

MIGRATION, A PILGRIMAGE OF HOPE

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON **MIGRATION,**
THEOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL STUDIES

October 21-23, 2025

Pontifical Urbaniana University
Rome



Info & Registration
info@simieducation.org



Organized by



UNIVERSITY OF
NOTRE DAME

SCALABRINI INTERNATIONAL
MIGRATION INSTITUTE

HEALU INSTITUTE
FOR SOCIAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS
RESEARCH SCHOOL OF GLOBAL AFFAIRS

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Migration is one of the most pressing challenges of our time, with millions of people forced to leave their homes due to conflict, poverty and climate change. In this complex global scenario, theology plays a crucial role in the study of migration, offering a lens through which to examine the moral, ethical and spiritual dimensions of these movements. Theology and Social studies can provide meaningful responses, promoting principles of welcome, solidarity and human dignity. Through interdisciplinary dialogue and deepening Christian social doctrine, bridges of understanding and support can be built for people on the move, helping to create more just and inclusive societies.



For info and registration please contact:

info@simieducation.org

<https://forms.gle/QXsXjMQnHNTck3b49>

October 21

Morning session / 09.00 – 13.00

08.30 – 09.00

Welcome and Registration

Exhibition opening "*Umanità ininterrotta*"

09.00 – 09.45

Moderator: Veronica De Sanctis

Institutional greetings

Card. Luis Antonio Gokim Tagle - Grand Chancellor of Pontifical Urbaniana University

Prof. Daniel Groody - University of Notre Dame

Fr. Leonir Chiarello - Scalabrini International Migration Institute

09.45 – 10.45

Narrating Migration

Narrating journeys

Annalisa Vandelli - Photojournalist

Narrating borders

Norma Pimentel - Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley

Narrating migration experience

Mohammed Dost -

10.45 – 11.15 Coffee break

11.15 – 12.15

Theology and Human Mobility: state of the art

Moderator: Gioacchino Campese - Pontifical Urbaniana University

Theology of migration: origins and recent developments

Peter C. Phan - Georgetown University

The Social Teaching of the Church on Human mobility

Anna Rowlands - Durham University

12.30 – 14.00 Lunch

Afternoon session / 14.00 – 18.00

14.00 – 18.00

Interdisciplinary Dialogue on Human Mobility

Moderators: Gabriele Beltrami & Lucia Capuzzi

14.00 – 15.45

First panel: The age of migration: welcoming, protecting, promoting, integrating

Joseph V. Corpora (Notre Dame University); Abby Cordova (Keough School of Global Affairs at the University of Notre Dame); Alexander Kustov (University of North Carolina at Charlotte); Matteo Sanfilippo (University of Tuscia); Laura Zanfrini (Catholic University of Milan)

15.45 – 16.15 Coffee break

16.15 – 18.00

Second panel: The age of migration: welcoming, protecting, promoting, integrating

Emilce Cuda (Pontifical Commission for Latin America); Erin Corcoran (Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies); Amy Hsin (University of Notre Dame); Amaya Varcarel (Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development); Cecilia Dall'Oglio (Laudato Si Movement)

October 22

Morning session / 09.00 – 13.00

09.00 – 10.30

Theology and Human Mobility: perspectives for the future

Moderator: Aldo Skoda - Pontifical Urbaniana University

Maruja Asis (Scalabrini Migration Centre); Wilfred Sumani (Catholic University of Malawi); Antonio Grasso (SIMN Europe & Africa); Roxanne Schares (UISG)

Q&A session

10.30 – 11.00 Coffee break

11.30 – 13.00

Theology and Human Mobility: perspectives for the future

Moderator: Carmen Elisa Bandeo - UISG

Jaisy A. Joseph (Villanova University); Victor Carmona (University of San Diego); Jennifer Gómez Torres (Caritas Spain - Comillas University); Agnes Varsalona (Università della Svizzera Italiana)

Q&A session

13.00 – 14.30 Lunch

Afternoon session / 14.30 – 18.30

14.30 – 16.30

Parallel panels and discussion groups

This interdisciplinary session aims to foster dialogue among theologians, social scientists, and scholars from related fields on the complex realities of human migration and its theological and social implications. Selected topics will be introduced in groups, followed by open discussion and suggestions for additional research and action.

Panel 1.

Foundations of Migration Theology: Trinity, mission, church, anthropology, spirituality. Biblical perspectives on migration, exile, and diaspora.

Sango Elie Nyembo (Missionaries of Africa) - Trygve Wyeller (*Faculty of Theology, University of Oslo*); Cecilia Nahnfeldt (*Åbo Akademi University*) - Gianluca Zuccaro (*Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore*); Dalila Raccagni (*Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore*) - Hans Leaman (*Sattler College*) - Matthew Ippel (*Society of Jesus*)

Panel 2.

Migration Studies and Theology in dialogue: interdisciplinary perspectives (sociology, psychology, anthropology, communication, peace studies, ...)

