



**Institute for Religion
& Critical Inquiry**

 **ACU**
AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY



***Laudato Si'*: The Greening of the Church?**
22-25 September 2015



Welcome

On behalf of the Institute for Religion and Critical Inquiry, I welcome you to the ACU/CUA Rome Centre for the inaugural ACU research seminar, "*Laudato Si'*: The Greening of the Church?"

We are honoured to host this seminar. The timing of the recent papal encyclical, *Laudato Si'* provides an excellent opportunity for the Institute to commence its activity in Rome. We are delighted to be able to bring together participants from various parts of the globe to meet here in Rome to reflect on the meaning, significance and implications of this papal teaching for our churches, society at large, and the world. This seminar is a wonderful starting point for the Institute's activity in Rome, marking our commitment to innovative, high quality, international research collaboration in the disciplines of theology and philosophy. I extend my thanks to Professor Neil Ormerod for all his work as convenor of the seminar and to Professor Wayne McKenna, the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research), for his support and sponsorship of the seminar.

Over the next three days I trust this seminar will provide the opportunity to establish new connections and to enrich existing ones.

Best wishes for lively and engaging discussions and deliberations.

Professor James McLaren

Director (Acting)

Institute for Religion and Critical Inquiry, ACU

September 2015

Program

Tuesday 22 Sept

Time	Program
3.30-5.15pm	Registration
5.45-7pm	5.30 start Reception, Formal opening

Wednesday 22 Sept

9-9.30am	Morning Prayer
9.30-11am	Speaker: Sean McDonagh, “ <i>Laudato Si’</i> and Transnational Corporations” Respondent: Mark Hayes
11-11.30am	Morning Tea
11.30-1pm	Speaker: Francis Moloney, ““The Gospel of Creation: A Biblical Response to <i>Laudato Si’</i> .” Respondent: James McLaren
1-2pm	Lunch
2-3.30pm	Panel Topic: Biocentrism vs Anthropocentrism Panel: Cynthia Crysdale, Alda Balthrop-Lewis, David Kirchhoffer
3.30-3.45pm	Afternoon tea
3.45-5.15pm	Speaker: Celia Deane-Drummond, “The Cry of the Earth: Listening to <i>Laudato Si’</i> Through the Medium of Eco-theology” Respondent: Anthony Kelly
5.15-5.45pm	Afternoon prayer
5.45-7pm	Dinner
7.30-9pm	Activist input: Yeb Sano tbc

Thursday 23 Sept

9-9.30am	Morning Prayer
9.30-11am	Speaker: Donal Dorr, "A Major Contribution to CST, but Some Room for Improvement." Respondent: Karen Kilby
11-11.30am	Morning Tea
11.30-1pm	Speaker: Lisa Sowle Cahill, " <i>Laudato Si'</i> : Toward a Necessary Revision of CST." Respondent: Johan De Tavernier
1-2pm	Lunch
2-3.30pm	Panel Topic: Ecological Conversion Panel: Cristina Vanin, Fabien Revol, Christiaan Jacobs-Vandegeer
3.30-3.45pm	Afternoon tea
3.45-5.15pm	Speaker: Neil Ormerod, " <i>Laudato Si'</i> and the Scale of Values" Respondent: Paul Murray
5.15-5.45pm	Afternoon prayer
5.45-7pm	Dinner
7.30-9pm	Free evening

Friday 24 Sept

9-9.30am	Morning Prayer
9.30-11am	Speaker: Michael Northcott, "Economic Magical Thinking and the Ecclesial Ecology of Love" Respondent: Tamara Grdzeldze
11-11.30am	Morning Tea
11.30-1pm	Speaker: Denis Edwards, "Sublime Communion": Systematic Theology in <i>Laudato Si'</i> " Respondent: William Dinges
1-2pm	Lunch
2-3.30pm	Speaker: Willis Jenkins; "'Rather than a Problem to be Solved:' the Mysterious Silence of Mother Earth in <i>Laudato Si'</i> " Respondent: Gerard Whelan
3.30-3.45pm	Afternoon tea
3.45-5.15pm	Panel and plenary tba
5.15-5.45pm	Afternoon prayer

Keynote speakers

Lisa Sowle Cahill

Lisa Sowle Cahill is the J. Donald Monan, S.J., Professor at Boston College. She is a past president of the Catholic Theological Society of America (1992-93), and the Society of Christian Ethics (1997-98). She is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. She received her B.A. in Theology from Santa Clara University and her M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Chicago Divinity School. She serves as editor or on the editorial boards of *Concilium*, *Journal of Religious Ethics*, *Journal of Catholic Social Thought*, the British journal *Theology* (SPCK), and *Mellita Theologica* (University of Malta). Among Lisa Cahill's books are *Global Justice, Christology and Christian Ethics* (Cambridge, 2013); *Theological Bioethics: Participation, Justice and Change* (Georgetown, 2005); *Sex, Gender, and Christian Ethics* (Cambridge University Press, 1996); and *'Love Your Enemies': Discipleship, Pacifism, and Just War Theory* (Fortress, 1994). In 2008, she received the John Courtney Murray Award from the Catholic Theological Society of America.



