



**Institute for Religion
& Critical Inquiry**



Conceiving Change in the Church:

An Exploration of the Hermeneutics of Catholic Tradition

13-16 September 2016

Rome Campus Seminars

IRCI-CCS Series

1. *Laudato Si'*: The Greening of the Church? (22-24 September 2015)
2. Conceiving Change in the Church: An Exploration of the Hermeneutics of Catholic Tradition (13-16 September 2016)

IRCI Biblical and Early Christian Studies Series

3. The Rise of the Christian Intellectual in the Second Century (27-29 July 2016)



Conceiving Change in the Church: An Exploration of the Hermeneutics of Catholic Tradition

IRCI-CCS Rome Seminar Series
Australian Catholic University

13 – 16 September 2016

Held at the Rome Campus of
Australian Catholic University/Catholic University of America
Via Garibaldi, 28, 00153 Roma, Italy

Convenor: Professor Paul D. Murray, Dean-Director of the Centre
for Catholic Studies, Durham University

Welcome

It is my pleasure to welcome you to the ACU/CUA Rome Campus for the seminar entitled, 'Conceiving Change in the Church: An Exploration of the Hermeneutics of Catholic Tradition.' The seminar is the second to be held as part of ongoing collaboration between our Centre for Catholic Thought and Practice and the Centre for Catholic Studies at Durham University (CCS, DU). Each year we alternate between a theme associated with the designated research areas: Constructive Catholic Theology, and Catholic Social Thought and Practice.

In July 2016 IRCI also commenced its series of Biblical and Early Christian Studies seminars and next week the *Atheism and Christianity* research project team will hold its first meeting. Overall, the Rome seminars provide an opportunity to bring together leading scholars to address and explore key issues in their respective fields of study. They are a practical expression of our ongoing commitment to innovative, high quality, international research collaboration in the disciplines of theology and philosophy. It is important to acknowledge the crucial role played by Professor Wayne McKenna, the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research). His ongoing support for the Institute and the sponsorship of the Rome seminars is greatly appreciated. In terms of this seminar I extend my particular thanks to Professor Paul Murray for all his work as convenor and to those who helped develop the program (especially Prof Karen Kilby [DU]; and from ACU, Rev A/Prof Orm Rush, Dr Chris Jacobs-Vandegeer, Rev Dr James McEvoy).

Over the next four days I trust this seminar will provide the opportunity to establish new connections and to enrich existing ones. My best wishes for lively and engaging discussions and deliberations.

Professor James McLaren

Director, Institute for Religion and Critical Inquiry, ACU
September 2016

Seminar Theme

On a number of fronts, both ecclesiological and pastoral, the current papacy is serving to cast fresh light on the need to think about change in the church, and in particular to think about what constitutes integrity in the process of change. This task of conceiving change in the church is neither a peripheral nor an occasional feature of Catholic life but a constant factor. It is paradigmatically evident in the originating journey of Christianity towards a reformulation of Jewish monotheism in the light of the confession of Jesus as Lord and the conviction that the Spirit of Jesus given to the church is not simply a gift from God but the self-giving of God as Spirit in the world. It can be seen in the eventual firm acceptance by Christianity of the utter incompatibility between the institution of slavery and the gospel. It can be seen in the different structural forms given to ecclesial governance and authority in varying cultural contexts across two Christian millennia. Viewed in long-frame at least, in ecclesial life, as more generally in natural life, the negotiation of change is constant and unavoidable: in reality the Catholic system exists in a state of dynamic rather than steady-state equilibrium.

