Call for papers:
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A Point of No Return?
Amoris Laetitia on Discernment and Conscience for Divorced and Remarried Couples

International Symposium
25-27 October 2016

Faculty of Theology & Religious Studies
Catholic University Leuven, Belgium
Theme

In his Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation *Amoris Laetitia*, Pope Francis has reminded the Church that it should “make room for the consciences of the faithful, who very often respond as best they can to the Gospel amid their limitations, and are capable of carrying out their own discernment in complex situations” [AL, 35].

Respect for personal conscience and pastoral discernment should also guide the Church’s theological stance and pastoral attitude toward contemporary forms of living together, especially those that do not conform to the ideal of exclusive and lifelong marriage.

The Symposium explores the implications of this vision, with particular regard to those whose first marriage has failed and who have entered a second union.

Is admission to the sacraments of penance and the Eucharist the goal of such personal and pastoral discernment?

Does *Amoris Laetitia* open up new possibilities in the pastoral care of the divorced and remarried, or is it just a belated legitimation of practices that have long been established in many places?

How does it affect the Church’s understanding of the indissolubility of marriage?

A special focus will be on the reception of the synod process and of *Amoris Laetitia* by marriage and family care services in various local churches throughout Europe.

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**Tuesday, 25 October 2016**

**OPENING SESSION**

14.30-15.00

**Opening Addresses**

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

15.00-15.45

**Making Room for the Conscience of the Faithful**

Timothy Radcliffe OP, Former Master of the Dominican Order, Fellow of Blackfriars Hall, the University of Oxford

15.45-16.15

Questions and Plenary

16.15-16.45

Coffee Break

16.45-18.30

**Parallel Paper Sessions**

19.30-21.00

**Introduction**

Aldegonde Breninkmeijer-Werhahn, Director of INTAMS

Rik Torfs, Rector, KU Leuven

**Reflections on the Synod Process and Amoris Laetitia**

Reinhard Cardinal Marx, Archbishop of Munich and Freising

21.00

**Reception**

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**Wednesday, 26 October 2016**

**FIRST SESSION**

09.00-09.45

**Divorce and Remarriage: A Reading of Amoris Laetitia from a Theological-Ethical Perspective**

Martin M. Lintner, Philosophical-Theological College Brixen, Italy

09.45-11.00

**First Inputs from European Marriage & Family Ministry**

Elizabeth Davies, Marriage & Family Life Project Officer, Catholic Bishops’ Conference of England & Wales

Teresa Ventimiglia & Giordano Barioni, National Service for Family Ministry of the Italian Bishops Conference

Questions and Plenary

11.00-11.30

Coffee Break

11.30-12.15

**Mitis Iudex Dominus Jesus and Amoris Laetitia on Divorce and Remarriage: Perspectives from Canon Law**

Hildegard Warnink, KU Leuven

12.15-13.00

Questions and Plenary

13.00 - 15.00 Break

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**SECOND SESSION**

15.00-15.45

**The Indissolubility of Marriage: A Reading of Amoris Laetitia from a Sacramental-Theological Perspective**

Peter Hünermann, University of Tübingen

15.45-16.15

Questions and Plenary

16.15-16.45

Coffee Break

16.45-17.30

**Accompanying Fragility: A Reading of Amoris Laetitia from a Pastoral-Psychological Perspective**

Paul Galea, University of Malta

17.30-18.30

**Second Inputs from European Marriage & Family Ministry**

Monique Baujard, Former Director, Family & Society Service of the French Bishops Conference

Hilde Pex, Coordinator, Interdiocesan Council for Family Ministry, Flanders (Belgium)

Questions and Plenary

18.30-20.00

Break

20.00-21.00

**An Ethics of Mercy: On the Way to Meaningful Living and Loving**

by Roger Burggraewe, KU Leuven

Introduction by Thomas Knieps, KU Leuven

Conversation with the author

21.00

**Reception**

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**Thursday, 27 October 2016**

**THIRD SESSION**

08.30-09.00

Prayer Session

09.15-10.00

**Accompanying, Discerning and Integrating the Fragility of Couples: Pastors and Theologians at a Crossroads**

Arnaud Join-Lambert, Université Catholique de Louvain

10.00-10.45

**Third Inputs from European Marriage & Family Ministry**

Franz Harant, Pastoral Worker for Relationships, Marriage and Family, Diocese of Linz, Austria

Questions and Plenary

10.45-11.15

Coffee Break

11.15-12.45

**Panel Discussion with all speakers**. Chair: Mark Molden, Chief Executive, Catholic Marriage Care, UK

12.45-13.00

Conclusion