



The John Paul II - Catholic University of Lublin
Faculty of Social Sciences

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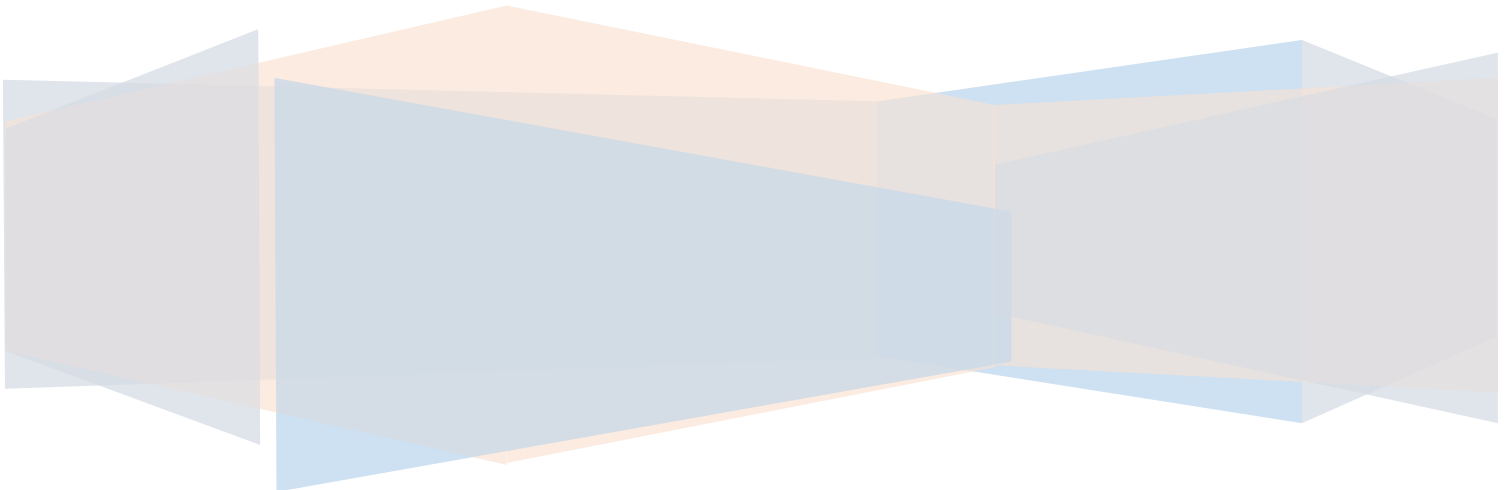
Conflict, dialogue and the culture of unity

International Interdisciplinary Congress

*On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the conferral of
an Honorary Doctorate in Social Sciences
on Chiara Lubich*

at the John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin (Poland)

Lublin, Poland, 3-4 June 2016



Conflict, dialogue and the culture of unity

Call for papers

In recent decades, conflict resolution and dialogue have become very frequent topics in social sciences. Conflicts in workplaces, relationships with family members and friends, in communities, institutions and nations are gaining more and more attention by many disciplines. A large number of studies, often interdisciplinary, address the negative impact of conflicts both in micro (e.g. psychosocial relations, families and education) and macro contexts (e.g. socio-economic and political development of institutions and states).

The study of the methodological implications of the different forms of conflicts has provoked increasing interest in many disciplines: psychology, economics, sociology, education and media studies, management and organizational studies, human rights and so on. Today's multi-faith and multicultural society has to cope with a global challenge: mutual understanding and resolving conflicts. In our contemporary world, dialogue is hailed as a progressive necessary force, and is heralded as the main currency of statecraft, diplomacy, negotiation, mediation and peace-building. Hence, experts from different backgrounds agreed that it is imperative to explore intercultural and interreligious dialogue as key to promote mutual understanding among people, cultures, institutions and religions.

Twenty years ago, in 1996, Chiara Lubich was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Social Sciences from the Catholic University of Lublin in Poland, for having launched a "Copernican revolution in social sciences" and for having promoted dialogue as the key driving force for peacekeeping and peace-building in every context, even in post-communist countries.