By contrast, at any given point the Catholic instinct is to maintain and claim continuity even whilst change is in train. Debates around the hermeneutics and reception of Vatican II illustrate this. More generally, the tendency is to reduce the apparent novelty of the new and to flatten the diverse particular discernments and settlements of the tradition into the apparently uniform. This occurs through a combination of such strategies as: i) 'creative amnesia' (Kerr), which selectively allows the inconveniently dissonant in the tradition's past to fall from view; ii) creative retrieval of the helpfully resonant but previously forgotten; and iii) reinterpretation and smoothing of apparent historic knots and obstacles in the light of fresh understanding. The problem, however, is that this does not resource the church well for engaging and discerning the genuinely new with appropriate dynamic integrity. It is this issue that will be centrally in view in this seminar. Key questions are: what are the conditions – doctrinal, structural, and cultural – for the appropriate

conceiving of change in the contemporary church? What case-studies might fruitfully be pursued and learned from concerning the ways in which such processes have been lived, understood, and structured in other specific contexts and nodal points in the tradition?

The topic for this seminar, 'conceiving change in the church', will be related to, but not identical with, the more familiar theme of "development of doctrine." Typically discussions of the development of doctrine operate retrospectively, focussed on explaining how it is that Catholic tradition has historically changed in order the better to express its identity in a given context. By contrast, 'conceiving change in the church' has an intentionally prospective orientation, thinking through relevant contemporary issues and exploring the theological, organisational, and cultural conditions for the appropriate handling of change with dynamic integrity. In addition, 'conceiving change' very definitely seeks to transcend the implicit linearity of most logical and organic understandings of the development of doctrine and to allow for the contextual and historical specificity of the processes of identity articulation and performance in Christian tradition. Further, 'conceiving change' takes very seriously the role that the communities of the church play in coming to consensus on what it is reasonable and viable for Catholics to understand, value, and do in given contexts.

Professor Paul D. Murray

Dean-Director

Centre for Catholic Studies, Durham University

Time	Tuesday 13 September
4:00-4:30	Registration and Afternoon Tea
4:30-4:45	Welcome and Introduction
4:45-6:30	Keynote Paper <i>Chair: Karen Kilby</i>
4.45-5.30	Paul Murray 'From the Development of Doctrine to the Hermeneutics of Catholic Tradition: Taking Stock after Newman and after Thiel'
5:30-5:45	Respondent – John Thiel
5:45-6:30	Discussion
6:30	Drinks Reception
7:30	Dinner

Time		Wednesday 14 September	
10:00-11:30	Keynote Paper	3:00-4:30	Case-studies: <i>On the Conceiving of Change in Relation to Catholic Homophobia</i>
	<i>Chair:</i> Orm Rush		<i>Chair:</i> Nicholas Healy
10:00-10:45	Philip McCosker	3:00-3:30	Gerard Loughlin
	<i>Principles and Models for Conceiving Change in the Church: the Hermeneutics of Catholic Tradition</i>	3:30-4:00	Linn Marie Tonstad
10:45-11:00	Respondent – James McEvoy	4:00-4:30	Discussion
11:00-11:30	Discussion	4:30-5:00	Afternoon Tea
11:30-12:00	Morning Coffee	5:00-6:30	Keynote paper
12:00-1:30	Case-studies: <i>Historical Perspectives on Change and Identity</i>		<i>Chair:</i> Ethna Regan
	<i>Chair:</i> Myriam Wijlens	5:00-5:45	Kathryn Tanner <i>A Theological Reading of the Cultural Dimensions of Ecclesial Change</i>
12:00-12:30	Joseph Famerée	5:45-6:00	Respondent – Christiaan Jacobs-Vandegeer
	<i>Historical perspectives on criteria for conceiving change in the Church</i>	6:00-6:30	Discussion
12:30-1:00	Mathijs Lamberigts		
	<i>Vatican II's appeal to Tradition: a selective reading?</i>		
1:00-1:30	Discussion	6:30pm	Drinks
1:30-3:00	Lunch	7:30pm	Dinner at Rome Campus

