NETWORK COUNCIL MEETING 2017

GOALS

The INSeCT Network Council meets together once every three years. The 2017 Meeting has the following goals:

Based on input from different regions of the world ...

1. ... to reflect together on how the Catholic Church and society take the role of women seriously, and attend to questions of gender in a serious manner; cf. INSeCT Research Project 2014–2017 (see attachment 1);

2. ... to reflect on how the 50th anniversary of Vatican II was acknowledged in the theological community in each region of the world; cf. Catholic Theology Worldwide Project (see attachment 2);

3. ... to revisit, evaluate, and clarify the Vision, Mission, and Goals of INSeCT in light of its more than 20 years of existence (1996–2017) and looking to the future of INSeCT (see attachment 3).

Finally, there will be held the BUSINESS MEETING OF THE NETWORK COUNCIL; cf. INSeCT Statutes § 8, Art. 4: “The Network Council meets together at least once every three years. The President of the Council will provide an eight week written notice of such meetings and will also supply an agenda.” The Agenda will be sent until May 25, 2017.
PROGRAM

Wednesday, July 19

Arrival until 17.00
18.00  Opening of the Council Meeting, Welcome address, and Socializing
20.00  Dinner

Thursday, July 20

7.30  Breakfast
9.00  Session 1: “Research Project”
    –  Asia-Pacific
    –  South America
10.30 Break
11.00 Session 2: “Research Project”
    –  Africa
    –  Europe
13.00 Lunch
14.30 Session 3: “Research Project”
    –  North America
    –  Discussion and evaluation
16.00 Break
16.30 Session 4: “Research Project”
    –  Discussion and evaluation (cont.)
18.30 Eucharist
20.00 Dinner

Friday, July 21

6.30  Eucharist
7.30  Breakfast
9.00  Session 5: “Vision, mission, and goals of INSeCT”
10.30 Break
11.00 Session 6: “Vision, mission, and goals of INSeCT” (cont.)
13.00 Lunch
14.00 Session 7: Project “Catholic Theology Worldwide”
20.00 Dinner

Saturday, July 22

7.30  Breakfast
8.30  Local Immersion
13.00 Lunch
14.30 Session 8: Business Meeting of the Network Council
19.00 Saturday Evening Eucharist
20.00 Celebratory Dinner

Sunday, July 23

6.40  Eucharist
7.30  Breakfast
9.00  Tourist program for those who are interested, or departure
INSeCT Global Research Project 2014–2017:

“A question of gender justice: the role of women in decision-making in different areas of church and society”

INSeCT regularly launches a three-year global research project. The delegates at the INSeCT Council meeting of July 2014 in Belo Horizonte for 2014–2017 unanimously decided on the topic “A question of gender justice: the role of women in decision-making in different areas of church and society” (for further information see https://insecttheology.wordpress.com/research-project/).

Today’s global challenges – poverty, violence, war, ecological disasters, and human rights violations resulting from ethnic, religious, and gender discrimination – all especially affect women. Gender issues, therefore, require the special attention of the church and all disciplines of theology.

INSeCT wants to take up the call of Pope Francis who, in Evangelii Gaudium (nos. 103–104), urged theologians to contribute to an up-to-date theology of women. Gender Research Project. In the last three years many members of INSeCT have organized different activities and events on this issue.

The speakers with regard to their region will give a brief report on respective activities and are asked to respond to one or more of the following questions:

– How has the role of women shifted in your region, both in the secular and the ecclesial spheres, over the past fifty years?
– How do women value themselves and other women?
– How does the Catholic Church in your region value gender studies and the gender question?
– How would you name the situations of gender impasse in your region?
– What do you identify as the specific challenges of your region in regard to questions of gender?
Project “Catholic Theology Worldwide”

Basic information about the state of Catholic Theology in regions around the world is widely unknown and not easily available.

In response to this situation, the INSeCT Council meeting 2008 has initiated a project providing regional reports on the state of Catholic Theology around the world (for further information see https://insecttheology.wordpress.com/worldwide/).

In 2017 these reports should reflect on how the 50th anniversary of Vatican II was acknowledged in the theological community in each region of the world in conversation.

The speakers are invited to write a 2–3 page report on the state of Catholic Theology in their region or country. The following three questions are suggested for the preparation of these reports:

- How was the 50th anniversary of Vatican II acknowledged in the theological and/or ecclesial community in your region and/or country?
- As you think about the coming decades, what do you foresee as a significant opportunity for the development of theology in your region and/or country?
- As you think about the coming decades, what do you foresee as a significant threat to the development of theology in your region and/or country?
**Statement of INSeCT’s Mission and Goals** (cf. [https://insecttheology.wordpress.com/](https://insecttheology.wordpress.com/))

INSeCT, the INTERNATIONAL NETWORK OF SOCIETIES FOR CATHOLIC THEOLOGY, provides the global platform for its member societies to foster theology, by communication and collaboration, in promotion of the work of the theologian around the world, as a contribution to the collective effort of theology in the Catholic Church. In particular, it seeks to support Catholic Theological Societies in the Global South.

