



Von Hügel Institute for Critical Catholic Inquiry

Annual Report 2024-2025



St Edmund's College
University of Cambridge



Director's Welcome & Year in Brief

Thank you for your interest in the activities of the Von Hügel Institute. It is a great pleasure to share with you our annual report for academic year 2024-25. The year was marked by significant work across all areas of the Institute's operations, which in turn sets us on even surer foundations for the years to come. All of this is made possible by the contributions of our Research Associates and Senior Research Associates, of our Affiliates, of all at St Edmund's College involved in our work, of our external partners, of our distinguished speakers, of our audiences, and of our donors. We are profoundly grateful to all who contribute to our work in these various ways.

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“Our work is inspired by Catholic thought and culture and brings scholars and disciplines together in service of the common good.”

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The VHI exists to support the production and dissemination of academic work of the highest level. Our work is inspired by Catholic thought and culture and brings scholars and disciplines together in service of the common good. We do this with a strong commitment to interdisciplinarity and to international collaboration, in a spirit of inclusion and of ongoing exploration of the interconnectedness of all aspects of reality.

This year, we have done this through a range of activities, both internal and public-facing. In Michaelmas 2024 we had the honour of hosting the Director of the Vatican Observatory, Br. Guy Consolmagno, to deliver the Von Hügel Lecture. Br. Guy inspiringly reminded us of the transcendent spirit of inquiry inherent in humanity, which brings us to study the cosmos and all that is part of it. This



is the spirit that, ultimately, animates all of our work, and the seminars, workshops and lectures described in this report offer a rich flavour of the wide range of inquiry that the VHI supports.

Alongside these activities, the VHI has continued this year to work in close synergy with the rest of St Edmund's, to take forward initiatives of great importance to both Institute and College. These include: the setting up of the John Henry Newman Research Fellowship in Catholic Studies, made possible by a generous bequest from the late Rev. Dr Ian Ker and to be formally launched in Michaelmas 2025; the initial activities of the UNESCO Gandhi-Montessori-Luthuli Chair on Education for Peace and Transformative Solidarity, held by Prof. Alain Tschudin and co-hosted by Stellenbosch University and St Edmund's College; and the institutional partnership between St Edmund's College and the University of Notre Dame, with a new Memorandum of Understanding signed by the two institutions in April 2025.

We trust this report will be of interest both to those who are already familiar with the work of the VHI and to those who are discovering it. This is the first year that the VHI produces its annual report in this format, and we welcome any feedback that you might have. And, if you are not familiar with our activities already, do consult the



VHI pages in the St Edmund's College website, where you will find information also about significant VHI activities in other recent years; including lectures by Alison Cornish, Candida Moss and Sir James MacMillan, workshops by Lydia Fox and Richard Ayoade, and our research strands on "Disability, Knowledge, and the University", "Fragility, Flourishing, and AI Ethics" and "Shakespeare and the Common Good?".

Allow me to take this opportunity to thank the VHI staff team – Brigid Graff (Executive Officer), Thomas Graff (Academic Officer) and Lidia Ripamonti (Research and Editorial Manager) – who together with Sally Fallows (Head of College Services at St Edmund's) and Roxann Swanser (EA to the Master of St Edmund's and to the Director of the VHI) ensure that our operations proceed as smoothly and fruitfully as possible.

The beginning of academic year 2024-25 coincided with a transition in leadership for St Edmund's as the College welcomed its new Master. I wish to take this opportunity to extend great gratitude to Catherine Arnold, previous Master of St Edmund's, whose advice and inspiration opened up unprecedented possibilities for the VHI; and to Chris Young, our current Master, whose vision and support for the Institute and its role in the College have been invaluable in setting foundations for unprecedented future growth.

Looking ahead to next year – and beyond – we look forward, indeed, to ongoing growth. In Michaelmas 2024, the College completed a full review of the VHI, in the

light of which College and Institute have been planning a significant expansion of the VHI staff team, as well as further integration of VHI activities in the life of the College. This will be a primary focus in academic year 2025-26, and we look forward to the opportunities this work will bring for years to come. Alongside this, we look forward next year to continuing the ongoing work mentioned above as well as our public programming, including lectures by Sr Damien Marie Savino and Prof. Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela. Furthermore, over the next academic year, the VHI will be working towards launching a new version of *The Von Hügel Institute Working Papers* publication series, to provide a peer-reviewed, online and open access venue for innovative interdisciplinary work consonant with our mission and values.

Please join us as we continue developing the work of the Institute to better serve the College, the University and the common good.

Our Research Community

In the academic year 2024-25, the Von Hügel Institute had 32 Senior Research Associates, Research Associates and Postdoctoral Research Associates and 10 Affiliate Members, reflecting the breadth, vitality, and growing international reach of its scholarly network. The Institute's research community is distinguished above all by its strong interdisciplinary orientation and global character; with scholars from diverse academic and cultural contexts working in sustained dialogue to inform and challenge one another in a shared intellectual space.

The highlights below, drawn from the work carried out in 2024-25 by our Associates, reveal the interdisciplinary character and broader intellectual significance of the VHI as dynamic international research hub.

Our academic year 2024-25

32

Senior Research Associates, Research Associates and Postdoctoral Associates

10

Affiliate Members

Fuller biographical and bibliographical information for VHI Associates and Affiliates can be found on: www.st-edmunds.cam.ac.uk/about-st-edmunds-college/our-people

Senior Research Associates, Research Associates and Postdoctoral Associates



Dr Zeina Barakat (Research Associate)

Europa-Universität Flensburg

Barakat worked on a volume, "Echoes of Bonhoeffer / Bonhoeffers Nachhall: The Political Dimensions of Reconciliation

and Interfaith Encounter", co-edited with Thies Münchow. She produced a chapter in *Transdisciplinary Approaches on Reconciliation Research: Studies in Honor of Martin Leiner*. She also published an article in *International Approaches to the Holocaust* and contributed to the *Festschrift for Ralf Wüstenberg* with "Bridging the Divide: The Radical Power of Empathy in Reconciliation". In recognition of her work for contributions to peace ethics and dialogue, she was awarded the German Dialogue Prize 2025, jointly with Ralf Wüstenberg.



Prof. Maria Burke (Senior Research Associate)

Birkbeck University of London and University of Winchester

Burke worked on a book currently in press, "Russia, Poland and the UK: Searching for Everyday Information".

She presented her research at several international conferences, including the RAI Convention Centre (Amsterdam), and both the 2024 and 2025 *Fragility and Flourishing Workshops* (Von Hügel Institute). In March 2025, she delivered an invited lecture at the State University of New York on "The UK Approach to AI Regulation".



