



CCU CONFERENCE 2026

**Building Bridges: Global
Responsibility for the Common Good**



**KATHOLISCHE UNIVERSITÄT
EICHSTÄTT-INGOLSTADT**



CCU Conference 2026

Building Bridges: Global Responsibility for the Common Good

Welcome to the 3rd Biennial Conference of the Consortium of Catholic Universities (CCU), hosted by the Katholische Universität Eichstätt-Ingolstadt (KU) from 29–31 July 2026 in Eichstätt, Germany.

We are delighted to welcome colleagues and partners from Catholic universities around the world for three days of dialogue, research exchange, and collaboration.

About the Conference:

The Consortium of Catholic Universities (CCU) is an international network dedicated to strengthening collaboration in research, teaching, and institutional engagement among Catholic universities worldwide.

The conference explores how Catholic universities can build cross-border partnerships that translate research, teaching, and outreach into tangible societal impact. Participants will reflect on shared responsibilities and explore initiatives that promote international cooperation, peace, sustainability, and human dignity.

The conference brings together scholars, administrators, and practitioners from partner institutions around the world, including:

- Katholische Universität Eichstätt-Ingolstadt (Germany)
- University of Notre Dame (USA)
- St. Mary's University (United Kingdom)
- Ukrainian Catholic University (Ukraine)
- Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (Chile)
- Fu Jen Catholic University (Taiwan)

Venue:

Katholische Universität Eichstätt-Ingolstadt
Ostenstraße 26
85072 Eichstätt
Germany

The conference sessions will take place in the Sommerresidenz.

Main conference rooms:

- Holzsaal
- Senatssaal



Conference Streams

Research for the Common Good

Research fostering peace, sustainability, human dignity, and global responsibility

Teaching & Formation

Innovative pedagogies and curricula that cultivate ethical leadership and intercultural understanding

Partnership & Practice

Institutional collaborations and community-engaged initiatives with measurable social impact



Wednesday 29 July

Registration and Welcome Coffee

09:30-10:30

Entrance Area, Sommerresidenz

Opening Remarks

10:30-11:00

Holzersaal
Prof. Dr. Gabriele Gien
Prof. Dr. Klaus Stüwe

Keynote Address

11:00-12:00

Holzersaal
***How Will We Handle Conflict in Society and in
Global Human Relations?***
Benedikt Brisch (DAAD)

Lunch

12:00-13:20

Mensa

Official Photo

13:20-13:30

Entrance Area, Sommerresidenz

Parallel Sessions

13:30-15:00

Holzersaal
***Research for the Common Good: Palliative Care
Research and Ethics***
Chair: Martin Kirschner
Presenters: Pedro Perez-Cruz (PUC Chile)
Maggie Doherty (St. Mary's University)
Jürgen Zerth (KU)
Michaela Schneider (KU)

Senatssaal
***Teaching & Formation: Ethics in New Teaching
Approaches***
Chair: Rowena Roppelt
Presenters: Solomiia Rozlutska (UCU)
Ronald Metoyer (ND)
Inga Maria Schütte (KU)

Coffee Break

15:00-15:30

Foyer, 1st Floor, Sommerresidenz



Synthesis Panel

15:30-16:30

Holzersaal

What Does "Common Good" Mean Across Disciplines?

Chair: Martin Kirschner

Guided City Tour (optional)

16:30-17:30

Meeting Point: Entrance Area, Sommerresidenz

Welcome Reception

19:00

Muschelpavillon, Hofgarten



Thursday 30 July

Welcome Coffee

08:45-09:00

Foyer, 1st Floor, Sommerresidenz

Parallel Sessions

09:00-11:00

Holzersaal

Research for the Common Good: Ethics in Economics and Leadership

Chair: Heiner Böttger

Presenters: Fernando Arancibia-Collao (PUC Chile)

Karen Sanders (St. Mary's University)

Edda Joana Mack (KU)

Cristian Hodge (PUC Chile)

Senatssaal

Community Engagement and Outreach

Chair: Rowena Roppelt

Presenters: John Lydon (St. Mary's University)

Lindsay Paturalski (ND)

Olha Mykhailyshyn (KU)

Maria Müller-Pulsfuß (KU)

Coffee Break

11:00-11:30

Foyer, 1st Floor, Sommerresidenz

Parallel Sessions

11:30-13:00

Holzersaal

Research for the Common Good: Legal Regulation and Policy Impact

Chair: Heiner Böttger

Presenters: Maksym Kolyba (UCU)

