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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.

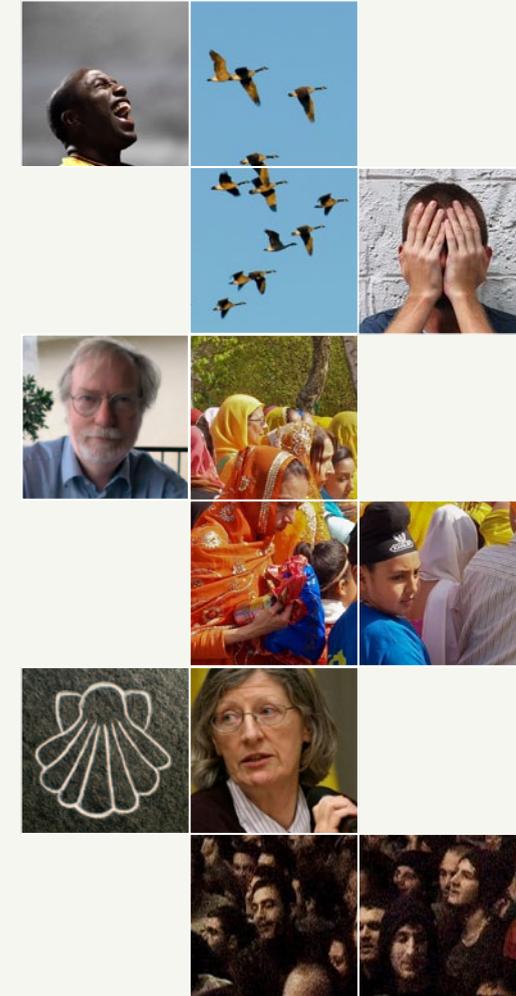
This newsletter presents the projects we have achieved in the second semester of 2010 or will achieve in 2011. Your active participation in our workshops and conferences has strengthened our aim to continue to offer you scholarly and professional value!



Luc Braeckmans
Deputy Director of Academic Affairs



Christiane Timmerman
Director of Academic Affairs



SUMMER SEMINAR AND SCRIBANI CONFERENCE

■ RELIGION, CULTURE AND SOCIETY

From 26 till 28 August 2010, UCSIA celebrated the fifth anniversary of the UCSIA Summer Seminar on Religion, Culture & Society.

Between 2003 and 2009, five summer seminars have taken place. For one week, in each seminar, an international group of young scholars and doctoral students reflected on the connections between religion, culture and society. The 2010 edition was shorter and brought together 15 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.

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

[More info @ UCSIA-Archive](#)

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■ EUROPEAN MIGRATION AND ASYLUM POLICY

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 Scribani network consists of 18 European research groups and social action centres associated with the Jesuits. The conference assessed the emerging European migration and asylum policy based on a tight control of migration flows, encouraging highly skilled migration, return of illegal migrants, development aid for countries of origin and respect for asylum seekers' rights.

More than 20 scholars from different European universities presented their research: mainly jurists, but also (post-)doctoral researchers of demographics, philosophy, politics, economics, sociology, intercultural and migration studies. Four renowned scholars 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 rounded up the conference.

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INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOPS

SPORTS AND COMMUNITY BUILDING

Took place from 14 to 16 October 2010 in cooperation with Prof. Dr. Stefan Kesenne, Prof. Dr. Marc Theeboom and Prof. Dr. Bart Vanreusel. Public lectures were given by Roland Renson, Sven Guldenpfennig, Cora Burnett and Wolfgang Maennig, followed by a panel debate on 16 October with scholars, journalists and 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: equal opportunities at 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. How do major sporting events such as the world championship football in South Africa (2010) contribute to developing countries? How does the local community experience the economic progress promised by FIFA? A panel discussed the Belgo-Dutch bid for the world football championship 2018.

