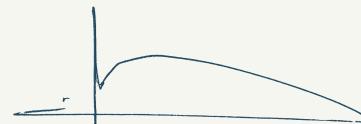


In this issue:

- 2 Intellectuals in the Public Sphere
- 2 Pilgrimage in Pluralist Europe Today
- 3 Chair Jef Van Gerwen SJ
- 3 Chair UCSIA-IJS/UA on Jewish-Christian Relations
- 4 Communicating on Climate Change
- 5 Taboos in the Margins of Care
- 5 Academy of Theology in Cooperation with KVHU
- 6 Transmitting Culture and Education in a Multicultural Setting
- 6 Educating Young Muslims in a Multicultural Context
- 7 Pastoral Care
- 8 Forthcoming

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 looks back upon the UCSIA projects of the first half of 2011. As before, many of you participated in the workshops and conferences covering a broad range of topics. Our endeavour is to guarantee academic quality and professional added-value and to make the projects dovetail with other aspects of our mission such as multidisciplinary, close cooperation with the Antwerp academic community, social justice and a religiously inspired vision. We are putting the final touches to the projects scheduled for the autumn of 2011 and more ideas for 2012 and 2013 are in the pipeline.



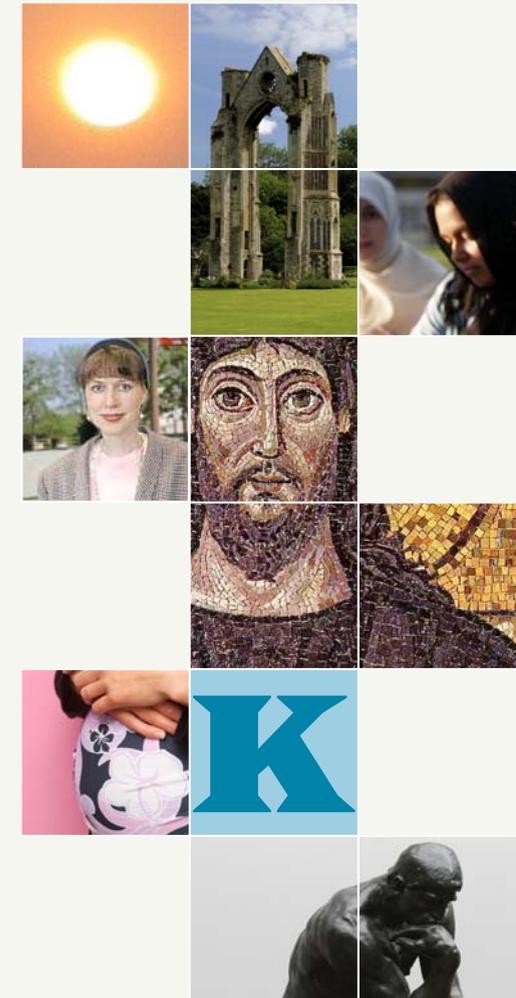
Luc Braeckmans

Deputy Director of Academic Affairs



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INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOPS

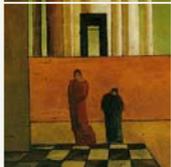
■ INTELLECTUALS IN THE PUBLIC SPHERE

Took place from 23 to 25 March in cooperation with Prof. Dr. Bert De Munck, Prof. Dr. Tim Heysse, Prof. Dr. Peter Thijssen and Prof. Dr. Walter Weyns. Unfortunately, Craig Calhoun had to cancel his public lecture for health reasons.

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 were loved by the public (like Sartre). 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 from the bottom up.

[More info @ UCSIA-Archive](#)



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■ PILGRIMAGE IN PLURALIST EUROPE TODAY

Took place from 19 to 20 May 2011 in cooperation with Prof. Dr. Veerle Fraeters, Prof. Dr. Frank Willaert, Prof. Dr. Peter Stabel and Prof. Dr. Peter Jan Margry. In a public lecture on 19 May, Prof. Dr. 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.

[More info @ UCSIA-Archive](#)



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CHAIRS & SCHOLARSHIPS

■ CHAIR JEF VAN GERWEN SJ

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. 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.

[More info @ UCSIA-Archive](#)



■ CHAIR UCSIA-IJS/UA ON JEWISH-CHRISTIAN RELATIONS

In a lecture on 17 February, 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, 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).