Time	Thursday 15 September		
10:00-11:30	Case-studies <i>Chair: Stephan van Erp</i>	3:00-4:30	Keynote Papers on: <i>Semper ipse sed numquam idem: The Church as a Community of Reception</i> <i>Chair: Christiaan Jacobs-Vandegeer</i>
10:00-10:30	Paul Lakeland <i>The Implications of the 2014-2015 Dual Synod on the Family for Change in the Church</i>	3:00-3:30	Orm Rush
10:30-11:00	Myriam Wijlens <i>Sensus Fidelium as an Example of Potential for Change in the Church</i>	3:30-4:00	Stephan van Erp
11:00-11:30	Discussion	4:00-4:30	Discussion
11:30-12:00	Morning Coffee	4:30	Afternoon Tea
12:00 -1:30	Case-studies: <i>The Implications of the Clerical Sexual Abuse Crisis for Systemic Cultural-Organisational Change within Catholicism</i> <i>Chair: Paul Lakeland</i>	5:00-6:30	Keynote Papers on <i>Conceiving Change from the Bottom-up: The Challenge of a Synodal Church</i> <i>Chair: Peter DeMey</i>
12:00-12:30	Ethna Regan	5:00-5:30	Staf Hellemans <i>A Sociologist's Perspective on Conceiving Change in the Church</i>
12:30-1:00	Thomas Reese	5:30-6:00	Oswald Gracias (Archbishop of Bombay and President of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences) <i>A Southern Asian Perspective</i>
1:00-1:30	Discussion	6:00-6:30	Discussion
1:30-3:00	Lunch	Evening	Free-time

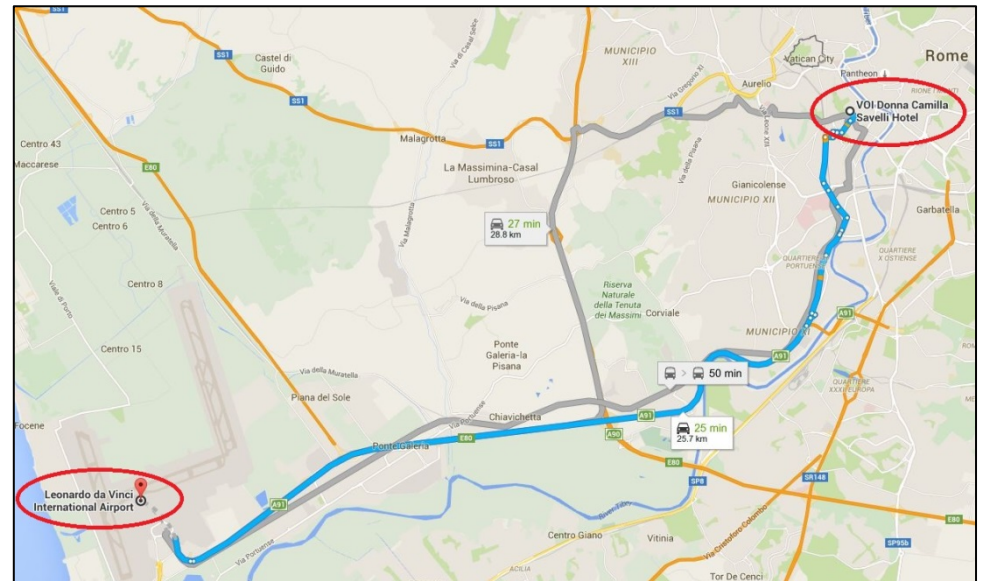
Time	Friday 16 September
9:15-10:45	Keynote Paper <i>Chair:</i> Kathryn Tanner
9:15-10:00	Nicholas M. Healy <i>Discerning the Truth Plurally: Exorcising the Spectre of Relativism</i>
10:00-10:15	Respondent: Karen Kilby
10:15-10:45	Discussion
10:45-11:15	Morning Coffee
11:15-12:45	Final Plenary Reflections in Response to the Seminar <i>Chair:</i> Paul Murray Etienne Veto Peter DeMey Walter Kasper General Discussion

