

*"It does not matter which is the true religion,
what matters is to be able to live together"*
Michel de l'Hospital, 1560

THE UNSPOKEN SACRE

The religious dimension of intercultural dialogue

An International conference of Fondazione Intercultura onlus

Bari, 31st March – 2nd April 2017

Why a conference on this topic

Why is *sacre* such a difficult topic to address in intercultural encounters, both between believers of different faiths and between believers and agnostics or atheists?

One reason has to do with respect and the fear of hurting other people's sensitivity. We tend to avoid any reference to the religious dimension of life because we feel that we tread on dangerous ground, where we risk to step on other people's feelings and to touch what is untouchable for many. Historical and contemporary situations tell us that we might be right. Nonetheless this avoidance leads into dark corners, where misunderstandings, distortions, caricature and even hostility may arise: thus intercultural encounters miss the opportunity of opening a fuller trans-cultural dialogue and deeper mutual understanding.

Our Conference will try to separate the different dimensions of religions: theology, liturgy, culture – and it will focus on the third one, culture, leaving aside any discussion on inter-religious dialogue. We welcome presenters and workshop leaders among academics and "experts in religions" (historians, sociologists, anthropologists and psychologists), but not among religious leaders or clergy of any faith. In Intercultura's tradition, we also welcome mediators and volunteers working with multi-cultural and multi-religious situations.

The Intercultura Foundation has always privileged research and projects involving youth and education. In this Conference it is imperative to separate clearly "doctrine" from "religious culture" and its influence on history, art, literature. Discussions on doctrine belong to religious institutions and their clergy. Religious culture should belong to all and we claim that it must be part of the education of young people, to avoid that "respect" (or rather "fear") limit their ability to understand and appreciate the relevant impact of the *sacre* on all cultures.

The current silence does not convey respect and understanding. From this Conference we expect some enlightenment and some suggestions on how to turn "the unspoken *sacre*" into a dialogical one.

Venue and draft programme

Bari, Region of Apulia, Southern Italy
Hotel and Conference Centre Villa Romanazzi Carducci
Via Capruzzi 326 – 70124 Bari

Programme

Friday, 31st March 2017

Conference Centre – Hotel Romanazzi Carducci

Opening session at 16.30

Welcome remarks

Greetings by authorities

Key note speaker: Diane Moore, Harvard University

Panel – Religious cultures and difficult dialogue

- Ros Garside – The Bradford Syllabus
- Giovanna Barzanò – Italian Ministry of Education
- Ekaterina Teryukova – University of St. Petersburg

19.30-21.00 Buffet dinner

21.00-22.30 – Concert presented by Orchestra della Città Metropolitana di Bari
Music from various religious traditions

Saturday 1st April 2017

Conference Centre – Hotel Romanazzi Carducci

Concurrent sessions of 2 hours each

09.00-11.00 The cultural dimension of religions

- Al-Andalus: Can it be a model of intercultural dialogue? – Eva Lapiedra Gutiérrez, University of Alicante

- Religious identity vs. cultural and national identities – Vassilis Saroglu, University of Louvain

- Diritti umani in una prospettiva interculturale – Marco Ventura, University of Siena

- Etica, colpa, espiiazione nelle tradizioni religiose – Alberto Fornasari, University of Bari

- Nascita, sofferenza, morte nelle tradizioni religiose – Adriano Favole, University of Turin

- Identità, appartenenza religiosa e difficoltà di dialogo interculturale" – Paolo Inghilleri, Università degli Studi di Milano

- Is religion intelligible to secular societies? – Valérie Amiraux, University of Montreal

11.30-13.30 Intercultural dialogue and religious dimension

- Sacro, identità e comunicazione – Giuseppe Giordan, University of Padua

- Love, gender, friendship in different religious traditions – Christian Green, Center for the Study of Law and Religion (USA)

- Inter-faith marriages and intercultural conflicts – Abdullahi El Tom – National University of Ireland, Maynooth
- Convivenza possibile e comprensione interreligiosa in società multiculturali – Giancarlo Penza, Comunità di Sant'Egidio, Rome
- Confusione tra fede e ritualità – Ugo Fabietti, University of Milan Bicocca
- Dialogo tra/sulle religioni e media – Paolo Naso, University “La Sapienza” of Rome
- Parlare del sacro tra credenti e non – Franco Garelli, University of Turin

13.30-15.00 Buffet lunch

15.00-17.00 Education for dialogue

- Symbols, State neutrality and access to public school education – Jeroen Tempermann, University of Leiden,
- Esperienze di educazione interreligiose a scuola – Alessandro Saggioro, Università “La Sapienza”
- Formarsi al dialogo interculturale a scuola – Christopher Muscat, Tony Blair Foundation
- Exploring beliefs and values: what we have learned at Generation Global – Jo Malone, Tony Blair Foundation
- The Bradford Syllabus – Ros Garside, Council for Religious Education, Bradford
- The Russian experience – Ekaterina Teryukova, Università di San Pietroburgo

17.30-23.00 Guided tours of old Bari and dinner in the medieval district of the city

Sunday 2nd April 2007

Centro Congressi – Hotel Romanazzi Carducci

09.00-09.30 Summary of items from previous day's discussions

09.30-11.00 Discussion groups about dialogues on faith

- A scuola? – Anna Granata
- In intercultural encounters of pupils? –
- Nella formazione degli insegnanti? – Susanna Mantovani
- In the case of interreligious marriages? - Abdullahi El Tom
- Negli incontri tra credenti e non? – Carlo Fusaro

11.15-12.15 Reporting plenary

12.15-13.00 Conclusions – Roberto Toscano: “A dialogue on sacre”

13.00-14.00 Buffet lunch

Working languages

English and Italian, with simultaneous translation in plenaries.
Groups in the language of the title

Patrons

President of Italy – TBC
Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Strasbourg
“Aldo Moro” University of Bari
Regional Government of Apulia
City of Bari

Preparatory Team

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Collaboration

Laboratorio di Pedagogia Interculturale, Gruppo di ricerca “Religioni in dialogo”,
Dipartimento di Scienze della Formazione, Psicologia, Comunicazione, dell’Università
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Secretariat

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