**Our Vision**

The Goal of the Network is to foster academic theology and theological research in various continents through communication among the member societies, particularly concerning information about projects and works in progress, the result of academic research, and theological congresses, conventions and meetings; encouragement of research within the theological disciplines and stimulation of interdisciplinary work in the interest of academic theology; an ecumenical orientation and dialogue with other religions and world views.

**Our Mission**

INSeCT’s Mission statement stands for a view of Catholic theology that fosters:
- The pastoral mission of the church,
- Theology’s ministry to serve church and society,
- Collaboration among those working in all theological disciplines,
- Interdisciplinary theological inquiry into the natural and human sciences, &
- Ecumenical and interfaith dialogue.

**Our Goals**

INSeCT, by means of its global research projects, its publications, its website and its assemblies, is committed to the following goals:
- Support the development and growth of societies of Catholic theology around the world and facilitate the bilateral and multilateral collaboration of these societies;
- Improve intercultural communication and collaboration with member societies of Catholic Theology as well as with theologians in those regions of the world where there are no societies in existence;
- Make more information available about the state of Catholic Theology in the various local, regional, and national contexts around the world about specific research projects, theological congresses, and conventions;
- Respond to global challenges.

**Our Networking**

For the purpose of keeping in contact with the member societies and of exchanging information:
- the president of INSeCT every year publishes a newsletter;
- the single members of the Executive committee (who represent the five regions of North America, Latin America, Europe, Africa, and Asia-Pacific) cultivate a frequent and regular contact with the presidents of the theological societies of their respective regions in order to exchange information and to promote a sense of belonging to the Network;
- the Executive committee conducts an annual Membership inquiry in order to have updated information on officers, conferences, etc;
- INSeCT’s webpage gets updated regularly with the posting of any available information on activities of the single societies;
- an INSeCT Facebook group was created.
Attachment 4

Ordinary corporate members of INSeCT
(see also https://insecttheology.wordpress.com/category/list-of-members/)

Africa
- Catholic Theological Association of Nigeria (CATHAN)
- Catholic Theological Society of Southern Africa (CTSSA)
- Association des Théologiens Catholiques du Bénin (ATCB)
- Cellule de réflexion et de propositions des théologiens Ivoiriens (CREPTI)

Asia-Pacific
- Catholic Theological Society of the Philippines / Damdaming Katoliko sa Teolohiya (DaKaTeo)
- Indian Theological Association (ITA)
- Ecclesia of Women in Asia (EWA)
- Indian Women Theologians Forum (IWTF)
- Australian Catholic Theological Association (ACTA)

Europe
- European Society for Catholic Theology (ESCT; consists of 21 national and regional sections in 20 European countries)

Latin-America
- La Unión de Instituciones Teológicas Católicas en México (UITCAM)
- Sociedad Argentina de Teología (SAT)
- Sociedad Chilena de Teología (SCT)
- Sociedad Uruguaya de Teología (SUT)
- Sociedade de Teologia e Ciências da Religião, Brasil (SOTER)
- Asociación Colombiana de Teólogas (ACT)
- Teologanda Argentina (TA)

North-America
- Academy of Catholic Hispanic Theologians of the United States (ACHTUS)
- Black Catholic Theological Symposium (BCTS)
- Catholic Theological Society of America (CTSA)
- College Theology Society (CTS)
- Société Canadienne de Théologie (SCT)

Affiliated members of INSeCT
- Conference of Catholic Theological Institutions (COCTI)
- The Circle of Concerned African Women Theologians (CCAWT)
- Theological Advisory Commission-Federation of Asian Bishops’ Conference (TAC-FABC)
- Núcleo Mujeres y Teología de Guatemala (NMTG)
- Association des Théologiens Africains (ATA)
- Association des Universités et Instituts supérieurs Catholiques d’Afrique et Madagascar (ASUNICAM) / Association of Catholic Universities and High Institutes of Africa and Madagascar (ACUHIAM)
- Amerindia Colombia Red (ACR)

Guests
- European Society of Women in Theological Research (ESWTR)
- Association of Indonesian Catholic Theologians (AICT) / Assosiasi Teolog Katolik Indonesia (AsTeKia)
- Asociación Mexicana de reflexión teológica feminista (AMERTF)