12.45	Close of Seminar
1:00	Lunch and departure

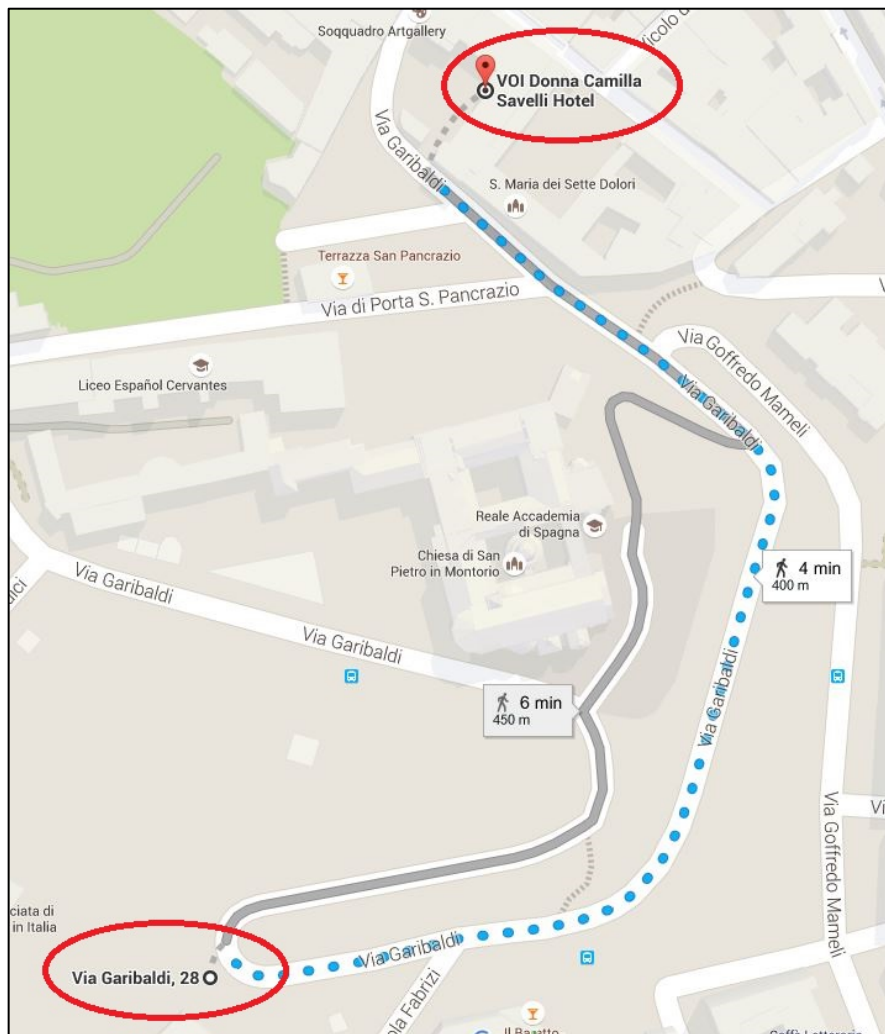
Participants

His Eminence Cardinal Oswald Gracias	(Archbishop of Bombay and President of the Federation of Asian Bishops' Conferences)
His Eminence Cardinal Walter Kasper	(President Emeritus of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity)
Ass Prof Michael Canaris	Loyola University, Chicago
Rev Andrew Downie	Durham University
Prof Peter DeMey	KU Leuven
Rev Prof Joseph Famerée	Louvain la Neuve
Prof Nicholas M. Healy	St John's, New York
Prof Staf Hellemans	Tilburg University
Dr Christiaan Jacobs-Vandegeer	ACU
Prof Karen Kilby	Durham University
Prof Paul Lakeland	Fairfield, CT
Prof Mathijs Lamberigts	Dean, Faculty of Theology, KU Leuven
Prof Gerard Loughlin	Durham University
Dr Philip McCosker	Cambridge
Rev Dr James McEvoy	ACU
Prof Wayne McKenna	Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), ACU
Prof James McLaren	Director, IRCI, ACU
Prof Paul D. Murray	Durham University
Dr David Newheiser	ACU
Prof Neil Ormerod	ACU
Dr Thomas Reese, SJ	Santa Clara University & NCR
Sr Dr Ethna Regan	DCU
Rev A/Prof Orm Rush	ACU
Mr Greg Ryan	Durham University
Prof Kathryn Tanner	Yale University
Prof John Thiel	Fairfield University
Ass Prof Linn Marie Tonstad	Yale University
Prof Stephan van Erp	KU Leuven
Rev Prof Etienne Veto	Gregorian
Prof Myriam Wijlens	University of Erfurt

Leonardo Da Vinci International Airport to voi Donna Camilla Savelli Hotel - Rome



VOI Donna Camilla Savelli Hotel to ACU Rome Centre



Practical Matters

Hotel address: Via Garibaldi, 27, 00153 Roma

Campus address: Via Garibaldi, 28, 00153 Roma

Please note that the walk from the hotel to the Campus is uphill, approximately a quarter of the way up the Janiculum Hill. Although a relatively short distance the walk does involve a climb, part of which is at a steady incline. There is also no designated footpath on the side of the road.

The seminar room has air-conditioning. However, as the seminar is taking place in mid September please dress accordingly (i.e. light weight and informal).

Some nearby places of interest

- Fontana dell'Acqua Paola
- Museo della repubblica Romana e della memoria Garibaldina
- Piazza Garibaldi (including the Vittoriano Monument)
- Orto Botanico
- San Pietro in Montorio (including Tempietto del Bramante)
