

IRTI Summer school: Migration and mission of the Church

Announcement of IRTI International summer school on Migration and the mission of the Church. July 5-10, 2016, Amsterdam, the Netherlands.



The church as catholic (universal) embraces people from all nations (the ethnoi, or the Gentiles). This ecclesiological notion of the catholicity of the church puts strains on its confessed unity, as persons of various cultural, linguistic and ethnic backgrounds cross natural boundaries to become one communion. Human migration has manifested this as local, often national, churches receive newly arrived immigrants, among them substantial numbers of refugees. In 2015 the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees recorded more than 60 million forcibly displaced people worldwide. This situation prompts urgent ethical questions that affect the concrete responsibility of the



church, not only asking for doing justice and showing hospitality, but also demanding a reconsideration of the relation between migrants and non-migrants beyond fixed boundaries. It also affects the missiological perception about the nature of the church. The global neighbor who had often been seen as a recipient of the church's "mission" has become the local neighbor. What does the changing, globalizing context demand particularly of Protestant churches that have, in the main, seen themselves as national – and hence often as monocultural – churches? In addition to these ecclesiological, ethical, and missiological questions some biblical and practical-theological aspects will be highlighted as well. What are relevant biblical perspectives on migration, hospitality, justice and compassion? What can we learn from good practices, from Christian communities dealing with migration experiences on a daily basis?

These core issues concerning 'migration and the mission of the church' will be explored by a number of Dutch guest lecturers as well as theologians from Hungary and the USA who join the IRTI International Summer School. Set in the international city of Amsterdam, the school provides a unique opportunity for students to engage in conversation with leading Dutch thinkers as well as with students from the USA, Hungary, Romania and the Netherlands.

Program and Credits

About fifteen sessions of 90 minutes will be held from Tuesday evening July 5 till Saturday July 9, extended with one meeting on Sunday July 10 (visit of a church service). During these days full time presence is required. This includes one or two excursions, sharing in meals (lunch and dinners) and some additional activities. This will take about 50 hours. An additional 60 hours is available for study and 30 hours for preparation of a personal reflection on what is learned and a final paper on one of the subthemes.

Organisation

The IRTI International Summer School is organised by the following partners:

- International Reformed Theological Institute (IRTI, www.irti.nl)
- New Brunswick Theological Seminary, USA (NBTS)
- Sárospatak Reformed Theological College, Hungary (SRTA)
- Debrecen Reformed Theological University (DRTU)
- Protestant Theological Institute, Cluj Napoca, Romania (PTI)
- Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, The Netherlands (VU)
- Protestant Theological University Amsterdam, The Netherlands (PThU)

The school will be held in the facilities of the VU/ PThU Amsterdam and students from abroad will stay in residence nearby.

All lectures will be in English.



Programme

• Tuesday July 5: Introduction

- 17.00 Registration
- 17.45-18.15 Welcome and introduction, dr. Pieter Vos, PThU, dr. Allan Jansen, NBTS, and prof. dr. Szilveszter Füsti-Molnár, SRTA
- 18.15-19.15 Dinner
- 19.15-21.15 Lecture 1: 'Migration and Church: Overview Central Questions', prof. dr. Dorottya Nagy, PThU

• Wednesday July 6: Migration, Mission and Catholicity of the Church

- 09.15-11.00 Lecture 2: 'The Catholicity of the Church and Migrant Churches', Dr. Simon Ririhena, Moluccan Theological Seminary, The Netherlands, and prof. dr. Eddy Van der Borght, VU
 - break: coffee/ tee
 - 11.45-13.15 Lecture 3: PhD-defense aula VU by Gert Jan Roest, The Gospel in the Western Context. A Dialogue with Hendrikus Berkhof and Colin Gunton about Contextualized Christology in Light of the Mission of the Church (supervisors Eddy Van der Borght, Stefan Paas)
 - 13.15 Lunch at VU/PThU
 - 14.00-15.45 Lecture 4: 'The Impact of 19th Century Mass Immigration to America on Christian Global Missions', Dr. Jinhong Kim, NBTS and Columbia University New York
 - break: coffee/tea
 - 16.00-17.45 Lecture 5: 'Global neo-Pentecostalism as a Theological Conversation Partner', prof. dr. Benno van den Toren, PThU
 - 17.30 Dinner at VU/PThU
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• **Thursday July 7: Migration and Christian Ethics**

- 09.00-10.45 Lecture 6: 'Compassion and/or Doing Justice', dr. Pieter Vos, PThU
 - 11.00-12.45 Lecture 7: 'The Church and its Role in the Public Debate on Refugees', dr. Pieter Dronkers, PThU
 - lunch at VU/PThU
 - Lectures 8/9 = excursion to Amsterdam-Zuid and Bijlmer (guided by dr. Gert van Klinken, PThU)
 - Dinner in Amsterdam Bijlmer
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• **Friday July 8**

Catholicity and Mission of the Church

- 09.00-10.45 Lecture 10: 'The Catholicity of the Church', prof. dr. Szilveszter Füsti-Molnár, SRTA
 - break: coffee/tea
 - 11.00-12.45 Lecture 11: 'Catholicity and the Mission of the Church', prof. dr. Kees van der Kooi, VU
 - Lunch at VU/PThU
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Perspectives on Migration

- 13.30-15.15 Lecture 12: 'A Biblical Perspective on Migration: One History, One Solution', prof. Sándor Enghy, SRTA
 - break: coffee/tea
 - 15.30-17.15 Lecture 13: 'The Catholicity of the Church and Migration from US Perspective', dr. Allan Jansen, NBTS
 - Dinner at VU/PThU
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- **Saturday July 9: A Theology of Migration and the Mission of the Church**

- 09.00-10.45 Lecture 14: 'Islamophobia and the Mission of the Church, dr. Gé Speelman, PThU
 - break: coffee/ tea
 - 11.00-12.45 Lecture 15: 'Theology and Migration', prof. dr. Dorottya Nagy, PThU
 - 12:45 Lunch at VU/PThU
 - 13.15 Free time
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- **Sunday July 10**

Morning service at Crossroads Amsterdam (<http://www.xrds.nl>) and farewell

