The Jesuits and Globalization Project

BERKLEY CENTER
for Religion, Peace & World Affairs

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INTRODUCTION

Since its founding by St. Ignatius of Loyola in 1540, the Society of Jesus has embraced a global horizon. Over the centuries, the Jesuits have propelled interreligious and intercultural dialogue; spurred educational innovation; and advocated for justice and the global common good.

In today’s era of globalization, marked by unprecedented political, cultural, and religious pluralism and pressing international challenges of peace, human rights, and development, the Jesuits’ global horizon is more critical than ever before.

How can we improve understanding across the world’s great religious and cultural traditions? How can we educate students for citizenship and leadership in a globalizing world? And how can we build more just and effective global governance?

The Jesuits and Globalization Project at Georgetown University addressed these questions over three years through a series of symposia and a book project that brought leading Jesuit and lay scholars to examine the historical contributions of the Jesuits to globalization and the contemporary relevance of their global perspectives for the challenges facing humanity in the twenty-first century.

We invite you to learn more about the project and its trajectory.

Dr. Thomas Banchoff
Professor of Government and Foreign Service
Director, Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs

Dr. José Casanova
Professor of Sociology and Senior Fellow, Berkley Center
As the oldest Catholic and Jesuit institution of higher learning in the United States, Georgetown University aspires to advance knowledge and dialogue about today’s most pressing global challenges. The Jesuits and Globalization Project is a key part of our effort.

DR. JOHN J. DEGIOIA, PRESIDENT, GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

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CORE THEMES

MISSION AND DIALOGUE

Only decades after its formation in 1540, the Society of Jesus had active missions around the world. In their global engagement Jesuits have combined a commitment to spread the Gospel with an embrace of dialogue with different cultures and religions. The project explored the idea of human dignity that has historically animated Jesuit missions and remains critical today, given global imperatives of interreligious and intercultural understanding.

EDUCATION AND THE HUMAN PERSON

The Jesuit contribution to global education can be traced from the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius (1548) through today’s global network of Jesuit schools, colleges, and universities. The commitment to Cura Personalis that informs the exercises is a bridge between the medieval and Renaissance humanist conceptions of the human person. The project addressed the relevance of the Jesuit model to efforts to strengthen and reimagine liberal education in a global era.

JUSTICE AND THE COMMON GOOD

The founding document of the Society of Jesus invokes both the “glory of God and the common good.” Jesuits have often served as confessors to Catholic rulers and politicians. More significantly, they have made enduring contributions to the fields of law and human rights, and social justice. The project addressed historical and contemporary Jesuit efforts to pursue the global common good and the relevance of the Jesuit approach to globalization in today’s world.
The Jesuits and Globalization Project was organized around three symposia and a capstone conference, which was held in partnership with Gregorian University in Rome in December 2014, to mark the bicentennial of the reestablishment of the Jesuit Order. Each symposium brought together leading scholars and practitioners to explore Jesuit innovations and legacies in the areas of mission, education, and justice, and their broader contemporary relevance.

**TIMELINE AND MILESTONES**

**Jesuit Global Mission, Intercultural Encounter, and Interreligious Dialogue**  
Georgetown University, April 18-20, 2013

**Jesuit Education, Spiritual Formation, and Care of the Human Person**  
Oxford University, October 24-26, 2013

**Jesuit Approaches to Justice, Peace, and the Global Common Good**  
Villa le Balze, Fiesole (by Florence), May 8-10, 2014

**EDITED VOLUME**

The papers and discussions at the three symposia culminated in an edited book manuscript on the Jesuits and Globalization, to be published by Georgetown University Press in 2014.

**WEBSITE**

An interactive website, based at the Berkley Center, houses video from the project events and other related resources designed for scholars, educators, and a wider public.
The Jesuits and Globalization Project brought together leading international scholars, both lay and Jesuit, with a variety of disciplinary and national perspectives.

**PROJECT LEADERS**

- **Thomas Banchoff**
  Professor of Government
  Vice President for Global Engagement and Berkley Center Director, Georgetown University

- **José Casanova**
  Professor of Sociology and Berkley Center Senior Fellow, Georgetown University

**PARTICIPATING SCHOLARS**

- **Peter Balleis, S.J.**
  Director
  Jesuit Refugee Service, Rome

- **Maria Clara Bingemer**
  Professor of Theology, Pontifical Catholic University, Rio de Janeiro

- **Francis Clooney, S.J.**
  Professor of Divinity and Comparative Theology, Harvard University

- **Philip Endean, S.J.**
  Professor of Spirituality
  Centre Sèvres, Paris

- **David Hollenbach, S.J.**
  Professor of Theology, Boston College

- **Daniel Madigan, S.J.**
  Professor of Theology, Georgetown University

- **Aliocha Maldavsky**
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- **John McGreevy**
  Professor of History, Notre Dame University

- **John O’Malley, S.J.**
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- **Sabina Pavone**
  Researcher and Adjunct Professor, University of Macerata, Fermo

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  Sophia University, Tokyo

- **Antoni Ucerler, S.J.**
  Associate Professor of History, University of San Francisco

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José Casanova is one of the world’s leading scholars of religion and society. A professor of sociology and senior fellow at Georgetown’s Berkley Center for Religion, Peace, and World Affairs, Casanova has published works in a broad range of subjects, including religion and globalization, migration and religious pluralism, transnational religions, and sociological theory. His best-known work, *Public Religions in the Modern World* (1994), has been translated into six languages, including Arabic, Japanese, and Turkish. In 2012, Casanova was awarded the Theology Prize from the Salzburger Hochschulwochen in recognition of lifetime achievement in the field of theology.
The Jesuits and Globalization Project was closely linked back to Georgetown University’s mission as a student-centered research university. A team of student assistants, based at the Berkley Center, were involved in research, events, publications, and online dialogue related to the project.

In summer 2012, Colin Steele (SFS ’12) conducted a series of in-depth interviews with Jesuits in five countries, addressing key themes of the Jesuits and Globalization Project. The interviews, available on the Berkley Center website, provide an overview of the contemporary concerns of the Jesuit order as they relate to issues of dialogue, education, and justice—in their home countries and around the world.

Over the past several years, the Berkley Center and the Center for Social Justice, Research, Teaching, and Service, have sponsored Education and Social Justice Fellowships. The fellowships enable select Georgetown undergraduates to spend several weeks at Jesuit institutions around the world that are engaged in creative work promoting social justice through education. Countries visited so far include the Philippines, Chile, Uruguay, Kenya, and South Africa. The project is made possible through the generous support of Rodney Jacob (MSB ’86, JD ’89), a member of the Board of Regents.