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LECTURE SERIES

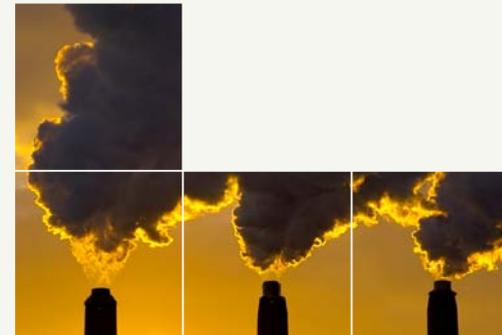
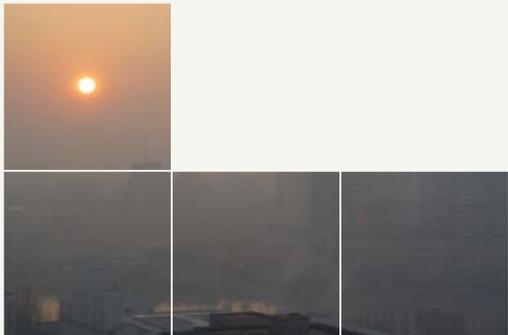
■ COMMUNICATING ON CLIMATE CHANGE

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 has examined the communications concerning climate change:

- ▶ *the 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 MAESELE (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, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam) presented twelve visions that are acceptable in his opinion. Peter Tom JONES (research manager, K.U.Leuven) pointed out the implications of accepting the goal of reducing 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. Viewing climate change as a universal problem that can be solved once all noses point in the same direction is utopian. It is better if the debate were transformed into a creative exchange on the new economic, political, social and cultural projects we would like to share as citizens of the world. Stijn NEUTELEERS (K.U.Leuven) unveiled the new ecological political theory that is in the making in between liberal egalitarianism and communitarianism.

[More info @ UCSIA-Archive](#)



LECTURE SERIES

■ TABOOS IN THE MARGINS OF CARE

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 GHYSELS (University of Antwerp) moderated a panel debate with representatives of social welfare institutions that evaluated whether or not a tailor-made policy for this target group is desirable.

[More info @ UCSIA-Archive](#)



■ ACADEMY OF THEOLOGY IN COOPERATION WITH KVHU

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. In a public lecture, he examined the Biblical story of the resurrection. The belief in Jesus' resurrection retroactively validated his earthly mission, but it equally testifies to the strong faith in God of the first Jewish Christians.

UCSIA organised this lecture in cooperation with the Faculties of Theology of the K.U.Leuven and UCL/Louvain-la-Neuve and the Protestant Faculty of Theology.

[More info @ UCSIA-Archive](#)



WORKSHOPS, SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES

■ 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. Various insights were examined:

- Is it the core job of the educational system to transmit knowledge and insights to the next generation?
- Should the responsibility for educating children – socializing and disciplining are not the same as transmitting knowledge – be given back to the parents?
- Who determines what 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.

[More info @ UCSIA-Archive](#)

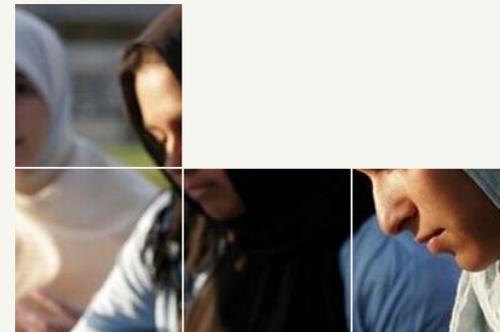
CONTRIBUTORS: Orhan AGIRDAG (University of Ghent), Noël CLYQC (University of Antwerp), Nadia EVERSTEIJN (University of Tilburg), Philip HERMANS (K.U.Leuven), Delphine HESTERS (K.U.Leuven), Karel HOPPENBROUWERS (K.U.Leuven), Mariette LUSSE (Hogeschool Rotterdam) Paul MAHIEU (University of Antwerp), Martha MONTERO-SIEBURTH (University of Amsterdam), Ward NOUWEN (University of Antwerp & K.U.Leuven), Trees PELS (Verwey-Jonker Institute), Edith PIQUERAY (University of Antwerp), Reinhilde PULINX (University of Ghent), Eugene ROOSENS (K.U.Leuven), Max SPOTTI (University of Tilburg), Piet VAN AVERMAET (University of Ghent), Walter WEYNS (University of Antwerp).



