

60 Years Vatican II: The End of the Western Church?

Leuven Encounters in Systematic Theology XIV

November 8-11, 2023

Call for Papers

The Second Vatican Council may have been held in Western Europe and may in the end still present a Eurocentric perspective, but it was nevertheless the first council with a global presence and scope. Influenced by the general social developments of the 1960s, decolonization and inculturation played a major role in the background of the conciliar debates, which would increase even more in the later reception of its results in local contexts worldwide. Whereas the council had great ecclesial and social effects in Latin America with its influence on liberation theology, in Africa with its social justice struggles against poverty, and in Asia with its focus on interfaith and ecumenical dialogue, conciliar research was strongly influenced by voices from the Global North. The celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Council was the start of a more international approach in conciliar studies. Now, ten years later, on the occasion of the sixtieth anniversary, we want to make up a first balance of this 'global' perspective from a historical and systematic-theological perspective.

This edition of LEST presents an opportunity both to bring long-overlooked source material or forgotten voices to light or to illuminate existing themes from new theoretical frameworks and perspectives. We particularly welcome papers discussing the council on the basis of:

- the 'global' perspective of the Council Fathers, the role of other or underrepresented groups at the Council such as periti, Roman Curia and Vatican administration, laity, women, Eastern-Catholics, the new ecclesial movements, representatives of other religions,... and questions of representativity and power balances;
- the council's global reception, the global relevance of post-conciliar debates around reception and hermeneutics; local particularities and tensions; non-reception, indifference or even resistances;
- unexplored historical material, i.e. understudied archival funds, non-textual source material, or new methodological approaches applied to the study of the council;
- new perspectives on conciliar themes in light of new hermeneutical methods, such as postcolonial theory, critical discourse analysis,... or in light of recent events, such as the synod on synodality;
- the question of the relevance of the conciliar message in today's Catholic Church, within academic theology, or more broadly in today's world.

Papers of 20 minutes are invited on the conference theme

Please submit abstracts via the registration form on the website

Deadline for submission is March 01, 2023