[More info @ UCSIA-Archive](#)

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MORALS AND BANKING

Took place from 1 to 3 December 2010 in cooperation with Prof. Dr. Luc Van Liedekerke, Prof. Dr. Marc Deloof and Prof. Dr. Helma De Smedt. On 1 December, Catherine Cowley ra (Heythrop College, London) gave a public lecture.

The programme explored how modern banking practices can be reconciled with moral values. Without a doubt, banking, insurance and the financial sector play a key role in any modern economy. However, unchecked by moral values, the capital market leads to dire consequences for individuals and whole societies. The example of the financial crisis of 2008 demonstrates that the corporate culture of banks (on the individual level as well as on the organisational level) was not a higher moral goal such as 'serving the community', but a narrow ethics focused on the market. Although legislation and regulation can (perhaps) avoid the most excessive forms of abuse or crisis, personal morals and attitudes such as prudence, trust, fairness, honesty and temperance on the part of individuals and organisations operating in these businesses are essential to avoid abuse, excess and crisis. Markets without these morals are bound to lead to catastrophic crises within particular organisations or even the global economy.

[More info @ UCSIA-Archive](#)

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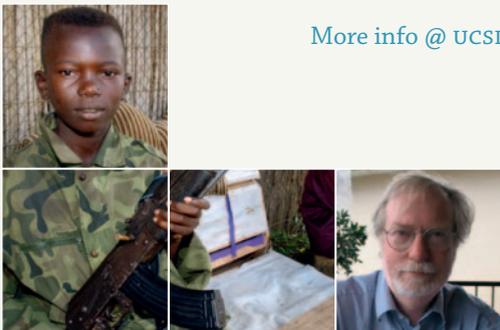
CHAIRS & SCHOLARSHIPS

■ UCSIA CHAIR

On 15 and 16 November, Prof. Dr. Paul COLLIER gave a public lecture, taught a master class and moderated a doctoral seminar. He is the Director of the Centre for the Study of African Economies (University of Oxford). His scholarly work brought 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.

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

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■ SCHOLARSHIPS

Prof. Dr. Peter LOSONCZI (Centre for Intercultural Studies, University of West Hungary) executed a research project '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 Prof. Dr. Walter Van Herck and on 7 December he gave a lecture comparing Europe and India as post-secular democracies.

[More info @ UCSIA-Archive](#)

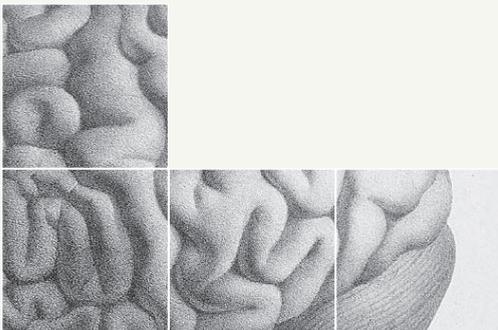


LECTURE SERIES

■ BRAIN AND SELF

In the autumn the following lectures on advanced neuroscience were given:

- ▶ On 7 October 2010, Audrey Vanhauzenhuysse (University of Liège) explained the ethical importance of research on coma, vegetative states or locked-in syndrome. In unexpected cases, patients show a significant degree of awareness or consciousness. Philosopher Tim Bayne (University of Oxford) questioned the neuro-scientific definition of conscience and the method for measuring consciousness by counting single video signals.
- ▶ On 13 October 2010, Kevin O'Regan (Université René Descartes) and Helena De Preester (Hogeschool Gent) presented surprising insights in the awareness of corporality. The sensorimotor laws explain why we don't feel a manual touch in our brain but on our hand. They explain illusions such as the *rubber hand* or extracorporeal experiences. Sensor substitution enables us to *look* through skin or ears.
- ▶ 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 mix up the notion of free will?