Prof. Paolo Carozza (Senior Research Associate)

University of Notre Dame

Carozza delivered invited lectures to a wide variety of different audiences, including at Humboldt University of Berlin, the

Technology Policy Institute, and Mackenzie University (Brazil) on issues relating to technology ethics, freedom of expression, artificial intelligence, and human dignity. He organised and

hosted a major international conference at the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences, on “Digital Rerum Novarum: Artificial Intelligence, Peace, Social Justice and Integral Human Development”. In collaboration with the University of Florence, he advanced a collaborative research project on “The Future of Law in the Age of Algorithmic Reason”.



Dr Elif Çetin (Research Associate)
Yaşar University

Çetin worked on several publications, including “Populism and the use of ‘foreign elite’ notion in Turkish politics” with Enes Ergörenler in *Turkish Studies* and “The Impact of the 2022 European Union Migration Crisis on the Migratory Discourses Adopted by the European Parliament” with Zeynep Günsal in *İlişkiler Dergisi – International Relations Journal*. In October 2024, within the framework of the UNESCO Chair on International Migration at Yaşar University, Çetin moderated a lecture and infographic collage workshop titled “Migration and Cultural Heritage: Images of Basmane”.



Sr Dr Maria Cimperman RSCJ (Senior Research Associate)
Catholic Theological Union

Sr Cimperman was one the religious theologians serving on the International Union of Superiors General and Union of Superiors General (UISG-USG) Synod Synthesis Commission. In September 2023, she began a position at UISG in Rome coordinating their global Synodality Initiative.



Dr Carlo Cogliati (Research Associate)

Cogliati has been working closely with the VHI on strategic planning for research and other initiatives, with a particular focus on the intersection of Catholic thought, interreligious dialogue and broader academic culture.



Dr Flavio Comim (Research Associate)
University Ramon Llull

Comim published the article “A Capability-Approach Perspective on Regional Development” in *Regional Studies*, co-authored with Maria Abreu and Calvin Jones. The article received the 2025 Regional Studies Association Best Paper Award for the Regional Studies: Policy Debates section. He also co-authored two further articles published in *The*

Journal of Development Studies and in the *Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy and Society*.



Prof. Ken Dark FSA (Senior Research Associate)

McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research and University of Cambridge

Prof. Dark completed a book titled “Tyrants and Traders. Tintagel, Arthur and the Lost Kings” to be published in July 2026. He Directed the sixth season of archaeological fieldwork on the previously uninvestigated hinterland of the fifth-to seventh-century royal centre at Tintagel Head, Cornwall. He directed the final season of the excavation of the missionary centre established by St. Augustine of Canterbury.



Dr Thana de Campos-Rudinski (Research Associate)

Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile

de Campos-Rudinski is Co-Director of the research program “Dignity and Equity in Women’s Health” of the UNESCO Chair in Bioethics and Human Rights. Her most current research project includes “Lonely Mothers, Loving Institutions and Institutional Homemaking”, which explores how applying the philosophical concepts of love and homemaking could reshape institutions, laws, and public policies, such as universal day-care and personalised perinatology, and their impact on families and the broader common good.



Rev. Dr Luigi Gioia (Research Associate)

Saint Thomas Church, New York City

Rev. Gioia published “Prayer in the Secular City” in *Concilium*. He also presented the lecture, “The healing potential of neipsis (“guarding of the heart”) in Christian prayer and mindfulness” at the *Society for the Study of Theology* (University of Warwick). In addition, he delivered “Models of Evangelization: Discerning How To Live and Proclaim the Gospel” as the keynote lecture at the *Episcopal Diocese of Texas Clergy Conference* (Camp Allen).



Prof. Johannes Hoff (Senior Research Associate)

Universität Innsbruck

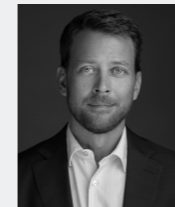
Hoff was founding member of the Future Foundation, launched on 29 September 2025 in Vienna. He published the articles “Trinitarische Technikanthropologie”

in *Zeitschrift für Theologie und Philosophie* with Oliver Dürr and “The Gift of Intelligence and the Sacramentality of Real Presence. Overcoming the Dataist Metaphysics of Modern Cognitivism” in *Modern Theology*.



Dr Carole Irwin (Research Associate)
University of Aberdeen

Irwin continued her work on the “Growing in Friendship” research project in partnership with Lyn’s House, Cambridge. She presented findings from this project at the *Charles Plater Trust 150th Anniversary Conference, Catholic Social Teaching on the Streets* (Campion Hall College, Oxford) and at the *Theology and Action Research Network Annual Colloquium* (University of Durham).



Mr Scott Jackson (Research Associate)
University of Notre Dame

Jackson contributes regularly to the VHI’s research strand on “Shakespeare and the Common Good?”. Over the course of 2024, in collaboration with Fleeting Year Films, Jackson produced a short film titled *A Prison Hamlet*, which documents Jackson’s reunion with Miles Folsom, previously a student in his Acting Shakespeare class, upon his release from prison after serving 12 years of a 36-year sentence. In January 2025, he assumed the presidency of the Shakespeare Theatre Association, for which he will serve until January 2027.



Rev. Dr Isidoros Katsos (Research Associate)
University of Athens

Rev. Katsos was awarded the Prize for Best Theological Research from the National University of Athens. He published widely, including “An Apology for the Apology: Gregory of Nyssa’s Philosophy of Light and Why It Matters” in Johannes Zachhuber and Anna Marmodoro’s book, *Gregory of Nyssa: On the Hexaemeron: Text, Translation, and Essays* and “Is There an Orthodox Concept of Natural Theology?” in Vasilios N. Makrides and Eudoxie Delli’s book, *Intersections of Orthodox Christianity with Modern Science: Current Perspectives from Theology and Philosophy*.



Prof. Mihaela Kelemen (Senior Research Associate)
University of Nottingham

Kelemen published two articles, “The Role of Boundary Spanning in Building Trust: A Place-Based Study on Engaging Hardly Reached Groups in Community Healthcare Settings” in *Sociology of Health and Illness* with Lara Bianchi, Alysha Kate Shivji, Jonathan Tallant and Stephen Timmons and “Hospital Corridors as lived spaces: the reconfiguration of social boundaries during the early stages of the Covid pandemic” in *Sociology of Health and Illness* with Alice Faux-Nightingale, Simon Lilley, Kerry Robinson and Caroline Stewart. In September 2025, she served as Visiting Professor at the University of Paris Est Créteil. She also launched and became Director of the Centre for Society, Nature and Organisations.