Volodymyr Turchynovskyy (UCU)

Markus Riedenauer (KU)

Excursion to Kapuzinergarten

Community Engagement and Outreach

Maximiliane Schumm (KU)

Johanna Umbach (KU)

Bettina Süss

Lunch

13:00-14:30

Mensa



Partnership & Practice

14:30-16:00

Chair: Heiner Böttger, Bianca Höppner

Input: Holzsaal

Walk & Talk: Hofgarten

Presenters: Jonathan Noble (ND)

Eva-Maria Hugo (KU)

Patrizia Hartmann (KU)

Frank Zirkel (KU)

Holy Mass (optional)

16:00

Willibaldschor, Dom (Eichstätt Cathedral)

Conference Dinner (optional)

19:00

Gasthof Krone

Domplatz 3, 85072 Eichstätt



Friday 31 July

Welcome Coffee

09:00-09:30

Foyer, 1st Floor, Sommerresidenz

Partnership & Practice

09:30-11:00

Holzersaal

Chair: Bianca Höppner

Presenters: Ashley Beck (St. Mary's University)

Maggie Dankert (ND)

André Habisch (KU)

Coffee Break

11:00-11:30

Foyer, 1st Floor, Sommerresidenz

From Insights to Action: Action Café and Plenary Discussion

11:30-13:00

Holzersaal

Chair: Bianca Höppner

Lunch

13:00-14:30

Mensa

CCU Consortium Meeting

14:30-15:30

Senatssaal

(selected representatives only)

Optional Side Program

Visit to Willibaldsburg Castle Eichstätt

Guided Tour of Churches and Sacred Buildings in
Eichstätt



Detailed Information in order of appearance

Benedikt Brisch

German Academic Exchange Service

Benedikt Brisch heads the Division of Knowledge Exchange and International Networks in the Strategy Department of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) in Bonn. The division includes the Center for International Academic Cooperation (KIWi), which is funded by the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and the Federal Foreign Office (AA).

His responsibilities include research and knowledge security as part of KIWi's work at the DAAD. In this capacity, he has served as a speaker on several panels and led the "Information and Advice" working group in the BMFTR stakeholder process on research security in 2024-2025. Under his supervision, KIWi developed the "Knowledge Security Checklist," a self-assessment tool for German universities published in September 2025.

Before assuming his current role at DAAD headquarters, Brisch served as Director of the DAAD North America Office and Director of the German Center for Research and Innovation (DWIH) New York from 2019 to 2025. At DWIH New York, he established the "DWIH Future Forum," which brings together researchers and innovators from Germany and the United States to discuss how research and innovation can address contemporary challenges. He also negotiated the cooperation framework for the Gilman-DAAD Germany Scholarship Program with the U.S. Department of State. Since 2022, the program has supported talented U.S. undergraduates with limited financial resources in pursuing research internships and study stays in Germany. The program is funded by the German Federal Foreign Office and the U.S. Department of State, with the Institute of International Education as the DAAD's institutional partner.

Brisch studied Eastern European history, Slavic languages, and political science at the University of Cologne, including a semester at St. Petersburg University. From 2000 to 2004, he served as Deputy Director of the DAAD Moscow Office. After returning to DAAD headquarters in Bonn, he led the newly established Central Asia and South Caucasus Unit from 2004 to 2009. He was responsible for project funding in Eastern Europe and coordinated the German-Kazakh University in Almaty, Kazakhstan, as well as centers for German and European studies in Eastern and Central Europe. He also oversaw joint scholarship programs with partners in Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, the United Kingdom, and the United States. From 2009 to 2015, he headed the Division for Eastern Europe, and from 2015 to 2019, he headed the Division for Europe and North America.

Presentation Title: *How Will We Handle Conflict in Society and in Global Human Relations?*

Abstract: Building bridges is a classic modern approach to fostering international understanding, grounded in good intentions and a belief in the good in people. Yet this approach is in crisis, just as the world is full of crises. What happens when not everyone has good intentions? Do I fully understand my own intentions? Does hope for the good also require realism about what is not good? And what does this mean for building bridges?

This keynote address explores how international academic cooperation and global relations are shaped and how they have evolved over the past century. It examines the role of social cohesion, community, tensions, and conflicts, as well as faith and ethical values, in these processes. Against this background, the keynote asks how we can respond to both new and long-standing challenges in global human relations.



