

Organising committee

Sarah Barthélemy (UCLouvain Saint-Louis)
Annick Delfosse (ULiège)
Philippe Desmette (UCLouvain Saint-Louis)
Isabel Harvey (UCLouvain / UQAM)
Silvia Mostaccio (UCLouvain)
Liliana Pérez Miguel (Universidad de Burgos)

Scientific committee

Cormac Begadon (Durham University)
Gemma Betros (Australian National University)
Sylvie Duval (Università di Bologna)
Sergi Sancho Fibla (Université Clermont Auvergne)



REGISTRATIONS

This conference will examine the manifestations of religiosity of women who were not fully considered by the Catholic Church as members of its body, such as *beatas*, consecrated virgins, beguines, *bizzoche*, penitents, tertiaries, *puellae*, as well as sisters of religious congregations, from 1400 to 1900.

These women will be examined from the perspective of the Americas, Africa, and Asia. As many of these global experiences are closely tied to colonising states, Europe will only be considered in relation to these non-European cases. The aim is to integrate these models of religious life into the cultural, religious, social and economic history of women religious and devout laywomen, who have often been sidelined in favour of cloistered nuns. The long chronological period considered will highlight continuities and ruptures beyond the confessional age.

The main objective of this collaboration between two international initiatives, ISHWRA (International Scholars for the History of Women Religious Association) and *Sorores* (*SORORES. Les religieuses non cloîtrées en Europe du Sud, XII^e-XVIII^e siècles*), is to look, on a global scale, at women who were engaged in models of religious life that have been under-researched due to the ambiguity of their status and their presence on the margins of monastic institutions, or because of the scarcity of sources.

Polymorphism and Polycentrism in Women's Religious Engagement Americas, Africa, and Asia, 1400–1900

12–13 May 2026



UCLouvain



Conference organised at UCLouvain
Saint-Louis campus
Louvain-la-Neuve campus



Institut d'analyse du changement
dans l'histoire et les sociétés contemporaines



Programme

12 May 2026

Saint-Louis campus, Brussels
Salle des Examens

13h45

Introduction Sarah Barthélemy (UCLouvain Saint-Louis) and **Liliana Pérez Miguel** (Universidad de Burgos)

14h-15h45

SESSION 1 How Women's Religious Commitment is Experienced and Defined

14h| Yolande François (Université Jean Moulin Lyon 3)

Jewish Female Religiosity as a Matrix of Christian Models: Rethinking Women's Religious Polymorphism in a Longue Durée Perspective

14h20| Ji Li (The University of Hong Kong)

Chinese Christian Virgins: Adaptation, Contribution, and Identity

14h40| Tiffany Hunsinger (University of Dayton)

Between Cloister and Community: Beatas and Laywomen in Colonial Mexico as Agents of Polymorphic Catholicism

15h| Sofía Brizuela (UNSTA) & **Óscar Leonardo**

Londoño (Universidad Nacional de Colombia)

Del hecho prodigioso a la institucionalidad. La beata María Ramos y el culto a la Virgen de Chiquinquirá

15h20| Discussion

Coffee break

16h-18h10

SESSION 2 How Women's Religious commitment is Controlled, Debated, or Prosecuted

16h| Julia Lewandowska (Uniwersytet Warszawski)

La Santita: Gender, Mystical Theology, and the Prism of Sanctity. The Case of Beata Josefa Romero (1620–1655) in the Viceroyalty of New Spain

16h20| Esther Borauzima Feza (UCLouvain)

Kimpa Vita et le messianisme kongo : Subversion religieuse, agency féminine et résistance anticoloniale au XVIII^e siècle

16h40| Luis Rodríguez Toledo (PUCP / UNMSM)

“¿A qué vienes puta, a atormentarnos?”. Ángela de Carranza, el buen gobierno y la mala burocracia en el Perú, 1673–1689

17h| Laura Montoya Upegui (Universidad de los Andes)

Between Support and Distrust: “Women Only Spend on Ribbons and Feathers” (Antioquia, 1886–1954)

17h20| Rimliya Tariq Telkenaroglu (McGill University)

Demoniac, Witch, or the Living God? The Female Quaker Minister in Early Modern England

17h40| Discussion

18h30

Keynote

Martina Vinatea (Universidad del Pacífico)

Catalina María Doria, from Milan to Peru: Fragments of a Life

13 May 2026

Louvain-la-Neuve campus

LC Christine de Pizan – salle flexible 2

11h-13h

SESSION 3 How Women's Religious Commitment is Embedded in and Acts within Society

11h| Marya Svetlana T. Camacho (University of Asia and the Pacific)

For Sound Doctrine and the Holy Fear of God: The Beaterio de la Compañía in Eighteenth-Century Manila

11h20| Patrick Romuald Jie Jie (Université de Bertoua)

Vie religieuse et statut des femmes catholiques du “Sixa”: Entre aspiration conjugale et dévotion religieuse au Cameroun colonial (1890–1960)

11h40| Liliana Pérez Miguel (Universidad de Burgos)

Jacinta Montoya: Networks and the Political Agency of Lima's Religious Women in the Seventeenth Century

12h| Ariel J. Morrone (CONICET / Universidad de Buenos Aires)

Dos beatas, dos estampas. Religiosidad local y redes de poder en Jesús de Machaca (obispado de La Paz, Charcas), siglos XVII–XVIII

12h20| Discussion

Lunch and coffee break

14h30-16h30

SESSION 4 How Women's Religious Commitment Circulates and is Transformed Globally

14h30| Elena Manchado Rodríguez (Museo Naval de Madrid)

Gesuitesse, Pregadoras and Apóstoles: Women Evangelizers in the Seventeenth-Century Asian Pacific

14h50| Sarah Barthélemy (UCLouvain Saint-Louis)

Beatas, Demoiselles and the Spiritual Exercises for Seventeenth- and Eighteenth-Century Women. Manila, Vannes and Córdoba

15h10| Adriana G. Alonso Rivera (Benemérita Universidad Autónoma de Puebla)

Female Nazarene Identity and Its Performative Dimension: From Secularity to Augustinian and Carmelite Institutionalisation (17th–18th Centuries)

15h30| Discussion

15h45| Closing round-table discussion moderated by par Isabel Harvey (UCLouvain / UQAM)