Rev. Dr John McCabe (Research Associate)

Rev. McCabe published two books *Dietrich Bonhoeffer – The Last Eight Days, The Untold Story of the Journey to Flossenbürg* and *Acht Tage im April, Dietrich Bonhoeffers Letzter Weg nach Flossenbürg*.



Prof. Lorraine McCrary (Research Associate)
Wabash College

McCrary published a journal article “Conversation as Political Education” in *Perspectives in Political Science*. She also published the book chapter “Disability and Subsidiarity: Addressing Social and Political Inclusion” with Parker Gamble in *Intellectual Disabilities and Autism: Ethics and Practice* by Andria Bianchi and Janet A. Vogt. A description of some of her work was translated into Italian *La Scelta di Geel: Sorprendente vita di una cittadina belga e delle sue famiglie affidatarie*.

Dr Nancy Michael (Research Associate)
University of Notre Dame



Michael currently serves as the Director of Education and Co-Director for the Neuroscience and Behaviour major at the University of Notre Dame. She also partners with multiple community organisations to develop and implement NEAR (Neuroscience, Epigenetics, Adverse childhood experiences and Resilience) science approaches.



Dr Caterina Milo (Research Associate)
University of Sheffield

Milo published the book *Informed Consent to Abortion: Building Bridges of Dialogue in the Medical Encounter*.



Rev. Dr. Stephen Chase Pepper CSC (Postdoctoral Associate)
King's College, PA

Rev. Pepper published the article, "Prayer, Participation and Perfection in Dante's *Commedia*" in *Modern Theology*.



Rev. Prof. Greg Peters (Research Associate)
Biola University and Nashotah House Theological Seminary

Rev. Peters published *Anglican Spirituality: An Introduction*. He also produced a

book chapter "Evangelicalism's Embrace of Early Monastic Reading Practices: An Accidental Ressourcement" in *Scripture in the Search for the Doctrine of God: Reading and Receiving the Bible in Christian Tradition – Essays in Honor of D.H. Williams*. He published the article "The 'Reanimation Principle' of Edward Bouverie Pusey: The Re Establishment of Monasticism in the Church of England" in *Anglican and Episcopal History*. He was appointed as Visiting Scholar at Wycliffe Hall, University of Oxford.



Dr Simon Ravenscroft (Research Associate)
Magdalene College, Cambridge

Ravenscroft published two journal articles, "Humour, Transcendence, and Selfhood: An Essay on Lightness and

Truth" in *Modern Theology* and "On Surprise and the Indirectness of the Theological in the Work of Ivan Illich" in *Conspiratio*.



Dr Lidia Ripamonti (Research Associate)

Ripamonti is the VHI's Research and Editorial Manager. In her role as Research Associate, Ripamonti carries out research between disability studies, philosophical anthropology and phenomenology, in relation to which she has been coordinating the VHI research initiative "Disability, Knowledge, and the University".



Prof. Maura Ryan (Senior Research Associate)
University of Notre Dame

Ryan's primary interests are in the areas of bioethics and health policy, women's health and development, and

Catholic Social Teaching, in relation to which she has been collaborating closely with the VHI and St Edmund's to develop new directions for strategic initiatives.



Prof. Clemens Sedmak (Senior Research Associate)
University of Notre Dame

Sedmak published a monograph *Anständige Institutionen* and worked as editor for *The Routledge Handbook*

of Philosophy and Poverty with Gottfried Schweiger. He published two articles respectively in the *Journal of Catholic Social Thought* and in the *Notre Dame Journal of Law, Ethics and Public Policy*. In recognition of his work on Catholic social teaching, he received an Honorable Mention from the Catholic Media Association of the USA for "Enacting Integral Human Development".



Prof. Philip Sheldrake (Senior Research Associate)
Oblate School of Theology

Sheldrake published *Civility: Cultivating Public Virtues* and the Italian translation of his book *A World Transfigured: The Mystical Journey*.



Mr Rupert Shortt (Research Associate)

Shortt published the book "The Eclipse of Christianity and Why It Matters" in the UK and the US. He also contributed academic reviews to *Theology* magazine, and general articles on religion to *The Spectator*.



Dr William Simpson (Research Associate)
Durham University and University of Oxford

Simpson co-edited the collection *A History of Natural Law: From the Ancient World to the New Aristotelianism*, accepted for publication by Cambridge University Press. He published a journal article, "The Cosmos as a World City: A Hylomorphic

Foundation for Civic Renewal" in *Religions*. He also co-edited a special issue "Why Middle-Sized Matters to Science & Religion" of *Scientia Et Fides*, which explores the metaphysical and theological significance of everyday objects, persons, and sacraments in light of developments in contemporary science and philosophy.



Prof. Wojciech Szczerba (Senior Research Associate)
Evangelical School of Theology, Duke University and Union Presbyterian Seminary

Szczerba published *In Search of Dignity:*

The Human Being in the Light of Formative Metaphors. He edited the volume *On the Road to Freedom: Dietrich Bonhoeffer and Edith Stein* with Joel Burnell and Piotr Lorek.



Prof. Alain Tschudin (Senior Research Associate)
Stellenbosch University

Tschudin was awarded the UNESCO Gandhi-Montessori-Luthuli Chair on Education for Peace and Transformative

Solidarity. He hosted the UNESCO Research Engagement Dialogue Series (REDS) with notable speakers from Africa, the Americas, Asia and Europe. He published the article "Ending War, but Beginning Peace?" in *New England Journal of Public Policy*.



Prof. Paul Weithman (Senior Research Associate)
University of Notre Dame

Weithman is the Glynn Family Honors Professor of Philosophy at Notre Dame and currently directs the interdisciplinary minor in Philosophy, Politics and Economics.



Prof. Colin Williams (Senior Research Associate)

Colins completed the final year of his Leverhulme Emeritus Fellowship. He published *Official Language Regimes* and several articles on language policy.

Research Affiliates

Dr Peerawat Chiaranunt
University of Notre Dame

Dr Gianmarco Contino
University of Birmingham

Dr Michael Driessen
John Cabot University

Prof. Mark Engelman
The Thomas Cromwell Group

Rev. Dr Boris Gunjevic
Westfield House

Dr Vladimir Kmec
Eastern Europe at the Ecumenical Center

Dr Maria Devlin McNair
independent scholar

Prof. Walter Van Herck
University of Antwerp

Mr Jonathan Warner
LCC International University

Prof. Heidemarie Winkel
Bielefeld University

Research Seminars

The VHI Research Seminars constitute a central component of the Von Hügel Institute's commitment to interdisciplinary research and scholarly exchange. These occasions provide a forum in which VHI Associates and Affiliates present and critically discuss their ongoing work. The seminars are designed to foster dialogue across disciplines, creating space for intellectual exchange, rigorous debate, and the development of new research initiatives. During the academic year 2024-25, the following seminars were held:

25 November 2024

Caterina Milo and Thana de Campos-Rudinsky, "Miscarriage: A Hidden Loss".