Research for the Common Good: Palliative Care

Research and Ethics

Chair: Martin Kirschner

Pedro Perez-Cruz
Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

Pedro Perez-Cruz is Section Chief in Palliative Medicine at the School of Medicine of Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile.

Presentation Title: *Promoting and Developing Research in Palliative Care: An Opportunity for Catholic Universities Seeking Global Impact for the Common Good*

Abstract: Palliative care (PC) offers a critical response to the multidimensional suffering associated with life-threatening illness, particularly among vulnerable populations in low- and middle-income countries, where access to culturally relevant evidence remains limited. This presentation shows how high-quality, context-sensitive PC research conducted in Chile and internationally offers Catholic universities a unique opportunity to promote the common good. Drawing on examples spanning pain management, PC education, and quality-of-death research, it demonstrates how locally grounded, interdisciplinary research can positively affect patients, families, health systems, and communities. These cases show how PC research illuminates neglected needs, fosters interdisciplinary collaboration, and promotes human dignity at the end of life. The presentation concludes that prioritizing PC research is both an ethical responsibility and a strategic academic imperative for Catholic universities committed to social justice, international cooperation, and the common good.

Maggie Doherty
St. Mary's University

Maggie Doherty leads the Centre for the Art of Living and Dying Well at St. Mary's University.

Presentation Title: *Ethnically Diverse Faith Perspectives on Death Literacy and End-of-Life Care: Building Bridges Between Healthcare Institutions and Faith Communities*

Abstract: Everyone deserves access to end-of-life care that respects their needs, yet ethnically diverse faith communities remain underserved by existing health care services. This paper presents findings from a pilot study that sought to build bridges between faith communities and health care settings in Birmingham, the United Kingdom's second-largest city and home to one of Europe's largest migrant populations. Using community-based participatory research, itself a model of cross-community partnership, a Community Advisory Group representing Hindu, Christian, Buddhist, and Muslim traditions worked with collaborators from health care, faith communities, and academia to shape the research. The study responds to Lord Darzi's Independent Investigation of the National Health Service in England, which identified health care disparities in ethnic minority communities. It also follows the House of Commons Health and Social Care Committee's call for enhanced death literacy.



Jürgen Zerth and Michaela Schneider **Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt**

Jürgen Zerth is head of professorship in management in health and social care institutions, Institute for Health Services Research, Law and Economics in Social and Health Care (heles); Faculty of Social Law; Michaela Schneider is research assistant in BUILD project at professorship.

Presentation Title: *The ecosystem-model for interpreting integrated long-term care concepts – impressions from European BUILD-project*

Abstract: Ageing across Europe is increasingly shaped by social inequalities, particularly in access to and quality of care, also in end-of-life situations. Integrated care, grounded in person-centred care, has been widely proposed as a response. BUILD contributes to this debate through a micro-level perspective, aiming to conceptualise person-centred integrated long-term care by situating individuals within their care relationships, environments, and regulatory contexts, as understood by the actors themselves. To analyse these complex interactions, BUILD applies an ecosystem model that links relatively stable actors with shifting actor constellations organised around an overarching purpose. Four ecosystem types were identified: independent and self-determined living at home, care in residential settings, continuous and seamless transition, and care in the community. The resulting purpose-based case patterns are intended to support meso-level stakeholders in identifying context-sensitive interventions and informing care management commissioning decisions.

Teaching & Formation: Ethics in New Teaching Approaches **Chair: Rowena Roppelt**

Dr. Rowena Roppelt is a lecturer in Liturgy and Ritual Studies at the Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt (KU) and Academic Director of Jesuit Worldwide Learning (JWL). Her research focuses on liturgy, ecclesiology, ecumenism, and the role of young people and women in the Church.

Solomiia Rozlutska **Ukrainian Catholic University**

Solomiia Rozlutska is Director of the International Office at Ukrainian Catholic University.

Presentation Title: *From COIL to Ethical Leadership: Teaching Across Cultures Through the BRIDGE Project*

Abstract: This talk examines how the BRIDGE Project at Ukrainian Catholic University uses Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) to transform internationalization into a practice of student formation. Rather than treating global learning merely as exposure, this approach cultivates ethical leadership by inviting students to navigate cultural differences, practice empathy, and co-create responses to shared challenges for the common good. Drawing on several cases from the BRIDGE Project, the presentation highlights best practices in course design, faculty collaboration, reflective learning, and mission-driven partnership building. It also reflects on key challenges, including linguistic differences, unequal contexts, and the realities of teaching across war, distance, and distinct academic cultures. Participants will gain insight into a scalable framework for using virtual exchange to foster inclusive, mission-driven international partnerships and prepare students for global responsibility.