■ EDUCATING YOUNG MUSLIMS IN A MULTICULTURAL CONTEXT

On 28 april 2011 UCSIA, the inspectors of Islam education in secondary schools, and the Executive Body of Muslims in Belgium organized their third conference. Guest speakers were Gé SPEELMAN (Theologische Universiteit Kampen), Abied ALSULAIMAN (Lessius School of Higher Education Antwerp) and Tezcan TURKBEN (Erasmus School of Higher Education Brussels).

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WORKSHOPS, SEMINARS AND CONFERENCES

■ PASTORAL CARE

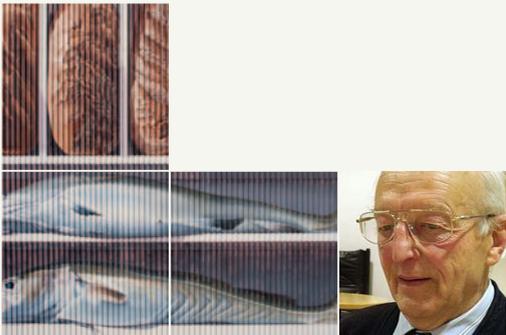
In cooperation with the Pastoral Service of the University of Antwerp (Johan Vanhoutte SJ and Gert Van Langendonck) UCSIA organised:

- ▶ on 13 and 14 January 2011, a seminar for pastors at universities and schools for higher education. Nico TER LINDE, Dutch minister and author, 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.
- ▶ on 17 February 2011, a conference for pastors in healthcare and welfare institutions. Spirituality and voluntary commitment are no longer sufficient. The pastor is an expert amongst fellow professionals. He must be 'present', but he must also critically question policy and structures, as well as influence them. Contributors: Axel LIBGOIS (K.U.Leuven), Carlo LEGET (University of Tilburg), Doris NAUER (Philosophisch-Theologische Hochschule Vallendar), Kerk Onder Stroom (Diocese of Antwerp) and Caritas Antwerpen.

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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 is 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, Prof. Dr. Staf HELLEMANS (University of Tilburg) and Prof. Dr. Mathijs LAMBERIGTS (K.U.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?'

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FORTHCOMING

■ UCSIA Summer School

Summer School on Religion, Culture and Society,
29 August–3 September 2011 presenting two public lectures:

- ▶ on 30 August: *State Religions, Religion-State Relations, and the State of Religion in Contemporary Global Society* by Peter BEYER (University of Ottawa)
- ▶ on 1 September: *A Globalized God: Religion's Growing Influence in International Politics* by Scott M. THOMAS (University of Bath/Heythrop College)

■ Migration and Detention in Europe

Public lecture by Philip AMARAL (Jesuit Refugee Service) and
Christiane TIMMERMAN (Centre for Migration and Intercultural Studies,
University of Antwerp) and panel debate on 22 September 2011

■ Sexuality and Relationships of Disabled Persons

Lecture by Dr. Jo LEBEER (University of Antwerp),
respondent Greet CONIX (vzw VMG) and panel debate on 6 October 2011

■ Art Project

Lectures by Anri SALA on 8 November 2011 and Michelangelo
PISTOLETTO on 15 November 2011 (date to be confirmed)

■ Conference for Teachers of Roman Catholicism

17 November 2011

■ Minors and Sexual Violence

Lecture by Dr. Corine FACHÉ (University of Antwerp) and Dr. Dirk VAN
WEST (University of Antwerp) and panel debate on 17 November 2011

■ Preventing Genocides: Root Causes and Coping Strategies

International academic workshop on 24 and 25 November 2011
with public lecture by René LEMARCHAND (University of Florida)
on 'Forgotten Genocides' on 24 November 2011

■ Volunteers

International academic workshop from 7 to 9 December with
public lecture by Paul LICHTERMAN (University of South California)
on 'Cultural and Institutional Conditions of Volunteering:
a View from the U.S.' on 7 December 2011

■ Theological Legacy of Saint Paul

Lecture on the *Theological Legacy of Saint Paul* by James DUNN
(emeritus University of Durham) on 12 December 2011

