

Press kit

Deusto, capital of Jesuit universities worldwide

World Assembly of Jesuit Universities

8-12 July 2018

Transforming our world together

It is a pleasure to welcome you to the World Assembly hosted by the University of Deusto. Under the slogan "Transforming our world together", our Assembly aims to express our aspirations and also serve as inspiration. In view of the great work we do as Jesuit universities and our academic programmes, couldn't we advance even further if we worked as a network to build a fairer more sustainable world, and promote renewal and reconciliation in our local and regional communities in this way?

During this 2018 Deusto Assembly, the International Association of Jesuit Universities (IAJU) will be set up as the official Jesuit network of higher education institutes. We will work together to closely examine six strategic priorities for our universities. In the spirit of the requests from the General Congregation 36 to advance in greater use of networks and closer collaboration promoting faith, justice and reconciliation, we will reflect on "communities of good practices". This will focus on proposing programmes that promote these priority areas in our teaching, research and dissemination.

With a view to preparing this Assembly, six working groups were entrusted with the task of preparing tentative documents and proposals that offer a general idea of the challenges we are facing and possible collaboration, action in the local scope and application of the six main thematic areas in the framework. These documents have been forwarded and will form the base for discussion during the event. We will thus be able to share best practices and know what others are doing to push the priority thematic areas. We trust that new ideas for better cooperation between our universities will develop during these meetings.

Following the speeches, debates and presentation of ideas on global programmes, we will meet in a plenary session on Thursday afternoon. This is the last day of our Assembly and will be the time to offer proposals and subjects to the new IAJU governing board. This new advisory body will be formed by two delegates from each of the Society's six regions and will report to the Father General of the Society of Jesus through the Higher Education Secretary.

I would also like to thank you for devoting your time and interest, for your willingness and participation in an event that is so important to Jesuit higher education. Our higher education apostolate is one of the most effective means we have to improve the lives of our brothers and sisters across the world. Furthermore, Jesuit universities continue to be one of the truly global platforms to spread the faith, justice and reconciliation to a world which so desperately needs them.

My kindest regards,



Higher Education Secretary.

Deusto, selected for the World Assembly of Jesuit Universities

The University of Deusto will host the World Assembly of Jesuit Universities from 8 to 12 July in Bilbao. This event will be attended by over two hundred Jesuit universities, colleges and higher education institutions from all over the world. This will make Deusto the capital of Jesuit universities worldwide.

Chaired by the Father General of the Society of Jesus, Arturo Sosa, this event will be attended by some 300 rectors and authorities who will meet under the slogan "Transforming Our World Together" to reflect on and examine some of the key challenges that Jesuit universities and today's world are facing. Examples include political and civic leadership, environmental and economic justice, education for the most disadvantaged, peace and reconciliation and interreligious dialogue.

Leading figures like Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi, Cardinal Giuseppe Versaldi, Pankaj Mishra and Gaël Giraud SJ will speak at the Assembly. Decisions for the new IAJU governing board will be discussed and new possibilities for cooperation between universities, regional networks and the international association itself will be analysed.

There will also be moments charged with symbolism such as the signing and establishment of the new International Association of Jesuit Universities-IAJU network at the Loyola Sanctuary. This association will provide the entire Jesuit university network with a clear legal status, structure and stability. It will give the world's universities new impetus.

The world's leading Jesuit universities, like Georgetown University, Santa Clara University, Loyola Chicago, San Francisco University, Pontifical Gregorian (Italy), Xavierian University Bogotá, Iteso (Mexico), Catholic University of Córdoba (Argentina), Ateneo de Manila University or Sophia University of Tokyo, will take part in this world assembly. The first two assemblies were held in Mexico (2010) and Melbourne (2015).

The University of Deusto was chosen as the location for the 2018 event out of a select group of candidates across the world. Therefore, holding the event here recognises and supports the University of Deusto and the city of Bilbao while setting up the Association opens up a world of new possibilities for Deusto's internationalisation and networking with universities from all over the world.

Useful information

- The largest global university network, in 54 countries
- 210 universities
- 800,000 students
- 450,000 lecturers, researchers and staff
- 5,000,000 alumni

World map of Jesuit universities and higher education institutes.
<https://www.educatemagis.org/university-map/>

Keynote speakers

Cardinal Giuseppe Versaldi

Cardinal Prefect of the Congregation for Catholic Education

- Welcome and opening session (9 July, 9:15): “Greetings from the Congregation for Catholic Education”.



Brief biography

As the “Vatican minister”, he is one of Pope Francis's closest collaborators and is considered one of the eight most influential people in the Catholic Church. The dicastery he chairs is in charge of Church universities, institutes, higher ecclesiastical and civil schools.

Cardinal Versaldi was born in Villarboit, the archdiocese of Vercelli, Italy on 30 July 1943 and was ordained a priest on 29 June 1967. He received his Bachelor's degree in Psychology and PhD in Canon Law at the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. He obtained the title of advocate of the Roman Rota and became a referendary in 1985, a voter in 1990 and finally a member of the Supreme Tribunal of the Apostolic Signature. At the same time, he lectured on Anthropology in the Studium of the Roman Rota.

