

Rethinking "Laudato si": International seminar on Science and Religion cooperation for Environmental Care (ISSREC)

20-21 June, 2016
Torreciudad Shrine

*«The majority of people living on our planet profess to be believers. This should spur religions to dialogue among themselves for the sake of protecting nature, defending the poor, and building networks of respect and fraternity. Dialogue among the various sciences is likewise needed, since each can tend to become enclosed in its own language, while specialization leads to a certain isolation and the absolutization of its own field of knowledge. This prevents us from confronting environmental problems effectively (...) The gravity of the ecological crisis demands that we all look to the common good, embarking on a path of dialogue which demands patience, self-discipline and generosity, always keeping in mind that “realities are greater than ideas”» (Pope Francis, *Laudato si*, n. 201)*

Goals: This international seminar, jointly organized by the Environmental Ethics chair of University of Alcalá, the “Tatiana Perez de Guzman el Bueno” Foundation and the “Foundation Social Promotion of Culture”, aims to analyze new ways of promoting the collaboration between major Science and Religion for environmental conservation. The seminar will be centred on the Pope Francis's encyclical *Laudato si*, and the opportunities it opens to foster collaboration of world major religious traditions to mitigate environmental problems. The small number of invitees should facilitate the informal and friendly dialogue between participants. No external public will attend the meeting, although some activities for media or external participants may be organized before or after the meeting. If possible, a joint declaration will be released as a result of the meeting, emphasizing the relevance of cooperation between Science and Religion to promote environmental care.

Draft program

June, Sunday 19th,

14 to 21 h. Arrival of participants to hotel “El Tozal” (<http://nuevotozal.es/>). Lunch will be served for those arriving early.

19 h. Optional dinner at the Barbastro city center (small city around 30 km from the hotel).

June, Monday 20th

7.30: First Bus departure for those wishing to attend Catholic religious service at the Torreciudad Shrine or have a morning walk around the Shrine area.

8.30: Last Bus departure to the seminar location. La Naya meeting rooms.

9.00 - 9.15 h: Welcome address: Jumana Trad, President “Fundación Promoción Social de la Cultura” and Emilio Chuvieco, seminar organizer.

9.15 – 11.00 h: ¿What is happening to our common home? (chapter one, *Laudato si*)
Chair: Anny Cazenave

9:15 – 9:35: Thomas Stocker: Scientific evidences of climate change.

9.35 – 9.55: Anny Cazenave: Inland water and oceans.

9.55 – 10.15: Peter Raven: Loss of biodiversity

10.15 – 10.35: Josef Settele: Agriculture and ecosystems

10.35 – 10.55: Emilio Chuvieco: Global biomass burning: interactions of human activities and natural processes

11.00 – 11.30 h. Coffee break

11.30 – 13.30 h. Discussion. Chair: Emilio Chuvieco. General topics of discussion:

1. Uncertainty and scientific basis of environmental problems (are we exaggerating risks?)
2. Role of science in changing mentalities and attitudes leading to reduction of consumerism.
3. Ways to better collaboration of Science and Religious traditions for environmental conservation.

13.30 – 15.30 h. Lunch at Sala de Prensa room.

15.30 – 17.30 h: Creation in crisis: dimensions of the ecological crisis (chapters two-three, *Laudato si*)

Chair: Celia Deane-Drummond

15.30 – 15.50: Celia Deane-Drummond: Environmental and Ecological Justice
15.50 – 16.10: Sigurd Bergman, Technofutures, fetishes and the poor - towards a post-growth society
16.10 – 16.30: Josep M. Mallarach: The conservation of sacred places.
16.30 – 16.50: Hilary Marlow: Biblical and ethical values for conservation in the Christian Tradition
16.50 – 17.10: Wael Farouq: Environmental values of Islamic societies
17.10 – 17.30: Nanditha Krishna: Cultural and ethical values for conservation in the Hindu Traditions

17.30 – 18.00 h. Coffee break

18.00 – 19.45 h. Discussion on the consequences of the cultural, social and religious crisis affecting environment conservation

Chair: Josep M. Mallarach. General topics of discussion:

1. Common ethical values in different religious traditions that affect environmental conservation
2. Role of population growth versus standards of living in environmental conservation.
3. Functions of technology in environmental care
4. Conservation versus Development
5. Limits to Consumerism

19.45 – 20.45 h. Visit to the Torreciudad shrine. Organ concert.

20.45: Bus departure to El Tozal hotel.

21.30 – 23.00 h. Dinner at El Tozal Hotel

June, Tuesday 21st

7.30: First Bus departure for those wishing to attend Catholic religious service at the Torreciudad Shrine or have a morning walk around the Shrine area.

8.30: Last Bus departure to the seminar location. La Naya meeting rooms.

9.00 – 11.00 h: Integral ecology. Lines of approach and action. Ecological spirituality (chapter fourth to six, *Laudato si*)

Chair: Bishop Marcelo Sanchez

8.55 – 9.15: Marcelo Sanchez: Catholic Tradition

9.15 – 9.35: Petar Gramatikov: Orthodox Tradition

9.35 – 9.55: Sayyed Jawad El Khoei: Muslim Tradition

9.55 – 10.15: Yonatan Neril: Why Religious Clergy Are So Important for A Sustainable Future

10.15 – 10.35: Swamini Umananda: Hindu Tradition

10.35 – 10.55: Chimey Lhatso: Buddhist Tradition

11.00 – 11.30 h. Coffee break

11.30 – 13.30 h. Discussion on the potential impacts on religious and spiritual traditions to environmental conservation

Chair: Fr. Lluc Torcal.

11.30-11.45: *Monastic traditions and environmental conservation*

General topics of discussion:

1. Role of inter religious dialogue to promote the change of values required to solve environmental problems.
2. Environmental education of religious leaders
3. Common environmental values in different religious traditions.

13.30 – 15.30 h. Plantation of the ISSREC olive tree. Family Picture. Lunch at Sala de Prensa room.

15.30 – 17.30 h: Perspectives on Sciences and Religions cooperation for Environment conservation: analysis of a joint declaration

Chair: Emilio Chuvieco

All participants

17.30 Closing meeting

17.45: Bus departure to El Tozal hotel.

19.30 – 22.00: Optional dinner in Alquezar (a traditional village of the Pyrenees).