Chiara Lubich's 'charism of unity' is at the forefront of dialogue today. The theory and praxis of dialogue has influenced the lives of many people of different cultures and religions, who have committed themselves to her spiritual vision that is embodied in the culture of unity. In a world where ethnic and religious differences often lead to violent conflicts, the spread of the charism of Chiara Lubich has contributed to constructive dialogue among persons, generations, social classes and nations.

Starting from the analysis of tangible and symbolic meanings of dialogue, the Promoters invite all interested parties to propose original contributions that explore, from different perspectives, practices, pathways and processes related to respect, diversity management, mutual understanding, conflict resolution and peace building.

Five areas of interest have been identified. Preference will be accorded those contributions able to use multidisciplinary approaches, coming from psychology, economics, pedagogy, politology, sociology and communication studies. A particular characteristic of innovative submissions should consist in a disciplined effort to bridge gaps between theory and practices. Only new and unpublished papers, which can bring added value to the empirical, theoretical, prescriptive and practical understanding and creative engagement of conflict and dialogue, will be selected.

Thematic areas

Papers can be submitted for one or more of the following 5 thematic areas:

1. Dialogue among communities: between charism and institutions.

Starting from classical studies on charism/institutions, the proposals related to this area should investigate the transition from charism to institution in organizational, educational and social contexts. Contributions focused on the following topics are welcome:

- dynamics of dialogue pathways in education communities and institutions;
- analysis of dialogue pathways in institutional settings (market, media, public, third sector, government);
- charism/institution interplay in social, spiritual movements and religious institutions.

2. Conflict resolution through dialogue.

Starting from a non-instrumental concept of dialogue, which is primary based on a mutual recognition of identities, expected contributions should be focused on theories and/or empirical case-studies of dialogue and conflict resolution:

- analysis of emerging needs, inclusion problems;
- social and mutual forgiveness;
- mutual recognition of identities, reciprocal respect, shared values and principles;
- diversity management;
- strategies and best practices in the field of conflict resolution:
 - in multicultural contexts, movements across borders and human rights;
 - in journalism and media;
 - in management, trade and economics;
 - in organization, human resources management and interpersonal relationship;
 - social and educational communities building and functioning;
 - social inclusion and disabilities.

3. The agents of political change and participation processes

The term participation has recently been acknowledged the merit of explaining some key-transformations, which have characterized democratic processes: the transition from bureaucratic to post-bureaucratic paradigm, from government to governance, from unilateral acts to contracts and voluntary pacts and deliberation.

In such a context contributions related to the various participative forms and practices in which stakeholders take part to the deliberative process would be mostly appreciated, such as:

- participation of citizens in:
 - legislation;
 - policy-making;
 - planning, delivery and public management;

- business and management;
- politics for people with disabilities;
- public sociology, social participation in methodology of social sciences and evaluative research;
- social responsibility and accountability.

4. Individual processes, interpersonal and intergroup levels involved in conflict management and its prevention.

Most of the literature dealing with social conflict has focused on the key role of institutional, cultural and political factors. By contrast, the consideration of individual and group characteristics has been relatively neglected, even though they are extremely important, since it is at these levels that the origin of conflicts and the potential for their resolution can often be found.

Contributions focused on the analysis and understanding of conflict by integrating, individual, interpersonal and intergroup dimensions into the macro-social context will be welcome. Contexts such as family and schools will also be relevant settings to be considered in this section. The following topics would be mostly appreciated:

- prejudice, discrimination, vulnerability;
- trust and compassion in human relationships;
- proactivity, prosocial or solidarity behaviours ;
- parenting and conflict;
- intergroup relations between minorities and majorities;
- the role of education in diversity management, conflict resolution and the promotion of inclusive citizenship;
- civic and political engagement from a developmental approach;
- social empathy, reciprocity, communion and “unity in diversity”;
- prenatal pedagogy and psychology;
- vocational counseling and life-long career guidance as an instrument for conflict management and prevention.

5. Dialogue among disciplines and transdisciplinarity.

Science is characterized by growing specialization of disciplines. At the same time, dialogue among sciences assumes an always more crucial role. For this section the following reflections, case studies and works would be mostly appreciated:

- Multi-disciplinary and inter-disciplinary approaches as forms of dialogue and a culture of unity;
- gift and reciprocity as key-concepts useful for a synergic dialogue among sciences, in relation to conflict and dialogue;
- how to build learning, inclusive communities through cross-cultural dialogue thus fostering a culture of unity;
- beyond crowd psychology: the integrative power of agoral gatherings.

