

VON HÜGEL INSTITUTE | critical catholic inquiry

ANALYSING • IMAGINING • TRANSFORMING



A New Website for the Von Hügel Institute

The Von Hügel Institute is excited to announce its **new website!**

The Institute now has a dedicated space within the brand-new St Edmund's College, University of Cambridge website. This move highlights the VHI's integral role within St Edmund's College, one of the most vibrant, diverse and international Colleges in the University of Cambridge, and improves visibility and navigation for our projects, events, and news, with a fresh and modern look.

Come explore the VHI's new *digital* home! For more updates, don't forget to follow the VHI on [LinkedIn](#).



UNESCO Chair of Education for Peace and Transformative Solidarity Awarded to Senior Research Associate Professor Alain Tschudin; St Edmund's to Co-Host

The VHI is delighted to announce the appointment of [Professor Alain Tschudin](#), Senior Research Associate of the VHI, to the **Gandhi-Montessori-Luthuli Chair of Education for Peace and Transformative Solidarity**.

This United Nations' Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) Chair is co-hosted jointly by [Stellenbosch University](#) (SU) South Africa and St Edmund's College.

Named for Mahatma Gandhi, Kasturba Gandhi, Maria Montessori, Albert Luthuli, and Nokukhanya Bhengu Luthuli, the Chair's mission is to promote a culture of peace through education—viewed by UNESCO as a cornerstone of sustainable development, poverty eradication and intercultural dialogue.

The Programme mobilizes the expertise of higher education and research institutions worldwide to foster innovation and to promote international collaboration in addressing the complex, interdependent challenges of today's world, and will focus on three inter-related areas:

1. **Education for Peace**
2. **Human Rights for Social and Environmental Justice**
3. **Transformative Solidarity**

‘This work is more relevant than ever,’ says Professor Tschudin, ‘as we face escalating global challenges from climate change and conflict to displacement and economic uncertainty. Since inception, St Edmund’s College has been unequivocally committed to co-hosting the Chair and enthusiastic to encourage scholarship with applied social and environmental impact that coincides with the College’s values and ethos. The Von Hügel Institute, specifically concerned with engaged critical Catholic thought in an ecumenical and interfaith world, has supported this initiative profoundly. We are delighted that the College has offered to serve as a home for our aspirational work.’

[Dr Vittorio Montemaggi](#), Director of the Von Hügel Institute, congratulates Professor Tschudin:

‘It is an honour for the VHI to be collaborating in this important initiative. Solidarity is one of the pillars of Catholic Social Teaching, and Professor Tschudin’s work will allow us to support the development of transformative work that is true to this and to our mission, in collaboration with a wide international network of institutions and communities. We are profoundly grateful for this opportunity.’

READ THE STORY



St Edmund’s College Signs Second Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Notre Dame

This Spring, St Edmund’s College and the [University of Notre Dame](#) (USA) signed a second Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The University of Notre Dame hosted the formal signing ceremony, and the agreement was signed by Notre Dame’s Vice President and Associate Provost for Internationalization [Dr Michael E Pippenger](#) and Master of St Edmund’s College [Professor Christopher Young](#).

In March 2022, Notre Dame and St Edmund’s signed an initial MoU to develop collaborations in fields of shared interest and academic expertise, built upon a shared Catholic foundation.

This initial agreement led to a series of initiatives that include an undergraduate [internship programme](#) between [Notre Dame London](#) and the Von Hügel Institute (VHI) for Critical Catholic Inquiry; a pilot postgraduate scholarship programme; and collaborative research projects between the VHI and various Notre Dame partners, including Notre Dame London, [Notre Dame Rome](#), the [Nanovic Institute for European Studies](#), and [Shakespeare at Notre Dame](#). The VHI continues to play an important role in the development of the partnership, under the directorship of Dr Vittorio Montemaggi.

The new MoU strengthens existing initiatives and ushers in new opportunities for intellectual partnership, including joint graduate and postdoctoral schemes, and a wider range of collaborations across disciplines.

Following the signing ceremony, Professor Chris Young reflected on the significance of this new agreement:

‘I look forward to working with the University of Notre Dame to continue developing new ways to realise our Catholic founders’ shared vision of higher education as a force for good — an ever more urgent call.

In such a rapidly changing world, we must answer this call by building and nurturing global scholarly networks, inspired to learn from difference, and committed to improving the future for individuals, societies, and the planet. At St Edmund’s, we thrive at the intersection of intellectual rigour and spiritual development and are delighted to share and enrich this rare ecosystem with our Notre Dame partners.’

READ THE STORY

Notre Dame Scholars: A Year at St Edmund's and the VHI

Jacob Sherer and Brian Joseph spent the last academic year (2024-2025) pursuing an MPhil in Politics and International Studies as part of a postgraduate programme for Notre Dame alumni. This scholarship initiative is the result of a growing partnership between St Edmund's College.

As the academic year comes to a close, Brian and Jacob took some time out of their studies to reflect on their time at St Edmund's and the VHI, in preparation for their continued studies at Harvard University and University of Notre Dame Law School.



[READ THE STORY](#)

Support the VHI

The Von Hügel Institute for Critical Catholic Inquiry of St Edmund's College, Cambridge, celebrates the richness of Catholic thought and culture. Through our programming, research, and engagement in public discourse, we promote mutual enrichment between the best of the secular academy and the Catholic traditions of theology, philosophy, ethics, arts and sciences.

Support the VHI: <https://bit.ly/3DoHdAY>.



St Edmund's College
University of Cambridge

[Von Hügel Institute for Critical Catholic Inquiry](#)

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