Ronald Metoyer
University of Notre Dame

Ronald Metoyer is Vice President and Associate Provost for Teaching and Learning at the University of Notre Dame du Lac.

Presentation Title: *Teaching and Learning in the Age of AI*

Abstract: As AI becomes a consistent presence in everyday life, the University of Notre Dame's approach to pedagogy has begun to evolve. In this presentation, I will describe our approach to helping faculty adapt their teaching to this new reality. In particular, I will introduce the newly established Lab for AI in Teaching and Learning, highlight some of its initial activities, and explain how we are rethinking teaching, learning, and assessment to ensure authentic learning while remaining centered on the formation of our students.

Inga Maria Schütte
Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt

Inga Maria Schütte is a Higher Education Teaching Specialist at the Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt (KU), where she supports innovative and digitally enhanced teaching and learning. A certified diversity trainer, she works with academic staff on inclusive, student-centered teaching practices and the integration of AI and digital methods into higher education.

Presentation Title: *Empowering Educators for Ethical AI: Higher Education Pedagogy as a Driver of Digital Equity and Global Responsibility*

Abstract: Artificial intelligence is reshaping global higher education at an unprecedented pace. However, this rapid transformation brings critical challenges to the forefront, including data colonialism, the digital divide, and growing educational inequities. How can we ensure that AI becomes a tool for inclusion rather than a barrier to access?

This presentation argues that the key lies in empowering educators. It explores how progressive higher education pedagogy can equip faculty with the skills needed to foster the ethical, responsible, and equitable use of AI.



Synthesis Panel

Martin Kirschner

Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt

Martin Kirschner is affiliated with Theology in Transformational Processes and the KU Center for Religion, Church and Society in Transformation (ZRKG).

Presentation Title: *Synthesis Panel: What Does "Common Good" Mean Across Disciplines?*

Abstract: This session opens with introductory reflections, propositions, and questions for discussion, followed by responses from both tracks and audience discussion. The concept of the common good, which occupies a central position in Catholic social ethics, is not without pitfalls. Who defines what constitutes the common good? Whose interests are taken into account, and whose voice counts when determining what is "common" and what is "good"? How is the common good related to the commons, the idea of buen vivir, and our understanding of what it means to be human? Is it possible to move beyond anthropocentrism? How do different academic disciplines conceptualize the common good? Martin Kirschner's opening presentation aims to create a structured space for discussing these questions from the perspectives of different disciplines. The conversation will begin with panelists from the preceding sessions before expanding to the plenary.

Research for the Common Good: Ethics in Economics and Leadership

Chair: Heiner Böttger

Prof. Dr. Dr. Heiner Böttger is Professor of English Language Education at the Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt (KU). His research focuses on language learning, educational neuroscience, and language anxiety, with a strong emphasis on evidence-based approaches to English language teaching.

Fernando Arancibia-Collao

Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

Fernando Arancibia-Collao is a professor at Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile.

Presentation Title: *Common Good and Social Welfare: Toward a Bridge Between Ethics and Economics*

Abstract: The purpose of this presentation is to show that the analytical tools of welfare economics, particularly utility functions and social welfare functions, can remain valid instruments for policy evaluation when they are interpreted as rankings of idealized preferences: subjective preferences informed and constrained by objective moral values derived from natural law ethics. Public policy evaluation often requires tools that can integrate economic analysis with ethical considerations. By connecting subjective preferences with objective goods, the proposed framework strengthens the normative basis of welfare analysis and contributes to a conception of social welfare that promotes human flourishing rather than mere preference satisfaction. This framework has implications for policy design in development, health, and social welfare, where international cooperation often depends on shared normative criteria for evaluating collective outcomes.



Karen Sanders
St. Mary's University

Karen Sanders is Head of the School of Business and Law at St. Mary's University.

Presentation Title: *Research for the Common Good: High-Reliability Organizational Principles and Mindful Leadership for Ethical, Communicative Practice in Turbulent Times*

Abstract: This presentation explores what can be learned from high-reliability organization (HRO) principles to enhance ethical leadership and organizational communication in turbulent times. Drawing on research into institutional trust, ethics, and political and health communication, I argue that the core commitments of HROs, including preoccupation with failure, sensitivity to operations, deference to expertise, and mindful leadership, foster an organizational and communicative environment that advances human dignity and the common good. Examples from a variety of institutional settings show how HRO principles enable a highly communicative organization in which communication is not merely instrumental but constitutive of ethical practice. By integrating insights from organizational and political communication studies with ethics, I propose a model of communicative leadership that fosters transparency, accountability, and learning. In doing so, I aim to contribute to interdisciplinary debates about how research can enable and sustain institutions oriented toward human flourishing.