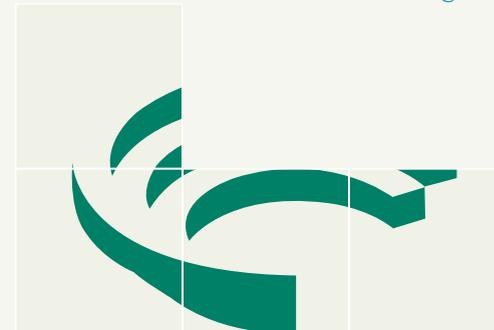
- ▶ On 17 November 2010, Corrado Sinigaglia (University of Milan) and Bence Nanay (University of Antwerp) explained the mechanism of *mirror neurons*. To perceive and to perform an act involves separate neurological processes that, however, take place in the same parts of the brain. We learn by performing an act ourselves or by observing another individual performing it. A natural biological mechanism enables social cognition and interaction.
- ▶ On 25 November 2010, Dirk De Ridder (Brain Research Centre Antwerp for Innovative and Interdisciplinary Neuromodulation) and Walter Van Herck (University of Antwerp) debated about *God*. Do the brains create God in man's image by the operation of the mirror neurons? Is the notion of God a *phantom* following from (in)voluntary human suppression of this self-awareness? Or is this too simple a definition of religion and faith? Does the essence of faith consist of belief in supernatural beings or rather of orthopraxis and religious experience?

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■ ACADEMY OF THEOLOGY in cooperation with KVHU

On 20 December 2010, Monsignor André Leonard gave a lecture on the challenges facing an archbishop.

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WORKSHOPS, SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES

■ DIALOGUE BETWEEN TEACHERS OF ISLAM AND CATHOLICISM

On 8 November 2010, the inspectors of religious secondary education, along with 350 teachers of Islam and Catholicism, presented a scoop: the first joint conference on the function of the confessional course in present-day society.

The curricula stipulate an introduction to the 'other' religion and, in the state schools, these teachers work alongside one another as colleagues. Religious diversity and provenance in the classroom necessitate a thorough knowledge of the other religious and cultural groups in the classroom.

The teachers exchanged thoughts in working groups: what do the respective courses teach about the religious calendar and feast days? What sources, quotations and impulses can introduce youngsters to the other's religion? What 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?

[More info @ UCSIA-Archive](#)

CONTRIBUTORS: Bert ROEBBEN (University of Dortmund), Johan MEULEMAN (CeMIS, University of Antwerp), Gé SPEELMAN (University of Theology Kampen), Sergio SCATOLINI (Groep T, Leuven) and inspectors Malik AL ASMAR, Ahmed AZZOUZ, Omer BERKTAS, Mohamed CHATOUANI, Jacques MICHELSENS, Ronald SLEDESENS, Jos VAN ROMPAY and all the teachers who co-operated in the preparation of the workshops.



■ HEROIC LEADERSHIP

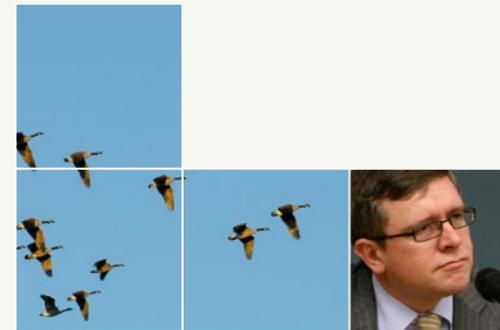
On 20 November 2010, the second conference in cooperation with the Federation of Jesuit College Alumni and the Confederation of Jesuit Colleges in Flanders took place. It united 400 participants from the business world and secondary education to consider the issue of 'heroic leadership'.

Chris LOWNEY, former CEO of JP Morgan, recapitulated the principles of leadership in a modern company: self-awareness, creativity, heroism and love. He extracted them from Ignatian spirituality and the works of the Society of Jesus.

