



The International Academy for Marital Spirituality (INTAMS) is a non-profit organization, founded in Belgium in 1989 and located near Brussels, Belgium. Drawing on and committed to the intellectual and cultural heritage of Christianity, INTAMS is dedicated to the study of and dialogue about the meaning and relevance of marriage and families in the context of contemporary society.

INTAMS' WORKING PRINCIPLES

- Academic & Interdisciplinary
- Independent, ecumenical & international
- Integrating theory & praxis

INTAMS' ACTIVITIES

- Chair for the Study of Marriage & Spirituality
- Library for the Interdisciplinary Study of Marriage
- Events (conferences, symposia, seminars, colloquia, lectures)
- Book series INTAMS Studies on Marriage and Family / INTAMS Studien zu Ehe und Familie
- Consulting services to church and society

Practical Information

TARGET AUDIENCE

The Symposium is open to all who are interested in this theme. The language of the symposium is English.

SYMPOSIUM FEES

Registration	before 26/03/2018	after 26/03/2018
- Senior Scholar/Professional:	€120	€150
- Junior Scholar/Student ⁽¹⁾ :	€60	€75
- KU Leuven member:		free
- Conference Dinner (optional):		€54
- Payment on site upon arrival:		€180

⁽¹⁾Proof of enrolment in a university/school required.

It is possible to participate **ONLY** in the evening debate **Today's Families and the Church** with Mgr. Johan Bonny on Thursday 26 April 2018 from 20.00 to 21.30 (followed by reception). Participation is free, registration is mandatory via www.intams.org.

PAYMENT

To confirm your participation, please pay the required fee within 3 days of your online registration.

Bank - IBAN: BE06 4364 1519 5122 - BIC: KREDBEBB
Reference: SYMP18 + name(s) of participant(s)

PayPal - We will send you an email with an invitation to pay.

Cash - Payment on site upon arrival can be made only in cash and only in euros (€180).

VENUE & ARRIVALS

When? Thursday 26 April 2018 between 13.00 and 14.45

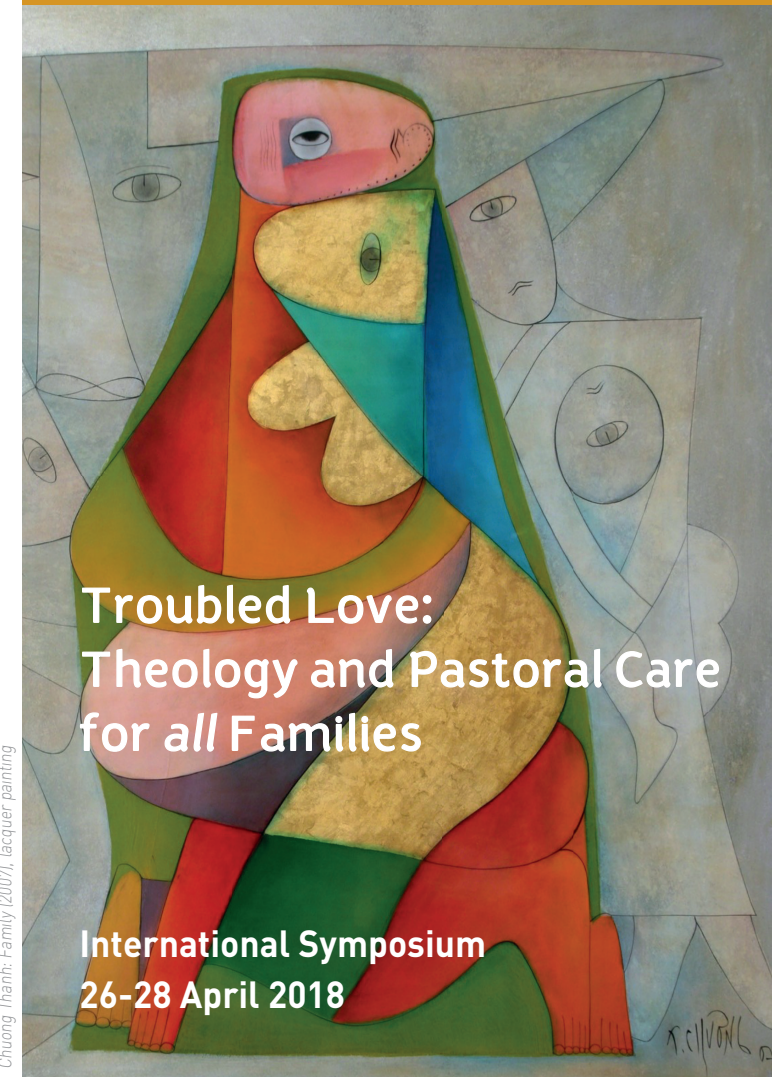
Where? KU Leuven, Irish College (The Leuven Institute for Ireland in Europe), Janseniusstraat 1, 3000 Leuven, Belgium.