Donal Dorr

Donal Dorr is a priest member of St Patrick's Missionary Society. His on-the-ground missionary experience has been in several African countries and in Brazil. As a theologian he has lectured in Universities in Ireland, America, Europe, Africa, and Asia. In the early 1980s he was the holder of the Cardinal Conway Research Fellowship in the Theology of Development, in Maynooth University. From the late 1980s he was a consultant to the Pontifical Commission for Justice and Peace and a researcher and resource-person for the Irish Missionary Union. The main focus of his work has been on empowering grassroots activists in Africa and Ireland in working for justice and care for the environment, in training religious leaders and activists in leadership skills, and in running spirituality workshops for people who are searching for meaning and purpose in their lives. He is the author of several books, including *Mission in Today's World*, and *Option for the Poor and for the Earth*.



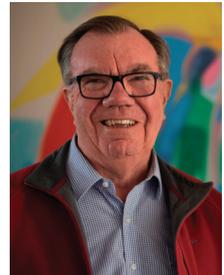
Celia E. Deane-Drummond

Professor Celia Deane-Drummond is currently full Professor in Theology at the University of Notre Dame, IN, USA. She holds two doctorates, one in plant physiology and one in systematic theology. In 2015 she became the inaugural Director of the Center for Theology, Science and Human Flourishing at Notre Dame. Her research interests are in the engagement of theology and natural science, including specifically ecology, evolution, genetics, animal behavior and anthropology. Her research is concerned with the intersection of theology and ethics with the biosciences. She was editor of the journal *Ecotheology* for six years and is now joint editor of a new journal launched in 2014 with Mohr Siebeck entitled *Philosophy, Theology and the Sciences*. A selection of her books include *Wonder and Wisdom: Conversations in Science, Spirituality and Theology* (DLT, 2006); *Ecotheology* (DLT, 2008), *Christ and Evolution* (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2009), *The Wisdom of the Liminal: Evolution and Other Animals in Human Becoming* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2014); *Re-Imaging the Divine Image: Humans and Other Animals* (Pandora Press, 2014).



Denis Edwards

Denis Edwards is a professorial fellow in theology at Australian Catholic University, Adelaide campus and is a priest of the Catholic Archdiocese of Adelaide. He is a member of the national Lutheran - Roman Catholic Dialogue, and the Australian Anglican - Roman Catholic Commission. He has been involved with international dialogues on Science and Religion and is a member of the International Society for Science and Religion. Recent books include *Ecology at the Heart of Faith*, *How God Acts: Creation, Redemption and Special Divine Action*, and *Partaking of God: Trinity, Evolution and Ecology*.



Keynote speakers

Willis Jenkins

Willis Jenkins is Associate Professor of Religion, Ethics, and Environment at the University of Virginia. He is the author of two award-winning books: *Ecologies of Grace: Environmental Ethics and Christian Theology* (Oxford 2008), which won a Templeton Award for Theological Promise, and *The Future of Ethics: Sustainability, Social Justice, and Religious Creativity* (Georgetown 2013), which won an American Academy of Religion Award for Excellence in the Study of Religion. He is also editor or co-editor of several books, including the forthcoming *Routledge Companion to Religion and Ecology*.



Sean McDonagh

Irish Columban Fr Sean McDonagh is known around the world as an eco-theologian who works to raise awareness on the connections between justice and peace issues, environmental sustainability and faith. He is an outspoken critic of policies that allow for the systematic degradation of the environment, linking them to global poverty and the increased suffering of the poor. Sean is the author of numerous articles and nine books including *Climate Change: The Challenge to All of Us*, *Greening the Christian Millennium*, *Care for the Earth* and *Dying for Water*. He highlights the causes and consequences of issues such as global warming, genetically engineered food, water pollution, the nuclear industry and loss of biodiversity. He is a patron of Christian Ecology Link and writes a weekly column in *The Universe* Catholic newspaper.



Neil Ormerod

Neil Ormerod is Professor of Theology and a member of the Institute for Religion and Critical Inquiry, Australian Catholic University. He is widely published in Australia and internationally on a variety of topics including the theology of Bernard Lonergan, the Trinity, historical ecclesiology and anthropology. His most recent books include *Creator God, Evolving World with Cynthia Crysdale* (Fortress, 2013), *Re-visioning the Church: An Experiment in Systematic-Historical Ecclesiology* (Fortress, 2014) and *A Public God: Natural Theology Reconsidered* (Fortress, 2015). He is married to climate change activist Thea Ormerod.