Hans GEYBELS, Head of Communication at the Jesuit Province of Flanders, moderated a debate between other participants:

- Mark ROTSAERT SJ, looking back on his ten years of experience as President of the European Conference of Jesuit Provincials;
- Joost VAN ROOST, CEO of ExxonMobil Benelux;
- Geert DEVOS, Professor of Pedagogy at the University of Ghent;
- Rik TORFS, Member of Parliament and Professor of Canon Law.

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WORKSHOPS, SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES

■ ART

On 20 October and 8 December 2010, art photographer Craigie HORSFIELD gave lectures and moderated workshops attended by students of art and philosophy of art. UCSIA staged these activities in cooperation with Arthur Cools (Faculty of Arts, AUHA), the Royal Academy of Fine Arts (Artesis), Sint Lucas Antwerp (Karel de Grote School of Higher Education) and the modern art museum M HKA. Craigie Horsfield is convinced that artists should radically engage in society. There is no art without dialogue, or recognition of the audience. The artist debated his views with sociologist of art Pascal Gielen (Rijksuniversiteit Groningen), historian of art Hans de Wolf (Vrije Universiteit Brussel) and scholar of art Joris Capenberghs.

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■ PILGRIMAGE

On 25 November 2010, UCSIA organised an introductory lecture to the international workshop on pilgrimage in 2011. Peter-Jan MARGRY (Meertens Institute, Amsterdam) analysed the actual practice of the European Union, Christian churches and individual pilgrims, in instrumentalising the ritual of pilgrimage. Cristina SÁNCHEZ-CARRETERO presented a research project, commissioned by the government of Galicia, on the extension of the 'camino' between Santiago de Compostela and Fisterra.

[More info @ UCSIA-Archive](#)

■ COMBATING YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT

On 12 October 2010, a panel debate took place in Brussels on youth unemployment as a European challenge. It was the result of a partnership between UCSIA and the Jesuit European Office (OCIPE). A panel moderated by François Vandamme (FOD Employment and Social Affairs, College of Europe) debated whether the European policy plans (Europe 2020) will suffice to offer better job opportunities to European youngsters.

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FORTHCOMING

■ **Education and Adult Authority**

Lecture by Professor Frank Furedi (University of Kent),
10 February 2011

■ **Education and Transmission of Culture in Multicultural Society**

Pedagogical conference in cooperation with Xaverius College
Borgerhout on the occasion of its 75th anniversary,
11 February 2011

■ **The Future of Pastoral Care in Welfare Services**

Conference in cooperation with the Pastoral Service of the University
of Antwerp, DNGW-Caritas Antwerp and 'Church as a Live Wire',
17 February 2011

■ **Chair UCSIA-IJS/UA Jewish Christian Relations**

Lectures by Professor Elisheva Carlebach (Columbia University, New
York) on Converts in Early Modern Europe (17 February), and – with
Louis Caruana sj – Jewish and Christian Perceptions of Time (22
February 2011)

■ **The Philosophical Feature of Confucianism and Its Position in Intercultural Dialogue: Universalism or Non-universalism?**

UCSIA-scholarship lecture by Xianlong Zhang (Peking University),
17 March 2011

■ **The Intellectual in the Public Sphere**

International workshop and public lecture
by Craig Calhoun (New York University),
23 to 25 March 2011

■ **Global Leadership. Chair Jef Van Gerwen SJ**

Lecture by Professor Thomas Maak or Nicola Pless (ESADE Business
School) in cooperation with Antwerp Management School,
Spring 2011

■ **Communicating Climate Change**

Lecture Series, 5 May, 26 May, 9 June 2011

■ **Teenage Pregnancies and Support for Teenage Parents**

Lectures by Marjolijn De Wilde
(Centre for Social Policy Herman Deleek)
and Willy Cockx (Centre for Integral Family Care De Merode)
and panel debate on 12 May 2011

■ **Pilgrimage in Contemporary Pluralist Europe**

International workshop and public lecture
by Simon Coleman (University of Sussex),
19 and 20 May 2011