You will receive all further practical details and materials at the Registration Desk.

TRAVEL & ACCOMMODATION

Participants are required to take care of their own travel arrangements, accommodation and meals.

Information can be found at www.intams.org.



Troubled Love: Theology and Pastoral Care for all Families

International Symposium
26-28 April 2018

Chuong Thanh: Family (2007), lacquer painting

Online registration & information:
www.intams.org

KU LEUVEN

Faculty of Theology & Religious Studies

Call for papers:
www.intams.org



www.intams.org



Troubled Love: Theology and Pastoral Care for all Families

How can the church welcome, support and guide families who do not live according to the ideal of formal, lifelong and heterosexual marriage and who cannot fall back on previous experiences or proven role models?

What social and spiritual resources are already present in these families?

How should one adequately value the commitment and resilience, the joys and hopes that characterize them?

The church is "called to be the house of the Father, with doors always wide open...where there is a place for everyone, with all their problems" (Evangelii gaudium, 47). Evoking equally the image of a mother who cannot renounce her child, Pope Francis urges the church to "accompany with attention and care the weakest of her children, who show signs of a wounded and troubled love, by restoring in them hope and confidence" (Amoris laetitia, 291).

The pope's vision marks a shift in the church's teaching which until recently regarded the traditional marriage-based type of family as normative and other forms of couple relationships and family life as deficient. According to Francis, however, there are no perfect marriages or families, and all human loving is in some way "troubled".

Therefore, pastors and theologians are called to rethink their approaches, the former by learning to discern the complexity of interpersonal relationships and to "turn with love to those who participate in the church's life in an incomplete manner"; the latter by developing adequate theological frameworks that help recognizing that God's grace is also at work in relationships which do not conform to traditional standards and sometimes prove particularly fragile and vulnerable on a human level.

The symposium invites scholars in theology, practitioners in ministry and counselling, and couples to explore the potential as well as the possible pitfalls of Pope Francis's new approach, to offer models of good practice, and to exchange experiences in this field across professional, national, and cultural borders.

Thursday, 26 April 2018

FIRST SESSION

- 13.00-14.45 Registration
 15.00-15.30 Welcome
Thomas Knieps, INTAMS Chair for the Study of Marriage & Spirituality, KU Leuven
Mathijs Lamberigts, Dean of the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies, KU Leuven
Address: Theology and families: un/familiar approaches
Susannah Cornwall, University of Exeter
 15.30-16.15 Questions and Plenary
 16.15-16.30 Coffee break
 16.30-17.00 Parallel Paper Sessions
 17.00-18.45

EVENING PANEL

- 20.00-21.30 **Today's Families and the Church**
 Introduction: **Aldegonde Brenninkmeijer-Werhahn**, INTAMS
 Panel Discussion with **Johan Bonny**, Bishop of Antwerp
 21.30 Reception

Friday, 27 April 2018

SECOND SESSION

- 09.00-09.45 **Address: Families – where to go from here? Sociological perspectives on contemporary family life**
Elisabetta Ruspini, University of Milano-Bicocca
 09.45-10.15 Questions and Plenary
 10.15-13.00 (+ coffee break) **The Church I live in today and the Church I long for tomorrow**
 Testimonies from lived experience and discussion with the audience
 Panel session* chaired by Elizabeth Davies, Marriage Care, UK

THIRD SESSION

- 15.00-15.45 **Address: What do families need most today? A counselling perspective**
Jean Marsh, Marriage Care, UK
 15.45-16.15 Questions and Plenary
 16.15-16.45 Coffee Break
 16.45-17.30 **Address: New forms of family life: Theological-ethical perspectives and normative orientation**
Jochen Sautermeister, University of Bonn
 17.30-18.00 Questions and Plenary
 19.30-22.00 Conference Dinner

Saturday, 28 April 2018

FOURTH SESSION

- 08.30-09.00 Prayer Session
 09.15-10.00 **Address: Spiritual resources in non-normative families: A pastoral-theological perspective**
Martina Kreidler-Kos, PTH Münster/Diocese of Osnabrück
 Panel Discussion: Feedback from experience to theory and vice versa
 10.00-12.45 (+ coffee break)
 12.45-13.00 Conclusion

* The panel will be composed of several participants from different European countries who will give testimonies from their experience living in a same-sex couple, a divorced-remarried couple, a blended family or a single-parent family.