the Government of Flanders, presented their common project to rebuild Skanderberg Place in Tirana in a way that respects its historicity while balancing art and architecture. Sala further coached a workshop with students of arts and philosophy of arts.

Professor Pascal GIELEN (Fontys Hogeschool voor de Kunsten, Tilburg) interpreted the role of art when examining the links between global trends in society and as a factor of community building. Paul DE BRUYNE (Fontys) moderated a debate with artists David BADE and Nico DOCKX and performer of theatre Bart VAN NUFFELEN on 'community art' as social engagement.



### ■ TEACHING ROMAN CATHOLICISM: THE COURSE DYNAMICS

On 17 November 2011, the pedagogical conference *Fathoming the Deep* examined the course dynamics. How can teachers of Roman Catholicism activate the philosophical skills of their pupils and get 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.



**CONTRIBUTORS:** Taede SMEDES (Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen), Bart VERBESSELT (Katholieke Hogeschool Leuven and KU Leuven), the inspectors of religious teaching Ronald SLEBSENS and Jos VAN ROMPAY and the teachers involved in the preparation of the workshops.

## IN THE PIPELINE

### ■ **The Local Relevance of Human Rights**

Book presentation on 19 January 2012

### ■ **UCSIA-IJS Chair Jewish-Christian Relations**

Lectures by Theo DUNKELGRÜN (Saint Louis University) on the 16<sup>th</sup> century rabbi Johannes Isaac Levita on 16 February and on the Antwerp polyglot Bible on 6 March 2012 with various guest lectures for students

### ■ **Teaching Chair Jef Van Gerwen SJ**

Lectures and guest lectures on the intellectual heritage of Adam Smith by Ryan P. HANLEY (Marquette University) on 12 and 19 March 2012, followed by a symposium on balanced leadership in a globalised economy on 7 May 2012 with among others Herman VAN ROMPUY, Luc CORTEBEECK and Johan VAN OVERTVELDT

### ■ **Apology as Ritual**

International academic workshop on apology as ritual on 22 and 23 March 2012 with a lecture by Danielle CELERMAJER (University of Sidney) on 22 March

### ■ **Youth, Crime and Criminal Law**

Lecture series on 16 and 23 April and 7 May 2012

### ■ **Moral Stability and Pluralism in Deeply Divided Democracies**

Lecture by Valentina GENTILE (LUISS University Rome) on moral stability in torn nations on 19 April 2012

### ■ **Demography**

International academic workshop on demographic developments from 9 to 11 May 2012 with a lecture by Frans WILLEKENS (Rijksuniversiteit Groningen) on 9 May 2012