Edda Joana Mack
Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt

Edda Joana Mack, Dr. phil. (Ph.D.), is a sociologist, research assistant, and lecturer in the Chair of General Sociology and Sociological Theory at the Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt.

Presentation Title: *Commoning Contained: Disentangling Capitalistically Enclosed Commoning(s)*

Abstract: Following Silvia Federici's work on the commons, this paper examines the entanglement of commoning processes with the modus operandi of late-capitalist nation-states through a sociological approach informed by feminist theories and decolonial perspectives. Starting from the assumption that late capitalism has already colonized processes of commoning, the paper shows how feminist, postcolonial, and decolonial perspectives provide conceptual, theoretical, and methodological tools for critical analysis while keeping even theoretical inquiry empirically grounded. The analysis focuses on processes of commoning, what is done and by whom in the context of the commons, and on how these processes are controlled, regulated, and reshaped according to capitalist logics of extraction, exploitation, commodification, and abstraction. The guiding question is how responsibility for the commons is actively obscured through the reframing of commoning processes within a capitalist framework.



Cristian Hodge **Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile**

Cristian Hodge is a professor at Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile.

Presentation Title: *Poverty, the Common Good, and the Social Mission of Catholic Universities*

Abstract: This paper examines poverty through the common-good approach (Nebel, 2022, 2021, 2018) and interdisciplinary dialogue in order to strengthen the social mission of Catholic universities (Hurtado, 1945). Overcoming poverty is an ethical imperative shared by believers and nonbelievers. Catholic social teaching emphasizes the preferential option for the poor (Pope Leo XIV, 2025), while development ethics places the human person at the center (Martínez-Navarro, 2020; Drydyk & Keleher, 2018) and identifies poverty eradication as a core objective. Measuring poverty, especially through multidimensional poverty indices (Alkire et al., 2015), is essential for evaluating social policies and interventions.

The concept of the common good, central to both Catholic social thought and philosophical ethics (Finnis; Murphy), provides an integrative framework for analyzing the structural dimensions of poverty (Nebel, 2021). Methodologically, this study proposes dialogue among theology, applied ethics, and the social sciences to advance research and inform more effective poverty-reduction policies.

Community Engagement and Outreach **Chair: Rowena Roppelt**

John Lydon
St. Mary's University

John Lydon is Professor of Catholic Education at St. Mary's University.

Presentation Title: *Building a Catholic University Community Marked by a Commitment to Service-Learning*

Abstract: This paper begins by defining service-learning. Shane Lavery and Chris Hackett describe service-learning programs as involving students in organized community service that addresses local needs while developing their academic skills, sense of civic responsibility, and commitment to the community (Lavery & Hackett, 2008). By treating service and learning goals as equally important, this definition captures a holistic perspective long established in the Catholic educational tradition. Service-learning should help students grow as persons; it should not be aimed solely at contributing to the community or developing skills assessed within a degree program. The paper will present an overview of this holistic perspective, grounded in scholarly and ecclesial sources, and explore the extent to which it is realized in practice, including in the work of the Marist Brothers at the Marist Pontifical University of Curitiba.



Lindsay Paturalski **University of Notre Dame**

Lindsay Paturalski is Student Grants Program Manager at the University of Notre Dame du Lac.

Presentation Title: *Undergraduate Research for the Common Good: Best Practices for Advancing Independent Undergraduate Research*

Abstract: The Franco Family Institute for Liberal Arts and the Public Good has supported undergraduate research in Arts and Letters disciplines for nearly 40 years. This presentation will discuss the Institute's history, how it began funding undergraduate research, the partnerships it has built across the university, and plans to expand these programs with community and university partners. The practical discussion will focus on best practices for supporting undergraduate research, methods for engaging undergraduates, and approaches to working with faculty and the broader community. It will provide guidance for colleges, institutes, and centers interested in starting undergraduate research programs, as well as for established practitioners seeking to expand research opportunities.