24 February 2025

Rev. Greg Peters, "Theology in a Monastic Key: The Superiority of the Monastery to the University".

10 March 2025

Flavio Comim, "The Love Hypothesis: Links Between Human Development and Moral Sentiments".

17 March 2025

Heidemarie Winkel, "Secularism, Feminism and the Post-Secular Turn"; Johannes Hoff, "Automation and Idolatry: Reading the Signs of Our Time with William Cavanaugh".

12 May 2025

Vlado Kmec, "Faith in Action: Church Responses to Ukrainian Refugees in Central and Eastern Europe".

20 May 2025

Paolo Carozza, "Reflections on Human Dignity and Algorithmic Technologies".

2 June 2025

William Simpson, "The Cosmos as a World City: A Philosophical Reflection".

9 June 2025

Maria Burke, "The AI Regulatory Landscape: A Story in Progress"; Gianmarco Contino, "Navigating Medical Uncertainty, Enhancing Patient Autonomy, and Fostering Hope Through AI-Driven Clinical Decision-Making".

16 June 2025

Rev. Isidoros Charalampos Katsos, "Early Christian Natural Theology and Twentieth Century Natural Theology: Why They Are NOT the Same"; Peerawat Chiaranunt, "Creation 'con mezzo'".





Our Research Strands

Over recent years, the Von Hügel Institute has consolidated three core research strands that reflect its commitment to interdisciplinary inquiry and socially engaged scholarship. These strands have generated new research activity, external collaborations, public engagement initiatives, and growing publication outputs, while also strengthening the involvement of Research Associates and Affiliates within the Institute’s academic networks.

Disability, Knowledge, and the University

The research strand “Disability, Knowledge, and the University” was initiated in March 2023 through a collaboration between the Von Hügel Institute, Notre Dame Rome, the Nanovic Institute for European Studies, Lyn’s House Cambridge, and L’Arche Italy.

Our work explores the nature of knowledge in the context of disability, and the social and cultural factors that contribute to the marginalisation of individuals with intellectual disabilities within educational and social institutions. It aims, thus, to analyse broader and expansive forms of knowledge from the perspective of disability studies and disability experiences, with the goal of developing new epistemic and narrative resources that support encounter, mutual recognition, and belonging.

This research strand brings together members of the disability community, scholars, carers, artists, and representatives of civic and religious institutions. Through this interdisciplinary and participatory approach, it aims to foreground disability experience within academic discourse and to challenge the way we think about disability in

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the university, especially, within philosophy, politics and theology, and about the kinds of knowledge, public policies and recommendations produced in relation to them.

The research strand was launched in 2023 at Notre Dame Rome through an interdisciplinary workshop centred on the concept of relationality and aimed at strengthening connections between community life, disability experience, and university contexts. Subsequent events and participatory activities have been aimed to encourage dialogue and collective reflection on disability, as well as increasing visibility

and integration of disability perspectives within academic discourse, changing the way academia thinks about diversity and inclusion through a relational approach with disability at its centre.

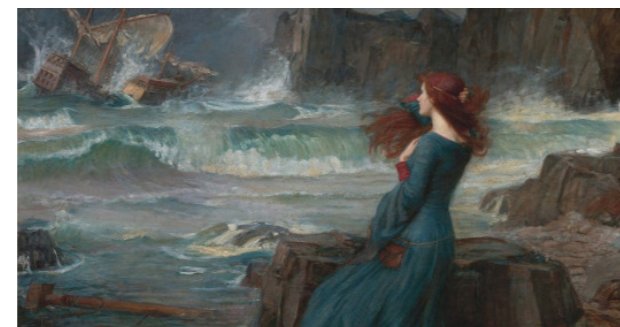
In October 2024 and 2025, the Von Hügel Institute discussed research findings with the Ethics Research Fellows of the Institute for Ethics and the Common Good of the University of Notre Dame, during their visit to St Edmund's College. Further events have included regular

VHI research seminars discussing the epistemology of disability, and a public event at Notre Dame Rome in May 2024 (Lorraine McCrary, "Solidarity and Disability in Communities of Care") on the societal and political questions emerging from disability inclusion. The strand aims to generate resources for scholars and practitioners for the greater participation and leadership by people with disability in academia, religion and society, through the production of academic publications, pastoral materials, community engagement and arts initiatives.

Shakespeare and the Common Good?

The research strand "Shakespeare and the Common Good?" has developed through close collaboration between the Von Hügel Institute, Shakespeare at Notre Dame, the Robinson Community Learning Centre, and Notre Dame London. This strand investigates how Shakespeare's works both support and complicate shared pursuits of the common good. Since 2023, this research project has generated a series of workshops for St Edmund's students, developed in collaboration with Lydia Fox and Richard Ayoade, Distinguished Members of the VHI. These sessions have focused on selected plays, including *King Lear* (June 2023) and *Hamlet* (November 2023), and have explored Shakespeare as a resource for ethical reflection. During academic year 2024-25, Lydia Fox and Richard Ayoade have been working closely with the VHI to develop a longer-term series of workshops based on the success of current initiatives. The VHI is also continuing to collaborate with Scott Jackson and Shakespeare at Notre Dame for the development of new initiatives.

In 2024-25, this research strand was further strengthened through the second instalment of the Shakespeare Lecture Series, *Shakespeare's Virtues: Three Lectures on Living*, hosted online by the Von Hügel Institute in partnership with the New Swan Shakespeare Center at the University of California, Irvine, and bringing together an audience composed by academics and members of the general public. The series was delivered by Prof. Julia Reinhard Lupton, Distinguished Professor of English, University of California, Irvine, and Co-Director of the New Swan Shakespeare Center, and attracted a diverse audience, including academics and members of the general public. It comprised three lectures: "Courage and Hope: A Surfer's Guide to *Twelfth Night*" (12 November 2024), "Love and Dignity: The Serious Stakes of *Romeo and Juliet*"



(19 November 2024), and "Trust and Care: Playing Dead in *King Lear*" (26 November 2024). VHI Affiliate Maria Deviin McNair offered responses to Lupton's lectures,

with actor Ava Burton reading from the plays. The series focused on virtues such as fortitude, judgement, trustworthiness, and compassion, approaching them as practical skills that sustain both individuals and communities. Drama has constantly provided a distinctive platform for ethical inquiry, presenting virtue as both a process and a problem through the multiple perspectives of characters facing complex and morally challenging situations. Across the lectures, Shakespeare's treatment of virtue was examined as a dynamic interaction between reason and emotion, individual character and social context, and artistic expression and lived experience. The Shakespeare Lecture Series, as part of the wider research strand "Shakespeare and the Common Good?", not only strengthened international academic collaboration, but also reinforced the VHI's role in facilitating dialogue between literary scholarship, ethical reflection, and public engagement.