He was appointed Vicar General of Vercelli on 25 March 1994 and on 4 April 2007 became the Bishop of Alessandria. He received episcopal ordination on 26 May that same year. On 21 September 2011, he was appointed President of the Prefecture for the Economic Affairs of the Holy See and archbishop.

Some lines of thought

“Today's Church is called to a new mission, particularly in the western world: fostering dialogue between faith and reason, a dialogue which serves both

reason and faith, to achieve better more comprehensive progress for all people."

"Catholic education must be comprehensive, striving to achieve all people's growth". Comprehensive education not only boosts intellectual and economic levels but also the spiritual, transcendent realm. On the second level, what is of particular interest is that the Catholic identity be established as a dialogue, not only between believers, but also with non-believers.

"In these times of militant and persuasive secularism, some would like to be entrenched in the certainty of orthodoxy, thus ending the dialogue with non-believers. In contrast, he stated "there will also be many people who forget the identity of Christian believers in the name of dialogue and end up reducing ecclesiastical institutions to mere debate forums, where Catholics become simple referees in a freedom of expression without ever taking a stance".

"Education in the Christian faith means moving young people and children towards human values in all types of realities".

Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi
President of the Pontifical Council for Culture

- Speech (9 July, 11:00): "Catholic Social Teaching and the Role of the Jesuit [University Today](#)".



Cardinal Ravasi, when he was awarded a doctor honoris causa degree by the University of Deusto in 2014.

Brief biography

Cardinal Gianfranco Ravasi was born in Merate, Italy on 18 October 1942. He was ordained a priest of the Milan archdiocese on 28 June 1966 and studied at the Gregorian Pontifical University and the Pontifical Biblical Institute. He lectured on the Old Testament at the Theology Faculty of Northern Italy. He held the position of prefect at the Ambrosian Library in Milan from 1989 to 2007.

In 2007, he was appointed titular archbishop of Villamagna in Proconsolari and chair of the Pontifical Council for Culture and president of the Pontifical Commissions for the Cultural Heritage of the Church and Sacred Archaeology (in November 2012, the Pontifical Commission for Cultural Heritage was merged into the Pontifical Council for Culture). He was consecrated on 29 September 2007.

Pope Francis's "minister of culture" is considered one of the leading Catholic scholars on the dialogue between faith and culture. He has taken the so called "Atrium of the Gentiles" to different world capitals. This dialogue forum between believers and non-believers continues to have a tremendous social, cultural, ecclesiastical and media impact in the cities where it has been held.

In 1989, he was appointed prefect of the Ambrosian Library and Art Gallery in Milan, founded in 1607. He did research in the Middle East at archaeological excavations. In February 2013, he preached the Lenten spiritual exercises to the Roman Curia following Benedict XVI's announcement of his resignation. His broad literary work includes nearly 150 volumes, most of which centre on Biblical and scientific subjects.

One of his main concerns is that non-believers should learn more about Christian culture and that Catholics should be stricter when discussing today's pluralist, lay and postmodern culture. The Lombard cardinal is a leading figure in Italian culture, not only in Catholic circles but in other spheres as well.

He is also an expert on the relationship between Theology and Technology. This is clearly seen in his tweets which include Bible verses and quotes from a diverse range of authors like Goethe, Khalil Gibran, Sciascia or John Lennon. He even said that Jesus would use new technologies today and that He had been the first one to tweet.

Some lines of thought

"Education consists of making people's richness shine, opening it to others and enriching it with those values that enrich it in turn".

"Culture and communication should not just tell us the facts but should provide profound reflection. They could do more".

"The biggest difficulty today is indifference because it does not cause any problems and, therefore, has no need for dialogue".

"I am against duels because I am for "duetto" where voices, even those that are polar opposites, know how to sing in key without having to give up their own identity".

Pankaj Mishra

Indian political scientist and thinker, he is considered one of the leading global thinkers by the journal *Foreign Policy*.

- Speech (10 July, 9:00): "Social and Political Fragmentation and the Role of the Jesuit University".



Brief biography

A writer born in Jhansi, a city in northern India, he currently lives in London where he contributes regularly to *The Guardian*, *The New York Times*, *The New York Review of Books* and *Foreign Affairs* on current world events. Some of his works are: *The Age of Anger*, *From the Ruins of Empire: The Revolt against the West and the Intellectuals Who Remade Asia*. Recognised as one of the top 100 global thinkers by the journal *Foreign Policy*, many of his works have been listed on the *New York Times* best 100 books of the year. He has won numerous literary awards such as the Lionel Gelber in Canada, the Orwell Prize in the United Kingdom and the Asia Society Bernard Schwartz Book Award in the United States. In 2014, he became the first non-western writer to win the prestigious Leipzig Book Award for European Understanding in Germany.