Olha Mykhailyshyn and Maria Müller-Pulsfuß **Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt**

Olha Mykhailyshyn is a member of the Service-Learning team at the Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt (KU). Before joining KU in 2022, she led the Service-Learning Center at Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv. She currently serves as Hub Coordinator for Central and Eastern Europe and the Middle East within the global UNISERVITATE program, supporting the development of service-learning and civic engagement across higher education institutions. Maria Müller-Pulsfuß is Program Coordinator at the School of Transformation and Sustainability at the Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt (KU). Since February 2025, she has also served as a Project Officer for the UNISERVITATE project, coordinating service-learning initiatives at KU and supporting the integration of community-engaged learning into teaching and academic programs.

Presentation Title: *Embedding Service-Learning in Business Education Through International Teacher Tandems*

Abstract: Although service-learning is well established in many disciplines, its integration into business education remains limited, despite growing expectations that graduates demonstrate ethical leadership, civic responsibility, and community engagement. These priorities align closely with the third mission of Catholic universities. Building on the international exchange initiated at the Service-Learning Meets Business Education workshop at the WFI Ingolstadt School of Management in February 2025, this presentation introduces a work package within the Erasmus+ ServU project. The project strengthens service-learning through teacher tandems that pair European and Ukrainian educators to co-design and implement university courses. Beyond curriculum development, the tandems foster intercultural dialogue, mutual learning, and the exchange of pedagogical expertise. Two courses, Personal Finance and Entrepreneurship, demonstrate how service-learning can be embedded in business curricula to address community needs while promoting ethical decision-making, experiential learning, and civic engagement. The ServU experience illustrates how international collaboration can drive curriculum innovation and strengthen the social relevance of business education.



Research for the Common Good: Legal Regulation and Policy Impact

Chair: Heiner Böttger

Maksym Kolyba
Ukrainian Catholic University

Maksym Kolyba is Vice Dean for Academic Affairs in the Faculty of Social Sciences at Ukrainian Catholic University. He is also a senior lecturer in the Department of Political Science and at the UCU Law Faculty.

Abstract: This study examines the shifting human rights paradigm amid Russian aggression. It explores legal and political mechanisms for safeguarding informational and spiritual sovereignty through a comparative analysis of four nations. The research focuses on the tension between national security and "nonabsolute" rights, specifically freedom of conscience, religion, and expression. The paper argues that extreme circumstances may justify the lawful derogation of certain freedoms under international law. Using Ukraine as the primary case, it illustrates the difficulty of upholding the right to a worldview when existential threats jeopardize life and democratic stability. Ultimately, the study analyzes state functions under hybrid threats and offers an intellectual framework for balancing fundamental freedoms with urgent security priorities.

Volodymyr Turchynovskyy
Ukrainian Catholic University

Volodymyr Turchynovskyy is Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences at Ukrainian Catholic University.

Presentation Title: *Disrupted Thinking and the Common Good: Ukraine as a Laboratory for Moral Imagination and Democratic Resilience*

Abstract: How does war transform not only societies but also the very conditions for thinking about the common good? Drawing on the research project "How the War Has Disrupted Our Thinking," this presentation explores how Russia's aggression against Ukraine has fundamentally challenged established philosophical categories, ethical frameworks, and assumptions about security, democracy, and human dignity. The Ukrainian experience reveals that disruption is not merely destructive; it can also generate new forms of moral clarity, civic responsibility, and intellectual renewal. Positioning Ukraine as an "open-air laboratory," the paper argues that research oriented toward the common good must move beyond disciplinary boundaries and engage lived realities in which concepts such as solidarity, resilience, and truth are tested under extreme conditions. It proposes that moral imagination, grounded in dignity and responsibility, is essential for rebuilding democratic societies and fostering global responsibility. In this sense, Ukraine's experience offers not only a case to be studied but also a horizon for rethinking the ethical foundations of research itself.



Markus Riedenauer
Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt

Markus Riedenauer is Professor of Philosophical Foundations of Theology at the Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt. He studied philosophy, theology, and history in Munich, Rome, and Vienna. He earned his doctorate at the University of Vienna with a dissertation on the foundations of ethics in Aristotle and completed his habilitation at Goethe University Frankfurt with a study of Nicolaus Cusanus's approach to religious plurality. He has taught at universities in Germany and Austria and is active in philosophical practice. His research spans practical and political philosophy, the history of medieval philosophy, and philosophical theology.