Fragility, Flourishing, and AI Ethics

Developed alongside wider initiatives across St Edmund's College and its affiliated institutes, the research strand "Fragility, Flourishing, and AI Ethics" brings together perspectives from theology, medicine, economics, public policy, and technology to examine the ethical implications of artificial intelligence for human wellbeing. The strand seeks to move beyond narrowly technical debates by situating AI within broader questions of vulnerability, dignity and institutional responsibility. As part of this ongoing programme, the VHI hosted an interdisciplinary hybrid workshop in November 2024 aimed at exploring ethical questions surrounding artificial intelligence from a range of disciplinary perspectives. Researchers across different disciplines explored and discussed the ethics of AI and reflected on its benefits and challenges, especially for the most vulnerable and marginalised in society. The workshop brought together an interdisciplinary audience drawn from members of the VHI and St Edmund's College. Gianmarco Contino spoke on "Medical AI: Uncertainty and Autonomy", examining ethical challenges in clinical decision-making and patient agency. Prof. Gill Goulding brought in her experience as a member of the Theological Commission of the Secretariat of the Synod at the Vatican to address Catholic Perspectives on AI, particularly in relation to Pope Francis' and Pope Leo's writings and the Dicastries of Life, Culture and Education, and Defense of the Faith. Prof. Jonathan Warner analysed

About Prof. Julia Reinhard Lupton



Julia Lupton is the author or co-author of five books on Shakespeare, including *Citizen-Saints: Shakespeare and Political Theology*, *Thinking with Shakespeare: Essays on Politics, and Life and Shakespeare Dwelling: Designs for the Theater of Life*. Her awards include a Guggenheim

Fellowship and an ACLS Fellowship. At UC Irvine, she is a Lauds and Laurels honoree and the recipient of the 2024 Daniel Aldrich Distinguished Faculty Service Award. As Co-Director of the UC Irvine Shakespeare Center, Julia Lupton organises seminars and lectures for UC Irvine's New Swan Shakespeare Festival. Julia has a PhD in Renaissance Studies from Yale University.

the economic implications of AI development, with a focus on emerging opportunities, productivity gains and issues of trustworthiness. Finally, Maria Burke outlined current international guidelines and regulatory approaches to the ethical use of AI, what regulatory frameworks govern this rapidly evolving technology, and what are the international enforcement laws on AI. Together, these contributions reflected the VHI's commitment to addressing technological developments through sustained interdisciplinary dialogue; connecting ethical theory, institutional frameworks, and real-world applications, and contributing to informed public and professional debate on emerging technologies. Following the strong engagement generated by this initiative, the programme will be extended through a second workshop to be held in November 2025, alongside the planned development of a joint publication.

In relation to the same research strand, the VHI also worked with St Edmund's College more generally to host a workshop in October 2024 on AI and religion, on the occasion of the visit to St Edmund's of the leadership team of the Institute for Ethics and the Common Good of the University of Notre Dame. The seminar brought together thought leaders on AI from the University and the College, including the directors of the research institutes affiliated with the College, the Faraday Institute and the Woolf Institute.



Public-Facing Events & Outreach

Each year, the Von Hügel Institute delivers an annual programme of public-facing events designed to foster dialogue on significant issues. These activities position the VHI as a hub where academic inquiry and wider society meet and engage, generating critical reflection and contributing to discussions on the common good, social justice, and related contemporary challenges.

Through a heterogeneous programme, including the 2024-25 Annual Von Hügel Lecture, the Shakespeare Lecture Series, and a range of subject-specific talks and workshops, this year's activities strengthened the Institute's contributions within Cambridge and internationally, while supporting the development of long-term partnerships and collaborative initiatives.

2024 Von Hügel Lecture

The Von Hügel Lecture is one of the most prestigious VHI public events, hosted annually and designed to showcase the interdisciplinary thinking central to the Institute, through the contribution of a distinguished speaker with international standing and recognition. The 2024 Von Hügel Lecture was delivered by Br. Guy Consolmagno, SJ, on 20 November 2024. Br. Guy Consolmagno, SJ, Director of the Vatican Observatory, delivered a lecture entitled "Why Do We Look Up? An Astronomer's Reflection on the Universe and the Call to Study It".

The lecture attracted a large and diverse audience, including members of the College, scholars from across the University, and members of the wider public. The lecture marked the centenary of Fr Georges Lemaître's residency at St Edmund's and celebrated the foundational work that he carried out here and that led to his proposal of what later became known as the Big Bang Theory. Lemaître was the first to propose that the universe is expanding, drawing on evidence from the observed velocities of galaxies. At the time, this idea met with significant resistance as it challenged the prevailing cosmological assumption of a static universe and appeared to imply that time itself might have a beginning. Moreover, given Lemaître's Catholic and Jesuit background, some critics suspected that the theory was influenced by theological commitments, interpreting it as an attempt to lend scientific support to the Genesis account of creation. Using this historical context as a point of departure, Br. Guy reflected on a deeper question: why did Lemaître pursue astrophysics in the first place? This



broadened into an exploration of wider questions, such as why scientists study the cosmos and why members of the Church engage in scientific inquiry.

Drawing on his own experience, Br. Guy recounted that after five years as a postdoctoral researcher at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, he left academic science to join the United States Peace Corps. During his time in Kenya, he was invited to teach astrophysics to graduate students at the University of Nairobi. It was

there, returning to the practical and intellectual work of telescopes and astrophysics, that he rediscovered the significance of the discipline and the deeper motivations that draw humanity to look up. He suggested that “this is what makes us humans: looking through the telescope, asking these questions about the origin of the universe and who are we and how do we relate to the God that made that universe”. He continued “the fact that the universe is rationally and reasonable and able to be understood by creatures like us is even more amazing. In us, the universe has become self-aware and, by us, I do not just mean us here in Cambridge, or as human beings on earth, but anywhere where there might be any creature capable of looking at the Universe and saying, ‘Oh my God’”. Through a profound reflection on creation that brought scientific inquiry and religious belief into dialogue, Br. Guy shared both his intellectual journey and his personal convictions, and compellingly proposed that there is a distinctively Catholic foundation for the pursuit of science: a commitment to the belief that creation is ordered, intelligible, and worthy of study.

