INSeCT NEWSLETTER
TO ALL MEMBERS
OF THE NETWORK’S MEMBER SOCIETIES AND AFFILIATED GROUPS

October 2015

Dear theologians and colleagues,

a year after my first newsletter as president of INSeCT¹ I am pleased to be in contact with you again, and inform you about some matters that concern our International Theological Network.

Meeting of the Executive committee

The Executive committee held its annual meeting in July 27–31, 2015, and was hosted in the Domus Sanctae Marthae, Rome². The minutes are published and can be read online.³

Among other topics the executive had a wide-ranging discussion about the mission, goals, and structure of INSeCT, taking up the ideas and continuing the reflections of the previous steering committees. It may be useful to call your attention for it:

INSeCT 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.

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.

INSeCT, by means of its global research projects, its publications, its website and its assemblies, is committed to the following goals:

¹ See https://insecttheology.wordpress.com/2014/10/16/insect-newsletter-october-2014/
² See https://insecttheology.wordpress.com/2015/08/01/meeting-2015/
³ See https://insecttheology.files.wordpress.com/2012/12/executive_committee_2015_07_27-31_min.pdf
• 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.

INSeCT’s Research Project

In the newsletter of October 2014 I presented the theme of the INSeCT’s Research Project for the years 2014–2017: “A question of gender justice: the role of women in decision-making in different areas of church and society”.4

Once again I encourage each member society of our Network to interpret and respond to the research project in a way that is relevant to their specific regional contexts. The results will be presented at INSeCT’s next Council meeting in the summer of 2017.

I suggest that each member society nominates a person to promote and coordinate research projects within its own theological society and keep in contact with the respective delegates of the other societies.

I am glad that many of our member societies have already responded positively to the invitation to engage in open and diverse discussion about this topic, with an open mind, an unambiguous option for the underprivileged, and a clear outlook on particular regional and historical contexts. The following initiatives have been undertaken:

Europe (contact person: Gunter Prüller-Jagenteufel, gunter.prueller-jagenteufel@univie.ac.at)

– Two Seminars took place during the International ESCT Conference 2015 in Leuven, September 17-20: “The Name of God and the Question of Gender”, and “Fundamentalistische vs. genderspezifische Bibelauslegung in Verbindung mit der aktuellsten Genderdebatte in Ostmitteleuropa”; in collaboration with Rita Perintfalvi and Ida Breitmaier of ESWTR (European Society of Women in Theological Research)

– A joint Symposium will be held by DAKATEO and ESCT, with participation of other INSeCT-Asia members on the issue “Gender and Ecclesiology: An Intercultural Dialogue”, in Manila, Philippines, July 14-17, 2016

– A European Conference in collaboration with ESWTR will take place in Vienna, September 22-25, 2016: “The role of women in decision making in the Church and society: A question of gender-justice or gender ideology? Academic and practical challenges”

Australia (contact person: James McEvoy, James.McEvoy@acu.edu.au)

– ACTA is planning for their 2016 conference a session on the Catholic Church learning

4 Further information: https://insecttheology.wordpress.com/research-project/
from its ecumenical partners about women’s contribution to the church. And a “joint session” will be held on the INSeCT research theme, incorporating the perspectives of biblical, moral, and systematic theology.

Africa (contact person: Gaston Ogui Cossi, gasog2005@yahoo.fr)
- A conference in Abidjan, March 17-19, 2015, was held on the theme: “Living Together in Multicultural Space.” Two theologians from Montreal presented on women’s role in interreligious dialogue.
- Another Conference, March 15-17, 2016, will be organized on the theme: “The Role of Women in Peace-Building and Evangelization” (Call for Papers, Sept-Oct, 2015)

USA (contact person: Nancy Pineda-Madrid, pinedama@bc.edu)
- ACTHUS Conference, June 2015, on “Salvation,” with a number of papers on gender.
- The CTSA 2016 Conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico, July 9-12, on the theme: “Justice and Mercy” will hopefully include a session on gender justice.

Brasil (contact person: Érico João Hammes, ehammes@pucrs.br)
- SOTER’s 2016 Conference Theme would be: “Pentecostalism, Eschatology, and Social Issues”. SOTER has an ongoing subgroup on gender issues.

Networking requires keeping in contact

In order to keep in contact with the member societies, the members of the Executive committee will cultivate more frequent contact with the presidents of the theological societies of their regions, e.g. by asking information every month and checking the respective webpages. Further, every year we will conduct a Membership Inquiry in order to have updated information.

The contact persons for the different regions are:

- **North America: Nancy Pineda-Madrid** (pinedama@bc.edu)
  - 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
  - La Unión de Instituciones Teológicas Católicas en México (UITCAM)

- **Latin-America: Érico João Hammes** (ehammes@pucrs.br)
  - Sociedad Argentina de Teologia (SAT)
I ask especially the presidents of the single member societies to reply to the e-mails of the respective member of the Steering committee as well as to send information on their own initiative.

Our networking can function only through this exchange of information!

**Contact with theologians where there are no theological associations**

In countries where there are no associations, the executive will keep in touch with individuals and will invite those persons to the Network Council Meeting, at which they will be treated as extraordinary members. For instance, James McEvoy is in contact with theologians from Japan, South Korea, Indonesia, and Taiwan.
INSeCT in the Internet and on Facebook

INSeCT in realizing its networking is using preferentially the electronic media.

- Please visit the web-presence of the Network: [www.insecttheology.wordpress.com](http://www.insecttheology.wordpress.com). There you can find information on INSeCT as well as on various initiatives and activities of the member societies.

- In order to share this information more easily, we have created a Facebook group: [https://www.facebook.com/groups/insecttheology](https://www.facebook.com/groups/insecttheology). This platform is dedicated to sharing resources, blogs, posts, writings, questions, and discussion to support each other in engaging the International Networking of Societies for Catholic Theology.

- If you want to share ideas, projects, or initiatives, please post them on the Facebook page or send an e-mail to insecttheology@gmail.com, so the information will be posted at INSeCT’s blog.

With best regards!

Prof. Martin M. Lintner OSM

President of INSeCT