Scientific committee:

- Adam Biela, psychology and sociology (John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Poland), Chairman of the Scientific committee
- Teresa Boi, pedagogy (Sophia University Institute – EDU, Education for Unity, Italy)
- Luigino Bruni, economics (LUMSA University of Rome – EoC, Economy of Communion, Italy)
- Silvia Cataldi, sociology (Sapienza University of Rome – Social-One, Social Sciences in Dialogue, Italy)
- Rev. Jesús Morán Cepedano, philosophy and theology, Co-President of the Focolare Movement, (Pontifical Lateran University in Rome, Italy)
- Rev. Stanisław Fel, sociology (Dean of Social Sciences Faculty – The John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Poland)
- Stanisław Grochmal, management (State Vocational College, Krosno, Poland)
- Dorota Kornas-Biela, pedagogy and psychology (John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Poland)
- Mariola T. Kozubek, pedagogy (University of Silesia, Katowice, Poland)
- Simonetta Magari, psychological studies (Catholic University of the Sacred Heart of Rome – Psychology and Communion, Italy)
- Marian Nowak, pedagogy (John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Poland)
- Wojciech Otrębski, psychology (John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Poland)
- Marek Rembierz, pedagogy (University of Silesia, Katowice, Poland)
- Daniela Ropelato, political sciences (Sophia University Institute – MPPU, Movement Politics & Policy for Unity, Italy)
- Bohdan Rożnowski, psychology (John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Poland)
- Andrzej Sękowski, psychology (The John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Poland)
- Pal Tóth, communication studies (Sophia University Institute – NetOne, Media and a United World, Hungary)
- Krzysztof Wieczorek, philosophy (University of Silesia, Katowice, Poland)
- Krzysztof Wielecki, sociology (Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University, Warsaw, Poland)

Keynote speakers:

- Adam Biela, psychology and sociology (John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Poland)
- Catherine Belzung, neurobiologist (University François Rabelais of Tours, France)
- Mauro Magatti, sociologist (Catholic University of Sacred Heart of Milan, Italy)
- Katarzyna Olbrycht, pedagogist (University of Silesia, Katowice, Poland)
- John Raven, psychology, The University of Manchester, Scotland and John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Poland
- Marina Santi, pedagogist (University of Padova, Italy)
- Bogusław Śliwerski, pedagogist (Chairman of the Committee of Pedagogical Sciences PAN, Poland)
- Krzysztof Wielecki, sociologist (Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University, Warsaw, Poland)
- Stefano Zamagni, economist (University of Bologna, Italy)

Organizing committee:

- Stanisław Grochmal (State Vocational College, Krosno, Poland)
- Izabela Mamcarz (John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Poland)
- Paweł Potakowski (John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Poland)
- Carina Rossa (LUMSA University, Roma, Focolare Movement, Italy)
- Grażyna Soszyńska (Specialist Psycho Clinic and Family Therapy, Lublin, Poland)
- Max Stebler (John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Poland)
- Grzegorz Wiącek (John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Poland)
- Mariola T. Kozubek, Secretary (University of Silesia, Katowice, Poland)
- Piotr Mamcarz, Chairman (John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Poland)

Registration and deadlines:

For the congress registration and the paper submission, please email to:

congresslublin2016@gmail.com

Deadlines:

Abstracts: Max. 3 500 characters (600 words), plus references and a short bio statement of the author(s):

- Deadline for submissions of abstracts: March, 30th 2016;
- Reply from the scientific committee: April 20th 2016.

Fees:

Registration fee (coffee breaks and social dinner are included; accommodation is excluded)

- Junior (max 30 years old): € 80;
- Senior : € 180;

Early bird: until April 30th 2016:

- Junior (max 30 years old): € 60;
- Senior: € 160.

Congress official languages:

The official languages of the Congress are ENGLISH, POLISH end ITALIAN.

For publication purpose papers must be submitted in ENGLISH.

Website:

http://www.kul.pl/dialogue-conflict-culture-of-unity.art_31023.html