In the days surrounding the lecture, Br. Guy was hosted by the Institute of Astronomy of the University of Cambridge, where he offered research seminars at both the Institute of Astronomy and the Kavli Institute, and mentored graduate students. This residency highlights the fruitful and mutually enriching synergies that can exist between VHI, College and University.

The lecture was appreciated by an audience composed by academics, students and members of the general public; and it attracted significant regional and international media attention, including coverage by ITV Anglia News, The

Tablet, The Times and The Vatican Press, substantially extending the reach of the event. This visibility enhanced the public profile of both the Institute and its annual flagship lecture, while also highlighting the historical and ongoing connections between scientific inquiry, theology, and institutional life at St Edmund’s College. Moreover, in its coverage, The Vatican Press noted that the coming years will offer multiple opportunities to mark Lemaître centenaries, each representing an important intersection of science, history, and religion. In this context, the 2024 Von Hügel Lecture provided an ideal occasion to mark the first of these anniversaries, complementing related academic initiatives, including a Lemaître conference held at the Vatican Observatory earlier in the year.

Looking ahead, the Von Hügel Institute is exploring opportunities for future collaboration with the Vatican Observatory and the Institute of Astronomy and the Kavli Institute, in connection with forthcoming Lemaître-related anniversaries and events. Such collaborations will further strengthen interdisciplinary dialogue at the intersection of science and theology.

About Br. Guy Consolmagno, SJ

Br. Guy Consolmagno, SJ, is the Director of the Vatican Observatory. A native of Detroit, Michigan, he earned undergraduate and Master’s Degree from MIT, and a PhD in Planetary Science from the University of Arizona. He was a postdoctoral research fellow at Harvard and MIT, served in the US Peace Corps (Kenya), and taught university physics at Lafayette College before entering the Jesuits in 1989. He joined the Vatican Observatory in 1993, and, in 2015, Pope Francis appointed Br. Guy as Director.

some of the artistic materials she uses, including 24 carat gold leaf and earth, lake and mineral pigments, the lecture provided audiences with a concrete understanding of how theological meaning is embodied through artistic craft.

The event, which attracted an audience composed of academics and members of the general public exemplified the Institute’s engagement with visual culture as a site of theological reflection, highlighting how material practices

contribute to spiritual formation and communal tradition, and reinforcing the role of the arts within broader conversations on faith and culture.

About Dr Irina Bradley

Irina Bradley is one of the leading iconographers in the UK. Her works have been exhibited at Buckingham Palace, Fulham Palace, Christ Church Oxford, Dumfries House, and the Saatchi Gallery. His Majesty King Charles has several of Irina’s icons at his Highgrove Chapel, and her icons are featured in churches and private collections worldwide. She currently teaches MA students at the King’s Foundation School of Traditional Arts in London,

where she conducted her doctoral research on “Spiritual Striving in Icon Painting”. Her research interests include sacred geometry in icons and the symbolism of colour in icon painting.



Practicing Synodality: Toolkits for Churches, Schools, and Communities

On 1 February 2025, the Von Hügel Institute and the Margaret Beaufort Institute jointly organised a collaborative workshop titled “Practising Synodality: Toolkits for Churches, Schools, and Communities”. The three-hour event explored the practical implications of the Church’s call to greater participation within local churches, schools, and community settings, in the context of the multi-year Synod on Synodality, which concluded in October 2024.

The workshop opened with reflections by VHI Senior Research Associate Sr Maria Cimperman, RSCJ, who participated directly in the Synod process and shared insights into its outcomes and ongoing significance. Building on this foundation, participants worked collaboratively to develop a practical toolkit of synodal approaches and shared best practices, informed by structured discussion and contributions from a diverse panel of local community representatives.

The event concluded with a session of “Conversation in the Spirit”, one of the principal methods of communal discernment used during the Synod, enabling participants to reflect collectively on how synodal principles might be implemented within their own institutional and local contexts. Overall, the workshop, attended by academics and local practitioners, aimed to promote sustained engagement with synodal practices beyond the formal conclusion of the Synod process, reinforcing the Institute’s commitment to connecting theological reflection with lived communal practice.



About Sr Dr Maria Cimperman, RSCJ

Sr Maria Cimperman, RSCJ, is a member of the Religious of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (RSCJ). Her Master of Divinity is from the University of Notre Dame, Licentiate in Sacred Theology from Weston Jesuit School of Theology and PhD in Theological Ethics from Boston College. She is currently Professor of Theological Ethics and Consecrated Life at Catholic Theological Union (Chicago, USA), where she also served for 8 years as the founding Director of the Center for the Study of Consecrated Life. During 2021-22, Sr Maria Cimperman was one of two women religious theologians, with Dr Gemma Simmonds, CJ, and two men religious theologians serving on the International Union of Superiors General and Union of Superiors General (UISG-USG) Synod Synthesis Commission which read and together prepared a synthesis of the responses from religious around the globe for the two Unions. In September 2023, she began a position at UISG in Rome coordinating their global Synodality Initiative.



Major Projects & College-Wide Initiatives

Over recent years, the Von Hügel Institute has worked in close synergy with St Edmund's College to develop major research projects and high-profile initiatives that enhance the academic work of both the Institute and the College through prestigious international collaborations, innovative research activity, and sustained student engagement across institutions. Building on this shared commitment, the

Institute's strategic priorities for the coming academic years are twofold: firstly, to further consolidate the integration of the VHI within the life of the College, strengthening its role as a central research hub at St Edmund's; and secondly, to expand opportunities for collaborative research, student exchange, and international partnership that reflect the College's academic mission and global outlook.

Second Memorandum of Understanding with the University of Notre Dame

The partnership between St Edmund's College and the University of Notre Dame was formally established in March 2022, when the two institutions signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The agreement committed both institutions to a three-year period of collaboration in areas of shared academic interest and expertise, grounded in a common Catholic intellectual tradition. On Monday, 7 April 2025, a second Memorandum of Understanding was signed between St Edmund's College and the University of Notre Dame, renewing and strengthening this partnership. The new agreement reaffirms the shared commitment of both institutions to advancing higher education as a force for the common good through collaborative research, academic exchange, and public engagement. In particular the new MoU highlights three areas for shared initiative: programmes for graduate students, opportunities for postdoctoral researchers and faculty exchanges.