Presentation Title: *The Cybernetic Danger to the Political Anthropology Underlying the Common Good*

Abstract: The idea of the common good has been grounded in the individual's pursuit of flourishing, the social and political nature of the human person, and recognition of inherent freedom, dignity, and rights. Personal responsibility and mutual trust have been regarded as foundations of liberal democracy, while Catholic social teaching has emphasized the principles of personhood, subsidiarity, and solidarity.

The postmodern era has brought growing economic, political, and ecological interdependence and increasingly complex interactions. In response, national and international policies appear to rely more heavily on systems theory and cybernetics to influence, control, or determine the behavior of individuals and groups.

Norbert Wiener, the founder of cybernetics, already applied cybernetics to social systems. This raises the question of whether the resulting sociocybernetics implies a new political anthropology that is incompatible with the earlier moral and political understanding of the human person, the democratic constitutional state, and the common good, yet aligns with the macroeconomic paradigm shift described as cybernetic capitalism.

The presentation asks whether we are witnessing a shift in political anthropology toward a cybernetic paradigm and whether that shift may be irreconcilable with a theological understanding of the human person.

Community Engagement and Outreach

Johanna Umbach, Maximiliane Schumm and Bettina Süss *Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt*

Johanna Umbach is a historian. Dr. Maximiliane Schumm is Associate Professor of Biology Education at the Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt (KU). Her work focuses on Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), innovative learning environments, and teacher education. She is actively involved in several national and international projects on sustainability, service-learning, and future-oriented teaching and learning. Bettina Süss is a special education teacher.

Presentation Title: *The Kapuzinergarten: A Living Lab for Teaching, Learning, and Community*

Abstract: The Kapuzinergarten is a communal teaching and learning space where university students, school students, teachers, and members of the public can work on real-world problems and grow together.

In this on-site session, participants will experience a project shaped by a range of contributors. Historian Johanna Umbach will discuss the garden's history and its development into a community garden with multiple functions. Science education researcher and lecturer Maximiliane Schumm, together with special education teacher Bettina Süß, will present the tandem-learning model currently used in the school garden, in which student teachers engage in a curricular activity with students from a special education school. The session will then present initial findings from two theses that accompanied the tandem project. Participants will have an opportunity to get to know the Kapuzinergarten, ask questions, and explore the site. The session will be held outdoors, a five-minute walk from the Sommerresidenz.

Partnership & Practice

Chair: Heiner Böttger, Bianca Höppner

Jonathan Noble *University of Notre Dame*

Jonathan Noble supports comprehensive internationalization at the University of Notre Dame du Lac, with a focus on international research cooperation.

Presentation Title: *Co-Creating Joint Research Collaboration Partnerships*

Abstract: How can institutions work together to create, administer, and evaluate programs that advance research cooperation with community impact? This presentation shares insights from Notre Dame Global's experience designing, administering, evaluating, and refining a portfolio of research collaboration grant programs with partner universities in Asia, Europe, and Latin America. Based on these experiences, it presents pathways for developing multi-institutional research collaboration grant programs. These pathways explore the role Catholic universities can play in designing programs grounded in their shared mission and responsibilities.



Patrizia Hartmann, Eva-Maria Hugo and Frank Zirkl
Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt

Patrizia Hartmann is Sustainability Coordinator at the Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt (KU). She manages the university's Green Office, a hub that coordinates sustainability initiatives and connects engaged members of KU with the communities of Eichstätt and Ingolstadt. She also oversees the Certificate Program in Sustainable Development, which enables students from all disciplines to explore sustainability issues and develop skills for shaping sustainable development. In addition, she serves as thematic coordinator for teaching at the Bavarian Center for Higher Education and Sustainability (BayZeN), a statewide think tank for sustainability, education for sustainable development, and climate protection. She holds a master's degree in Economic and Social Geography from Leipzig University.

Eva-Maria Hugo is Chief Sustainability Officer in the Sustainability Office at the Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt (KU). She studied theater and media studies and modern German literary history at Friedrich-Alexander University, where she earned an M.A., and later studied interdisciplinary environmental sciences through Fraunhofer UMSICHT and FernUniversität in Hagen. She worked for many years in international arts and cultural curation, focusing on sustainable development, politics and contemporary history, social participation, and artistic innovation. As Director of the Erlangen Culture and Education Campus, she was responsible for the sustainable development of processes and structures at a newly established municipal institution. Since 2025, she has led the further development of KU's sustainability strategy and programs.