Yvonne Sanyanga (*Arrupe Jesuit University*) - Tom Hare (*Keough School of Global Affairs*); Donald Kerwin (...) - Bill Barbieri (*Catholic University of America*) - Christian Tauchner (*SVD Missiological Institute*) - Lawrence S. Pedregosa (*Initiative for the Study of Asian Catholics*)

Panel 3 & 4

Contextual Perspectives on the Pastoral Care of migrants, refugees and victims of human trafficking: on Migration: best practices, structures, pioneers.

Alessandra Santopadre (*Diocese of Montreal, Canada*) - Angelo Pittaluga (Global Advocacy, JRS) - Eduardo Gabriel (*Missionaris of S. Charles – Scalabrinians*) - Alberto Parise (*General Administration, Comboni Missionaries*) - Josie Soehnge Cohen (...) - Névyne Alexandra Zeineldin (*Hugo Observatory, Liege University*) - Filippo Ferraro (*SIHMA*) - Giacomo Granzotto (*Directos Liturgical Office, Diocese of Ferrara*) - Monica Attias (*Coordinator of the Sant'Egidio Anti-Trafficking Unit*) - Cséfalvayová et al (*Director of the Institute for Central Europe, Bratislava*) - Nithiya Sagayam (*Tamil Nadu Bishops' Council*) - Lisa Buscher (*Society of the Sacred Heart Border Outreach Ministry*)

Panel 5.

Migration and Social Ethics: human dignity and rights, integral development and ecology, social justice, conflicts, citizenship, borders.

René M. Micallef (*Pontifical Gregorian University*) - María Luna Itriago (*Migration and Human Trafficking Department at CONFER*) - Michel Veuthey (*Ambassador of the Sovereign Order of Malta to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons*) - Kevin Appleby (*Senior Fellow for Policy and Communications, Center for Migration Studies of New York*) - Patricio Caruso (*World*

Union of Catholic Women's Organisations) - Mariola D Souza (*A Shelter Home for Women in Distress, Mangalore – India*)

Panel 6.

Intercultural and Interreligious Dimensions of Migration – Migration as a driver for social and religious transformation

Isabel Vasquez (*Swiss Bishops Conference, National Director, Migration Pastoral Care*) - Michel Chambon (National University of Singapore) - Kochurani Rani Joseph (Programme Manager, Sisters of the Holy Cross, *Menzingen, India*) - Marta Bivand Erdal (Migration Center, Peace Research Institute Oslo) - Jovannie Serrano Postrano (*Stella Maris Services in the Diocese of Cadiz and Ceuta, Spain*) - Ryszard Bobrowicz (*Faculty of Catholic Theology, Bonn University*)

Panel 7.

Contemporary challenges and opportunities in social and theological education on migration

Melodie Honen-Delmar (*Jesuit Worldwide learning and Université de Genève*) - Nicholas Makau (Advocacy Director, Consolata Missionaries) - Alessandra Morelli (*Former Official for United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees - UNHCR*) - Giancarlo Domenghini (*Migration Pastoral Care Office, Diocese of Bergamo*) - Cheryl Lee Chan (...) - Carmen Petruzzi (*University of Foggia*) - ... (ASCS)

16.30 – 17.00 Coffee break

17.00 – 18.00

Plenary discussion: Open dialogue among the participants on the issues discussed during the previous sessions; sharing knowledge, experiences, challenges and perspectives on theological, pastoral and social research and action.

Moderators: Gioacchino Campese & Aldo Skoda

18.00 – 18.30

Conclusions

Card. Fabio Baggio - Dicastery for Promoting Integral Human Development
Prof. Daniel Groody - University of Notre Dame

October 23

Visit of Casa Scalabrini Project

Since 2004, ASCS has been working alongside migrants, refugees and local communities in Europe and Africa. They operate in three main areas of intervention, that include projects and activities in hospitality, awareness raising and development cooperation. The Projects promotes the culture of welcome, encounter and integration between migrants, refugees and the local community. In Casa Scalabrini are hosted thirty people including families and refugee youth in semi-autonomy. They also

promote activities and trainings open to all, and organize moments of meeting, dialogue and celebration.

Visit and lunch at Borgo Laudato Si', Castel Gandolfo

Thanks to the creation of the «Borgo Laudato si'» project, the beauty of the Pontifical Villas' Gardens has become the natural setting for the development of a place, open to all people of good will, to be trained in integral ecology. The project has been developed in three directions: integral ecology education, circular and generative economy, and environmental sustainability. People visiting the Borgo Laudato Si' have a chance to experience at once centuries of history, unique natural wonders and immersion into integral ecology. In fact, full-immersion tour is provided, to give visitors an opportunity to get to know the principles of the Encyclical Letter Laudato Si', experiencing first-hand their application in the local territory, thus gaining an existential awareness that might foster in them a real ecological conversion.