The first MoU had led to a range of collaborative initiatives. These included an undergraduate internship programme between Notre Dame London and the Von Hügel Institute, which has enabled several Notre Dame students to spend extended periods at the VHI, fostering international academic exchange and providing hands-on experience within a research-intensive environment. In addition, a pilot postgraduate scholarship scheme was established to support fully funded Master's study at St Edmund's College for Notre Dame undergraduates holding mission-based scholarships, with the first scholar



commencing in Michaelmas 2023. The partnership has also generated a series of joint research projects involving the VHI and multiple Notre Dame partners, including Notre Dame London, Notre Dame Rome, the Nanovic Institute for European Studies, and Shakespeare at Notre Dame. As highlighted in previous sections, these collaborations now form a central pillar of the VHI's core research strands.

The renewed Memorandum of Understanding strengthens these existing initiatives while opening new avenues for the partnership. Already in the months immediately following the signing of the new MoU, significant progress was made in each of the areas mentioned above, with a view to having several concrete initiatives at graduate, postdoctoral and faculty levels in place by the end of academic year 2025-26.

Overall, the partnership between the University of Notre Dame and St Edmund's College has the potential to constitute a distinctive presence within the international academic landscape and to act as a meaningful force for the common good. Notre Dame's being a leading global Catholic research university, committed to collaborating with the best secular research universities in the world, finds a natural counterpart in St Edmund's College as a constituent college of the University of Cambridge, the only full college of either Cambridge or Oxford with

a post-Reformation Catholic founding, and a College committed, as stated in its Royal Charter, to facilitating the contributions of the Catholic Church and members of the Catholic Church to its academic endeavours. This profound institutional complementarity creates unique opportunities for collaboration across research, teaching, formation, and community engagement, uniquely positioning the partnership to generate forms of academic work and civic impact that are exceptional and distinctive within contemporary higher education.

Notre Dame Interns

As part of the partnership between St Edmund's College and the University of Notre Dame, the Von Hügel Institute offered internship placements to undergraduate students from Notre Dame, during their study period at Notre Dame London.

For Michaelmas term 2024, Tomasz Harbut and Sarah Kerber joined the Von Hügel Institute. Tomasz, an undergraduate studying biology on the pre-medicine track with a minor in anthropology, reflected on the importance of interdisciplinary research. At the VHI, he was tasked with many responsibilities, including the promotion of a range of events, from research seminars to workshops and lectures. He emphasised the value of bringing people from different disciplines together to engage in discussion and expressed his strong belief in the significance of the VHI's work, noting that it fosters a deeper understanding of how different disciplines relate to Catholic Social Teaching.

Sarah, an undergraduate studying English and Economics with a minor in Constitutional Studies, expressed gratitude for her choice of taking the internship. She described the VHI as a supportive environment where interns are treated as valued contributors. She particularly appreciated being entrusted with developing a pitch for a flagship Easter term event, a task she found both challenging and rewarding, and valued that her ideas were genuinely taken into account by the team.

In Lent Term 2025, the VHI welcomed Tia Mittle and Dora Tomko. Tia Mittle, studying Global Affairs and Political Science with a minor in International Development Studies, described the internship as an opportunity to engage with questions at the intersection of faith,

ethics, and human dignity. She particularly valued the Institute's interdisciplinary environment, where discussion of contemporary global issues was consistently framed in terms of their impact on the human person. The experience, she noted, encouraged a deeper understanding of "hope" not as abstraction, but as an active and transformative commitment.

Dora Tomko, a student in the Program of Liberal Studies with minors in History and the Glynn Family Honors Program, reflected on the intellectual and communal dimensions of the internship. She highlighted the opportunity to contribute to the wider activities of the Institute, gaining insight into both the historical foundations and contemporary mission of the VHI. Participation in College life, including formal dinners and regular engagement with fellows, scholars, and students, provided a distinctive experience of Cambridge's academic culture.

The success of the initiative led to a further round of internships in 2025-26. During Michaelmas Term, Jada Bautista and Suzanne Santiago, joined the Institute in Cambridge, continuing the partnership and strengthening transatlantic academic collaboration.

The internship programme reflects the VHI's broader commitment to forming the next generation of scholars and practitioners through sustained intellectual engagement, interdisciplinary dialogue, and participation in the life of the Institute and the College. By integrating academic reflection with institutional and communal experience, the initiative embodies the Institute's mission to connect rigorous scholarship with lived questions of faith, ethics, and public life.

Notre Dame Scholars

A further key element of the growing partnership between St Edmund's College and the University of Notre Dame has been the graduate student scholarship scheme, designed to bring Notre Dame graduates holding mission-based scholarships to St Edmund's to study in the University at Master's level, with the VHI providing further opportunities for advanced study and research. During the academic year 2024-25, Jacob Sherer and Brian Joseph studied in Cambridge's MPhil in Politics and International Studies and contributed significantly to the life of the College. Both scholars interacted regularly with the VHI team, which contributed significantly to their research and academic development. In academic year 2025-26, St Edmund's and the VHI welcomed two new Notre Dame scholars, Leah Brucal and Isa Sheikh, who currently study

respectively in the MPhil in Health, Medicine and Society and the MPhil in Modern South Asian Studies.



UNESCO Gandhi-Montessori-Luthuli Chair of Education for Peace and Transformative Solidarity

In 2024, Prof. Alain Tschudin, Senior Research Associate of the Von Hügel Institute, was appointed to the UNESCO Gandhi-Montessori-Luthuli Chair of Education for Peace and Transformative Solidarity. The Chair, awarded for a four-year term, is jointly hosted by Stellenbosch University, and St Edmund's College. Named in honour of Mahatma Gandhi, Kasturba Gandhi, Maria Montessori, Albert Luthuli, and Nokukhanya Bhengu Luthuli, the Chair is dedicated to advancing a culture of peace through education, recognised by UNESCO as central to sustainable development, poverty eradication, and intercultural dialogue.



The Chair is a central component of the UNITWIN/ UNESCO Chairs Programme, established in 1992, which harnesses the expertise of higher education and research institutions worldwide to promote collaboration and generate innovative solutions to some of the most complex global challenges of our time. Over the years, the Programme has played a pivotal role in the development of new teaching and educational initiatives, in fostering ongoing dialogue, and in supporting new research activities. It has also contributed to the establishment of a robust international network of scholars, strengthening connections within the global higher education community.

In this role, Tschudin's work engages directly with UNESCO's global priority areas of Africa and Gender Equality, focusing on three interrelated domains: Education for Peace, Human Rights for Social and Environmental Justice, and Transformative Solidarity.