Dr. Frank Zirkl is a postdoctoral researcher and senior lecturer in human geography at the Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt (KU). He studied geography in Tübingen and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. His academic career has included positions at the Institute of Geography at the University of Tübingen, the Latin American Research Institute (ZILAS) at KU, the Institute of Geography at Freie Universität Berlin, and the Institute of Geography at the University of Innsbruck. His research focuses on human-nature relationships and sustainable development, with interests in urban geography, rural and agrarian issues, rural-urban linkages, sustainable tourism, and development studies in the Global South. His regional focus is South America, especially Brazil, and Central Europe. He is also responsible for KU's environmental and sustainability campus management, including infrastructure, resources and energy supply, mobility, and biodiversity.

Presentation Title: *Sustainability at the Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt*

Abstract: For 15 years, the Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt has been among Germany's pioneers in systematically aligning its overall development with global sustainability goals. KU follows a whole-institution approach and consistently implements sustainable development across six areas of action: teaching, research, university operations, governance, knowledge transfer, and student engagement.

As an institution of research and teaching, the university is committed to integrating education for sustainable development and the cultivation of creative, future-oriented skills into all degree programs as core elements of teaching. It also seeks to establish sustainability as an interdisciplinary research topic broadly embedded across all faculties. The presentation will provide an overview of KU's sustainability initiatives and invite participants to exchange experiences and ideas.



Partnership & Practice

Chair: Bianca Höppner

Bianca Höppner, M.A., is a research associate and doctoral candidate in English Language Education at the Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt (KU). Her research focuses on foreign language anxiety, emotion regulation in language learning, outdoor education, intercultural learning, and digital approaches to English language teaching. Alongside her research and teaching, she is actively involved in teacher education and the development of innovative learning environments for language learners.

Ashley Beck

St. Mary's University

Ashley Beck is Associate Professor and Course Lead for the MA in Catholic Social Teaching and the Foundation Degree in Pastoral Ministry at St. Mary's University.

Presentation Title: *Catholic Universities and the Vision of Catholic Social Teaching for the Worldwide Common Good*

Abstract: Since the consortium was formed in 2022 and since the last conference in 2024, a great deal has happened that demands a response from Catholic academics in theology and related fields: the continuing war in Ukraine, the conflict in the Holy Land, new international policies of the U.S. government, the ongoing synodal journey in the Catholic Church, and the transition from Pope Francis to Pope Leo XIV. This presentation will consider ways in which the consortium can offer mutual support and a shared vision for the Church.

Maggie Dankert

University of Notre Dame

Maggie Dankert is Director of Academic Strategy and Global Partnerships at the University of Notre Dame du Lac.

Presentation Title: *In Alignment with Notre Dame 2033: A Strategic Framework*

Abstract: Notre Dame Global recently conducted an 18-month benchmarking study to review and enhance its global engagement infrastructure. By consulting with more than 30 U.S. and international peer institutions, the study evaluated partnership operations, management structures, and impact-measurement frameworks. This presentation details the methodology of the benchmarking exercise and the resulting strategic recommendations for strengthening international partnerships. Four key outcomes include establishing an institution-wide governance structure to guide development, creating a standardized taxonomy to manage diverse partnership types, developing centralized best practices for faculty engagement, and exploring a university-wide CRM/database tool to enhance data transparency. Implementation has begun now that the benchmarking process is complete. Rooted in Notre Dame's unique institutional culture, these recommendations provide a road map for administrators seeking to move from reactive global activity toward a mission-aligned, data-driven partnership life cycle.



André Habisch
Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt

Andre Habisch is a trained economist and Catholic theologian. He is Professor of Christian Social Ethics and Social Policy at the Ingolstadt School of Management of the Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt, where he also coordinates the Innovation and Entrepreneurship specialization in the master's program. He served for many years as an advisor to the Catholic Entrepreneurial Union and later as dean of the faculty from 2023 to 2025. He is the father of three adult children and the grandfather of three.

Presentation Title: *Service-Learning at the Business School? A Catholic Social Thought Approach to Entrepreneurship Education*

Abstract: In his final book, *The Prosperity Paradox* (2019), Clayton Christensen emphasized the role of "market-creating innovation" in the socioeconomic development of emerging economies. However, social impact entrepreneurs in the Global South often lack basic business knowledge that would enable their startups to grow and create more jobs. A service-learning format developed at the Catholic University of Eichstätt-Ingolstadt connects master's students in entrepreneurship with women founders in the Global South. Principles of Catholic social thought guided the design of this format.

From Insights into Action: Action Café and Plenary Discussion

Chair: Bianca Höppner

