



PONTIFICIA
UNIVERSITÀ
GREGORIANA

Ufficio Stampa e Comunicazione

International Conference

TRANSITIONING TO INTEGRAL ECOLOGY?

Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome
6-7-8 June 2022

Livestream on bit.ly/holistic-worldview

“Since everything is closely interrelated, and today’s problems call for a vision capable of taking into account every aspect of the global crisis, I suggest that we now consider some elements of an integral ecology, one which clearly respects its human and social dimensions”
(Pope Francis, *Laudato Si’*, 137)

Today there is an increasing ecological awareness around the world and a transition towards a society based on what Pope Francis calls “integral ecology” is underway. Where this transition is successful, it includes collaboration between experts in different academic disciplines, civil society, politicians, religious leaders, and all those who influence popular culture.

The Pontifical Gregorian University, the Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt, the University of Passau, the Federation of German Scientists (VDW) and other partners will be organizing an international conference in Rome, from 6th to 8th June 2022 (from 2:45 pm to 7 pm), entitled “Transitioning to Integral Ecology? Transdisciplinary Approaches for the Grounding and Implementation of a Holistic Worldview”.

The organizers recognize in fact that **transitions towards an “integral ecology” mindset are already occurring in different fields** (as in the UN Agenda 2030, in the 2015 Paris Agreement regarding climate change, or the Club of Rome’s proposal of a “New Enlightenment”). This conference wants to help stakeholders to recognize the transdisciplinary challenges involved in such a task. For this reason, the programme will consist of **three afternoons each of which will explore a particular dimension of “integral ecology”: the natural-scientific; the socioeconomic and cultural; and the ethical-philosophical and theological.**

In fact, the speakers come from many different disciplines, as reflected in their profile presentations:

<https://laudato-si-transformation.de/veranstaltungen/rome2022conference-transitioning-to-integral-ecology/>

Significant is the presence of scientists among the speakers, such as **Hartmut Graßl** (Chairman of The Federation of German Scientists - VDW), **Christine von Weizsäcker** (President of the “European Network for Ecological Reflection and Action” - ECOROPA), **Celia Deane-Drummond** (Director of the Laudato Si’ Research Institute, Campion Hall, University of Oxford) and **Ernst Ulrich von Weizsäcker** (Professor of Environmental Policy, University of Freiburg, Germany, former Co-President of the Club of Rome).

Speakers who will address the socioeconomic and cultural dimension include **Ottmar Edenhofer** (Director of the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research – PIK), **Barbora Šedová** (Co-leader of *FutureLab* – Security, Ethnic Conflicts and Migration, Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research), **César Ferrari** (Professor of the Economic Department in the School of Economics and Administrative Sciences, Pontifical Javeriana University, Bogotá, Colombia) and **Fernando Felipe Sánchez Campos** (Rector of the Universidad Católica de Costa Rica).

In the last day, integral ecology will be approached in his ethical-philosophical and theological dimensions, with speakers like **Michael Schuck** (Loyola University Chicago), **Patrick H. Byrne** (Lonergan Institute, Boston College), **Carmody Grey** (Department of Theology and Religion, Durham University, England) and the Jewish theologian **Jonathan Schorsch** (School of Jewish Theology, University of Potsdam).

On each afternoon, the primary contributors will be from the disciplines featured, while the panellists will come from different disciplines. At the end of each afternoon, the speakers will offer a series of “best practices” of the implementation of integral ecology, providing a practical complement to the more academic discussions.

Full online participation is available via Zoom Webinar. Please use the link below to register:
<https://www.unigre.it/en/events-and-communication/events/events-calendar/transitioning-to-integral-ecology-transdisciplinary-approaches-for-the-grounding-and-implementation-of-a-holistic-worldview1/>

Some of the proceedings will be live-streamed on the YouTube channel of the Pontifical Gregorian University: <https://bit.ly/holistic-worldview>

INTERVIEW CONTACTS

Some speakers are available for interviews even in the days leading up to the conference. To contact them write to Paolo Pegoraro, Pontifical Gregorian University communications manager: press@unigre.it

Natural-scientific dimensions

Hartmut Graßl - Chairman of The Federation of German Scientists (VDW)

Kira Vinke - Head of Center for Climate and Foreign Policy at the German Council on Foreign Relations;

Socioeconomics and cultural dimensions

Thiago Garcia - Project Lead of Connective Cities at the Competence Centre for Local Development Cooperation Global, Germany

René Micallef SJ - Department of Moral Theology, Pontifical Gregorian University

Ethical-philosophical and theological dimensions

Patrick Byrne - Professor of Philosophy and Director of the Lonergan Institute, Boston College

Carmody Grey - Catholic Theology at the Department of Theology and Religion, Durham University

Gerald Whelan SJ - Department of Fundamental Theology, Pontifical Gregorian University

ACCREDITATION PROCEDURE

Journalists and media operators must apply, no less than 24 hours before the event, through the Holy See Press Office online accreditation System available at: press.vatican.va/accreditamenti