This work is more relevant than ever, says 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. From this base, various entities within the University of Cambridge have expressed an interest in collaboration to promote human dignity, meaningful solidarity and global peace. In an era of rising ethno-religious nationalism and threats to universal rights, education for peace and transformative solidarity must be at the forefront of our efforts to uphold human dignity and planetary integrity”.

Tschudin brings a longstanding record of engagement in the three focus areas of the Chair, combining research and humanitarian work, as well as leadership roles in prominent institutions worldwide. After his second PhD in moral philosophy and theology on the meaning of being, at the University of Cambridge completed in 2007 (the first obtained in Psychology in 1999 at the then University of Natal), Tschudin worked for the University of Seville and the European Commission on a project to foster social integration and economic participation for immigrant and ethnic minorities in Spain. Afterwards, he returned in South Africa and ran the Conflict Transformation and Peace Studies Programme at the University of KwaZulu-Natal

using dialogics to pursue solidarity among residents and refugees, along with peace, democratization and human rights initiatives in marginal communities. Tschudin has done humanitarian work with Save the Children International, with UNICEF in the Central African Republic and served as the UN's inter-agency Child Protection Assessment Coordinator for Northern Syria. He was Executive Director of Good Governance Africa, a pan-African NGO, in Johannesburg, Professor in the WITS School of Governance and lead consultant for the UN Special Advisor on Africa. Subsequently, he was Director of the International Centre of Nonviolence at the Durban University of Technology. Since 2022, he has served voluntarily as President of the Association Montessori Internationale, the NGO set up by Dr Maria Montessori in 1929, and he recently joined the Board of the Gorée Institute in Senegal.

Tschudin's appointment as UNESCO Chair positions the Von Hügel Institute and St Edmund's College at the forefront of scholarship that advances peace, social justice, and transformative education globally. Through this recognition, the Institute continues to strengthen its commitment to applied research with international impact, fostering collaboration across disciplines and institutions, and contributing to UNESCO's vision of a more equitable, and peaceful world.

John Henry Newman Research Fellowship

During academic year 2024-25, St Edmund's College and the VHI worked to set up the John Henry Newman Research Fellowship in Catholic Studies, which was formally launched in Michaelmas 2025. This prestigious Fellowship has been made possible through the generous bequest of the late Rev. Dr Ian Ker (1942-2022), the preeminent scholar of the life and thought of St John Henry Newman. The establishment of the Fellowship stands as a testament to Rev. Ker's enduring legacy and his commitment to fostering the Catholic intellectual tradition within higher education.

Commenting on the launch, the Master of St Edmund's College, Chris Young, noted: “The College is honoured to carry forward Rev. Dr Ker's legacy through this Fellowship, which reflects both his scholarly passions and St Edmund's commitment to advancing Catholic intellectual life. By providing a stable, endowed, and fully integrated postdoctoral role within the Arts and Humanities, St Edmund's aims not

only to support outstanding individual scholarship, but to make a broader commitment to academic renewal, beginning with the disciplines and traditions that shape our moral, cultural, and philosophical understanding of the world”.

Beginning in October 2026 and tenable for three years, the Fellowship will support research on Roman Catholicism across a broad range of disciplines, including English, History, History of Art, Modern Languages, Philosophy, and Theology.

The creation of this Junior Research Fellowship marks a significant milestone in the future development of the Von Hügel Institute as the research centre of St Edmund's College. By promoting groundbreaking research at the intersection of Catholic Studies and other academic fields, the Fellowship further consolidates the Institute's interdisciplinary character and strengthens its contribution to Catholic intellectual life within the University.

Looking ahead

As the Von Hügel Institute continues to consolidate its position as a hub for interdisciplinary research at the intersection of Catholic thought and contemporary global challenges, the coming academic years will focus on deepening research activity, strengthening collaborations, and expanding public engagement.

The academic year 2025-26 will feature the Institute's two principal flagship lectures. The Von Hügel Lecture, to be held in May 2026, will be delivered by Prof. Pumla Gobodo-Madikizela, recipient of the 2024 Templeton Prize, who will speak on “Bearing Witness: Responsibility, Recognition, and the Quest for Repair”. The Lattey Lecture, scheduled for April 2026, will be given by Sister Damien Marie Savino, author of *Learning the Language of Creation: Catholic Social Teaching and Integral Ecology*, who will speak on “Humans as Gardeners: ‘Tilling’ and ‘Keeping’ in the Spirit of Integral Ecology”. Together, these lectures will continue the Institute's tradition of fostering rigorous intellectual reflection on questions of moral, theological, and societal significance.

During academic year 2025-26, the VHI will also run an expanded series of research seminars, designed to sustain dialogue and support the development of new interdisciplinary research among its Associates and Affiliates. The Institute will also launch a new version of the *The Von Hügel Institute Working Papers* series.

“The coming academic years will focus on deepening research activity, strengthening collaborations, and expanding public engagement.”

The series will publish academic papers, reflective essays, and lectures by members of the VHI and of St Edmund's College, and by the wider community of researchers, academic partners, practitioners, visiting scholars and speakers whose work is in synergy with the Institute's. Published online in open-access format, the series will further advance the Institute's commitment to accessible, interdisciplinary scholarship. The first publication (scheduled for 2026) will present findings from the research strand “Fragility, Flourishing, and AI Ethics”.

Looking further forward, a key goal for the VHI is to continue strengthening its role within St Edmund's College in research, academic engagement, and public initiatives, with the aim of further consolidating the Institute as a core part of the academic life of the College, in the light of its unique Catholic heritage.

Development

If you share our commitment to fostering interdisciplinary dialogue at the intersection of Catholic thought and contemporary global challenges, we warmly invite you to partner with us as we continue to develop and expand our work. The Institute's ambitions in research, public engagement, and the formation of future scholars depend upon the vision and generosity of those who believe in the enduring value of rigorous intellectual inquiry rooted in moral and theological reflection.

The work of the Von Hügel Institute relies significantly on the support of our donors, whose commitment enables our lectures, research initiatives, visiting scholarships, and student engagement programmes. Their generosity not only sustains our current activities but also allows us to plan confidently for the future, strengthening the Institute's role within St Edmund's College and the wider academic community.

In addition to the support highlighted in previous sections above, during academic year 2024-25 the VHI received a donation (from a donor who wishes to remain anonymous) to support initiatives aimed to strengthen the Institute's academic work at the intersection of Catholic thought and culture, other religious traditions and academic debates of contemporary global relevance. This is indeed a key area of growth for the Institute, and we are profoundly grateful for this generous gift, which will allow us to pilot new important initiatives.

Together, we can shape the future of interdisciplinary research and intellectual innovation at the VHI and beyond.



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