

**II International Conference on Secularity, Religion and the Post-Secular Era:  
Catholic Responses to Secularization and Secularities  
Kraków, 20-21 May 2027**

**Call for Papers**

**Conference Date:** 20-21 May 2027

**Location:** Jesuit University Ignatianum in Kraków, Poland

**Organized by:** Kircher Network and Jesuit University Ignatianum in Kraków

The contemporary world is marked by profound social, political, and religious transformations. Processes of modernization and secularization – in which religion loses its social, political, cultural, and personal significance – have reshaped, or are reshaping, the conditions under which religious traditions live, think, and communicate their message. However, as many sociologists of religion have recently discovered, processes of modernization and secularization are far from uniform and do vary greatly in scope, depth, character, and implications. Secularization in certain regions, and even within particular countries within those regions, may differ significantly due to varied historical experiences, cultures, geographies, ethnic groups, or values. The manifold character of processes of secularization produced diverse secularities and different models of relations between religion, state, and society. Not least, perceptions of liberal social orders are changing as secularisation progresses.

Therefore, at the upcoming conference, we would like to explore the specific characteristics of secularization and secularities across different countries and regions. We are particularly seeking to identify the specificity of secularization and secularities in Central Europe and its countries, and to compare them with those in Western Europe. This will enable us to see whether these parts of Europe are similar or different regarding the significance and role of religion within society. We are also interested in exploring the complexity of secularisation in the Near East, the Mediterranean region, and other countries, where religion remains intertwined with civic or national identity.

However, the aim of the conference is not merely to diagnose varied secularization and secularities, but to discern how Catholicism perceives it, and how it does and how it may respond to it. How Catholicism perceives these phenomena and its factual and possible approaches and responses may vary across countries, traditions, and ecclesial societies. Still, these responses can certainly be very creative and inspiring – we are keen to review them. The conference also welcomes contributions that explore the Christian witness in secular, democratic, and plural societies, as well as models of dialogue, reconciliation, ecumenical friendship, social commitment, and transformative love. We would be delighted to hear testimonies and proposals for pastoral initiatives that succeed in transmitting faith in secularized societies from Jesuits and other Catholic societies. We hope that conference considerations will also result in the transmission of its outcomes to the pastoral work of Jesuit provinces and other Catholic pastoral works.

Proposals are welcome from theology, philosophy, sociology of religion, political theory, history, religious studies, pastoral theology, cultural studies, and other related disciplines.

Paper proposals are invited to address the following or related thematic lines:

**1. Theoretical reflection on Secularization, Modernity, and Liberalism:**

a. Secular and/or Catholic definitions and understandings of secularization, secularity, and liberalism. Reconsidering relations of secularity and liberalism.

b. Mutual enrichments, tensions, and dialogues between Christian and secular values in Modernity, such as human rights, democracy, equality, human dignity, freedom of conscience, and the rejection of violence.

**2. Regional perceptions of secularization and secularities:**

As different countries in Europe and the Near East have different traditions and experiences of secularisation and secularity, contributions from specific countries or regions are welcome to enrich the exchange of ideas and comparative analysis. We are also interested in exploring cases and models from the Mediterranean and other regions, where religion remains intertwined with civic or national identity.

**3. Catholic Responses to Secularization and Secularity:**

We welcome theological and philosophical reflections, historical analysis, and practical insights exploring the following or related themes:

a. The Church's role and mission in the contemporary world: strategies, theology, and methods in secularized contexts.

b. Local and regional pastoral initiatives: Faith transmission, experience sharing, and empirical case studies. Practical contributions of Catholic societies, organisations and missions are mostly welcome.

c. The Ignatian and Jesuit tradition: Discernment, education, and culture engagement, adjusting forms of faith to specific cultures. Contributions of Jesuit thought and practise to human flourishing.

d. Contributions exploring the possibilities of Christian witness in secular, democratic, liberal, and plural societies, as well as models of dialogue, reconciliation, ecumenical friendship, social commitment, and transformative love. Application of selected values of Catholic Social Teaching to secularized societies.

e. Different Catholic and Christian approaches. From critique and rejection of secularization and secularity (traditionalism or fundamentalism), through discernment and dialogue (conciliar and post-conciliar reflection), to full acceptance and mutual enrichment (more modern approaches). The contrasts between these approaches. Discussions on the role of authority, tradition, spiritual experience, forms, authenticity, pastoral language, and ecclesial renewal.

The language of the Conference and correspondence will be English.

Paper proposals should include a title, an abstract of approximately 300 words, a brief biographical note (maximum 150 words), and the author's institutional affiliation.

Proposals should be sent to [secularity2027@ignatianum.edu.pl](mailto:secularity2027@ignatianum.edu.pl) by November 29, 2026.

Notifications of acceptance will be sent by January 10, 2027.

High-quality papers will have the opportunity to be published in a reputable scientific journal or a comprehensive monograph.

Looking forward to seeing your proposals,

Scientific Committee:

Piotr Musiewicz (Jesuit University Ignatianum in Kraków)

Ignacio Sepúlveda del Río (Universidad Loyola Andalucía)

Lina Iskandar Hawat (Saint Joseph University of Beirut)

Dirk Ansorge (Philosophisch-Theologische Hochschule Sankt Georgen, Frankfurt/Main)

The Conference is organized by HEST Cluster on Secularization as the fourth scientific meeting on Secularity, Religion, and the Post-Secular Era.