
CALL FOR PAPERS

International conference

For a social ecological transformation

Transversal dialogue starting from *Laudato Si'*

11-13 January 2024

Venue: Sophia University Institute - Incisa Valdarno (Florence, Italy)

Transversal Dialogue

Christianity and socialism have historically been at odds with each other, yet both have played a significant role in shaping the world we live in today. However, something has changed since the days of intransigent atheism and militant anticlericalism on the one hand and excommunication under the banner of irreconcilable anti-Marxism on the other. The project of a transversal social ethic (promoted by the [Sophia University Institute](#) and [DIALOP](#)) aims to bring these two communities together constructively and positively, despite the sufferings and challenges of yesterday and today.

The importance of dialogue cannot be underestimated, especially in the face of global threats such as nuclear confrontation, the devastating impact of globalisation, wars, exploitation of resources, climate emergency and environmental degradation, policies to close doors to refugee and migrant flows, and much more.

Despite these challenges, humanity has always produced and can still produce credible proposals to address the fundamental problems that our changing world is facing.

In this context, Pope Francis's encyclical *Laudato si'* has become one of the fundamental texts for understanding and navigating the current anthropological and ecological-social crisis. Rather than simply denying it, treating it with indifference or comfortable resignation, or thinking it can be solved by blind faith in technical solutions, it needs to be faced starting from a "new universal solidarity" (LS §14) founded - as we propose - in a transversal social ethic that requires the participation and involvement of each and everyone: individuals and institutions and governments, at the local and international levels.

Promoting a transversal social ethics starting from *Laudato si'*

This call for papers aims to explore what can be recognized as shared principles for a common social ethics of socialist-inspired social critique and Christian social ethics, with the aim of generating proposals for change and transformation in a wide range of fields, starting from the proposal outlined in *Laudato si'* and left-wing alternatives. How can we realise an economy of life, a community of care, a politics of transformation in solidarity, a future of ecological peace?

Some lines, fields, and objectives of a transversal social ethics have already been outlined in a Position Paper on perspectives common to socialists/Marxists and Christian scholars which can be consulted here: <https://dialop.eu/press/press-material/position-paper> .

Call for abstracts

This conference is inviting contributions that explore these possibilities of a transversal social ethics between different starting points in the sense of *Laudato si'* and social ecological transformation, welcoming proposals from all disciplinary fields, aimed at exploring the relevance of this text for thinking about alternatives to the current anthropological and socio-ecological crisis.

Abstracts of proposals may include, but need not be limited to, the following topics:

- **The socio-economic roots of the ecological crisis: the relationship between poverty and the fragility of the planet;**
- **the critique of the technocratic paradigm and forms of power derived from technology;**
- **techno-scientific development and social-ecological crisis**
- **integral ecology: environment, social relations, spiritual life;**
- **new ways of understanding economics and alternatives to the progress paradigm;**
- **the responsibility of national and international politics in the face of the global socio-ecological crisis;**
- **waste culture, new alternative ways of life;**
- **ecological conversion and community conversion: achieving shared solutions through the “differentiated consensus and qualified dissent” method ([see here](#));**
- **theology and philosophy at the service of a new ecological and social paradigm.**

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The conference will be held with physical attendance. We accept individual paper proposals (max. 2000 characters incl. spaces) or panel proposals comprising three paper presentations on the same topic (max. 6000 characters incl. spaces). Proposals can be written in **Italian or English**.

All proposals must be sent no later than **30 September 2023** using the following online google form <https://forms.gle/7FBHUFMKTz8hVt7x5>

The response will be communicated by **16 October 2023** and the author will have 5 days to confirm his/her attendance at the conference.

Presentations and publication

Individual presentations at the conference should have a maximum duration of 20 minutes.

The papers will be published in a scientific journal or series to be specified: the editors reserve the right to send the proposed paper to two anonymous readers for critical examination (peer review).

Participation and certificates

Participation at the conference is free of charge. A contribution of 10 euros is required for the issue of certificates of participation.

The author's travel, board, and lodging costs will be his/her own responsibility. Partial scholarships might be provided in case of need.

Promoting Committee: Raul Buffo (coord.), Philipp Ackermann, Federico Rovea, Luisa Sello

Scientific Committee: José Manuel Pureza (coord.), Micha Brie, Bernhard Callebaut, Cornelia Hildebrandt, Daniela Ropelato, Raul Buffo

Organizing partners: Sophia University Institute Doctoral School; DIALOP - Transversal Dialogue Project; Transform Europe; Rosa Luxemburg Stiftung.

- Date of the conference: **11 to 13 January 2024**
- Venue of the conference: **Sophia University Institute**
- Deadline for receipt of abstracts: **30 September 2023**
- Send your application to the link: <https://forms.gle/7FBHUFMKTz8hVt7x5>
- Contact: dialopconference2024@gmail.com