- Villa Pamphili
- Santa Maria in Trastevere

Some suggestions for food in Trastevere:

- Cave Canem (Piazza di. S. Calisto, 11).
- Da Enzo (Via dei Vascellari, 29).
- Fatamorgana (Via Roma Libera, 11) for gelato.
- La Boccaccia (Via di Santa Dorotea, 2) for when on the run (pizza by the slice).

Also worth considering:

- Emma Pizzeria (Via del Monte della Farina, 28). It is across the Tiber River, about a 15 minutes walk from the hotel.

The Location

The Rome Campus lies within the Aurelian walls, approximately one-third of the way up the Janiculum Hill. Although the Janiculum is particularly well known as the place where Garibaldi and his supporters fought to defend the newly established Republic of Rome in 1849 the site of the Campus also has some notable points of interest. Gió Ponti was involved in the design of the current building, which was built for the Sisters of Notre Dame de Sion in 1962-63. Within the confines of the previous structures and largely thanks to the work of Mother Marie Augustine and Mother Maria Agnesa the site was a place of refuge for Jews during WWII. Whole families were accommodated within the convent from October 1943 until the liberation of Rome in June 1944 (source: Notre Dame de Sion archives).

In the gardens is one other notable feature, which most likely dates from the first century CE. It is a funerary relief of a man and a woman and an inscription. Dr Alan Cadwallader of ACU has recently identified the relief and epitaph as *CIL* 6.16019, an item recorded in the seventeenth century but subsequently thought to be lost as the Janiculum Hill area was urbanised. Their apparent 'loss' was attested as recently as 1993, by Valentin Kockel in his work on Roman gravesites from the turn of the era. According to Dr Cadwallader, the relief and inscription belong together, making them quite unusual. It is likely that the original setting was a nearby grave structure, possibly situated in the vicinity of the Via Aurelia. The inscription suggests an interesting social history: they have Greek names (Anteros and Apollonia); they were ex-slaves who had belonged to different households and subsequently established their own household (source: A. Cadwallader, "A Note on *CIL* 6.16019 in Light of its Rediscovery," *forthcoming*).

Notes