

## Call for Papers for LEST 2025 – Leuven Encounters in Systematic Theology XV

Catholicity, Theology and the University: Conjectures in a Complex World  
KU Leuven, 22-25 October 2025

In 2025, KU Leuven celebrates its 600th jubilee. For this occasion, the XVth LEST-conference (Leuven Encounters in Systematic Theology) will address the challenges and opportunities for the future of the university. It will focus on the qualitative concept of catholicity in its plurality of forms and functions within the university. Recent theological notions of catholicity, most notably in the ressourcement tradition, are marked by a heightened attention to alterity and different kinds of difference. As a consequence, catholicity has become an instrument for understanding the apophatic, conjectural, and future-oriented dynamic of fundamental relations, for example between reality and knowledge, God and the world, revelation and truth, faith and reason, and the Church and the churches. Can this nuanced, dynamic, and differentiated theological interpretation of catholicity serve as a model for understanding the complex synergy of the diverse branches of knowledge in the university, and their variety of relating to reality?

Key note speakers include Helen Alford OP, Lieven Boeve, Mgr. Johan Bonny, Francis Clooney SJ, Massimo Faggioli, Maeve Heaney, Jaisy Joseph, Jennifer Newsom Martin, Simon Oliver, Judith Wolfe. For the occasion of the jubilee and the conference, the Scottish composer James MacMillan will conduct a concert with the Flemish Radio Choir. Please find a more detailed description of the conference theme here:

<https://theo.kuleuven.be/en/lest/lest-xv/call-for-papers>

We welcome short papers (20 minutes) on the following sub-themes:

- Theological and philosophical notions of catholicity
- Catholicity in ressourcement theology
- Realizing catholicity through diverse charisms: the contribution of the religious orders and congregations
- Qualitative catholicity and other concepts of the universal, fullness, or wholeness in academic disciplines
- Theological and philosophical reflections on the university
- The place of theology in the university
- The organisation of knowledge: from hegemonic wholes to fragmented silos, artificial intelligence, and beyond
- The role of unknowing and nescience in the academic disciplines
- Current debates on the Catholic university: contextual, political, and religious issues
- The role of power and identity in the university: dispute, debate, and dissent
- The purpose of education: faith, formation, and flourishing
- Doctoral students and postdocs are especially invited to present a paper on the topic of their research

Please submit abstracts (300 words) via the proposal form: <https://theo.kuleuven.be/en/lest/lest-xiv/proposal-form>.

Deadline for submission is June 1, 2025.

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