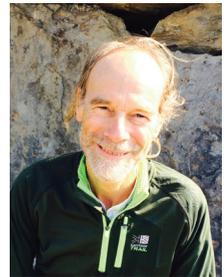
Francis J. Moloney

Francis J. Moloney was born in Melbourne, Australia, joined the Australian Province of the Salesians of Don Bosco in 1960 and ordained a Priest in 1970. He was awarded a Doctorate of Philosophy from Oxford University in 1976. Since then he has a wide teaching and research experience in Australia, Europe, Israel and the USA. In 1992 he was elected a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Humanities (FAHA), and made a member of the Order of Australia in 1994 (AM). In 1994 he was appointed the Foundation Professor of Theology at Australian Catholic University and in 1998 Professor of New Testament at the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC. He was Dean of the School of Theology and Religious Studies at CUA from 2002-2005, and a member of the International Theological Commission to the Holy See from in 1984-2001. Provincial of the Salesians of Don Bosco in Australia and the Pacific from 2006-2011, he is currently a Senior Professorial Fellow at Australian Catholic University, and the Director of the Centre for Biblical and Early Christian Literature in the Institute for Religion and Critical Inquiry.



Michael Northcott

Michael Northcott is Professor of Ethics in the School of Divinity in the University of Edinburgh Scotland and an episcopal priest. He has written many books and papers principally in the interdisciplinary area of ecology, religion and ethics. His most recent books include *A Moral Climate: The Ethics of Global Warming* (Orbis 2007), *A Political Theology of Climate Change* (SPCK 2014), *Place, Ecology and the Sacred: The Moral Geography of Sustainable Communities* (Bloomsbury 2015) and, edited with Peter Scott, *Systematic Theology and Climate Change: Ecumenical Perspectives* (Routledge, 2014).



Participants

Anna Blackman	Durham University
Lisa Sowle Cahill	Boston College
Cynthia Crysdale	Sewanee University of the South
Celia Deane-Drummond	Notre Dame University, Indiana
Johan De Tavernier	Leuven University
William Dinges	Catholic University of America
Donal Dorr	Independent scholar
Denis Edwards	Australian Catholic University
Tamara Grdzelizde	Ambassador for Georgia to the Holy See
Mark Hayes	Durham University
Christiaan Jacobs-Vandegeer	Australian Catholic University
Willis Jenkins	University of Virginia
Anthony Kelly	Australian Catholic University
Karen Kilby	Durham University
David Kirchhoffer	Australian Catholic University
Alda Balthrop-Lewis	Princeton University
Sean McDonagh	Independent scholar
Wayne McKenna	Australian Catholic University
Francis Moloney	Australian Catholic University
James McLaren	Australian Catholic University
Paul Murray	Durham University
Dermot Nestor	Australian Catholic University
Michael Northcott	Edinburgh University
Neil Ormerod	Australian Catholic University
Fabien Revol	University of Lyon
Gerard Whelan	Gregorian University
Cristina Vanin	St. Jerome's University, Ontario



GREETING

By His All-Holiness Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew

(International Ecological Seminar, Rome, September 22-25, 2015)

It is with great joy that we greet the organizers and participants of the International Ecological Seminar, which is being held in Rome as a commemoration, celebration and commentary on the recent encyclical by His Holiness Pope Francis “*Laudato Si’*.”

The Australian Catholic University is to be applauded for inviting distinguished scholars from all over the world to this event, which will explore “The Greening of the Church,” a theme that has been very close to our heart, ministry and vision for many years. We admit that we are deeply moved by the ecumenical and ecological commitment of our brother Pope Francis, who has demonstrated his solidarity with the Orthodox Church and with our own humble person, but also – and perhaps above all – with our suffering neighbors and our wounded planet.

These two dimensions of the papal document and church doctrine recognize and reinforce two crucial aspects of environmental action that we have repeatedly underlined: First, any proper response to the crisis of climate change must be collective and comprehensive; it must include all sectors of society and disciplines of science, all Christian and religious congregations, as well as all citizens and leaders of the global community. Second, any appropriate response to the abuse and destruction of God’s creation must involve reconciliation and healing of the most vulnerable, “the least of Christ’s brothers and sisters.” (Matt. 25.40) We cannot hope to resolve issues of global warming without responding to the tangible needs of the poor among us, for whom we are directly responsible and whose conditions we have created while at the same time long overlooked. As we remarked in an article published in *Time* on June 18, 2015, the day when the papal encyclical was publicly released: “A church that neglects to pray for the natural environment is a church that refuses to offer food and drink to a suffering humanity. At the same time, a society that ignores the mandate to care for all human beings is a society that mistreats the very creation of God.”

It is our fervent hope and prayers that theological scholarship, such as that which you will be developing and defining over the next few days, will provide the necessary support and endorsement for the fundamental teaching of the church as expressed through such encyclicals as *Laudato Si’* “so that the world may believe” (John 17.21) and “so that the world may live” (John 6.51).

At the Ecumenical Patriarchate, the 14th of August, 2015

✠ BARTHOLOMEW

Archbishop of Constantinople-New Rome
and Ecumenical Patriarch

***Laudato Si'*: The Greening of the Church?**

22-25 September 2015

Australian Catholic University/Catholic University of America Rome Center

Via Garibaldi, 28, 00153 Roma, Italy

Organised by the Institute for Religion and Critical Inquiry,
Australian Catholic University

Convenor: Professor Neil Ormerod,
Institute for Religion and Critical Inquiry, Australian Catholic University

Sponsored by Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)
Professor Wayne McKenna, Australian Catholic University