Some lines of thought

"A situation like today's is a breeding ground for authoritarian leaders that manipulate the cynicism and discontent of the masses."

"Complacency has devastated the intellectual classes, above all those that contribute to newspapers. Therefore, they did not see Trump's victory or Brexit coming. Not only are they guilty of not having anticipated this but of facilitating these political disasters".

"In Mediterranean countries, where the family is a unifying force, there is hope but the fierce individualism of Anglo Saxon nations, aggravated by new technologies, can only bring nihilism".

"The idea that progress is unstoppable as long as everyone follows the western recipe has hit rock bottom. It is unsustainable and we would need several planets to feed that model".

Gaël Giraud, SJ

Chief Economist and Principal Investigator of CNRS (National Center for Scientific Research) and member of the Paris School of Economics and the Expert Committee on the National Debate on the Energy Shift for the French government.

- Speech (10 July, 14:15): “Economic Inequality and Environmental Degradation and the Role of the Jesuit University”.



Brief biography

Gaël Giraud is head of research at the University of Paris 1-Sorbonne Economic Center (CES), where he specializes in economic mathematics and of the Paris School of Economics; associate professor at the ESCP-Europe; member of the scientific board of the Laboratory on Financial Regulation and the European observatory, Finance Watch. He lectures at the Centre Sèvres of the Society of Jesus and sits on the scientific board of the Nicolas Hulot Foundation for Nature and Mankind. He authored the book entitled *Financial Illusion* in which he proposes ecological solutions to reach a different type of economy. He has been a member of the Society of Jesus since 2004.

Some lines of thought

“I am convinced that the energy shift is the way out. Due to the high deflationary trap, the continent is locked into budgetary austerity and surpluses in private (not public) debt. What we need is social and political creativity in order to undertake this transition together.”

“We have to break free of this fairy tale which says that deregulated financial markets are efficient and will face up to the energy-climate challenge on our behalf.”

“Financial crises are not inevitable occurrences that we just have to put up with, like those East Asian populations who know that a tsunami from the Pacific may destroy their fragile wooden buildings every year.”

“They tell me I have to pray and talk about God and Human beings like this, with capital letters, and not about banking, but as a Jesuit, everything that affects people has to do with God and with me.”

Father General Arturo Sosa, S.J.

Elected in October 2016 as the Superior General of the Society of Jesus at General Congregation 36.

- [Speech \(11-July, 10:00\)](#): “The Role of the Jesuit University and the Call to Reconciliation”.



Brief biography

Father Arturo Sosa was born in Caracas, Venezuela on 12 November 1948. He has been Delegate for Interprovincial Houses of the Society in Rome, as well as serving on the General Council as a Counsellor. He obtained a Bachelor's degree in Philosophy from l'Università Cattolica Andrés Bello in 1972 and a PhD in Political Science from the Central University of Venezuela in 1990.

He was Provincial Superior of the Jesuits in Venezuela from 1996 to 2004. He had formerly been province coordinator for the social apostolate in Venezuela and director of the Gumilla Centre, a Jesuit research and social action centre in the same country. He joined the Jesuit Curia in Rome as a delegate for the Curia and interprovincial houses and works of the Society of Jesus in Rome. He was appointed General Counsellor in 2008.

Father Arturo Sosa has broad experience in teaching and research. He has held different positions in the university sphere. Professor and member of the Council of the Andrés Bello Catholic Foundation and Rector of the Catholic University of Tachira, his focus area in research and teaching has been Political Science.

He has authored different works, particularly on Venezuela's history and politics. Father Sosa speaks Spanish, Italian and English and understands French.

Some lines of thought

"The purpose of our education is to provide men and women with a background for and with others."

"We have to be alert to the dangers of institutional inertia that hinders discernment and the necessary renewal."

"Our universities need to be aware of the anthropological and cultural shifts we are witnessing and we need to know how to teach and train in a new way for a different future."

"Respect and care of our "common home" requires that our educational institutions offer a background aligned with the ecological aspect of reconciliation".

"The starting point for any reconciliation is acknowledgement."

Six thematic areas

The Assembly of Jesuit Universities has been organised into six thematic areas. These subjects will be discussed and debated in groups in order to put forth some projects at the end of this event. They will shape the areas of action for Jesuit education centres in the future.

The thematic areas will be presented on Monday, 9 June. Work will be conducted in groups on 9 and 10 June and the projects and final recommendations will be presented on 12 June. The thematic areas are:

Background in civic and political leadership

Jesuit universities should engage with political spheres as well as civil society to contribute to the common good and promote justice and reconciliation at the local, national and global levels. With our sights set on long-term success, the social and political responsibility we bear should pervade teaching, research, service and administration at our universities. Universities should adopt leadership programmes and approaches that go beyond business schools. As each university is a “social project”, each university leader is a political leader. Therefore, universities should identify and cultivate leadership talent among Jesuits and laypersons.

Education of the outcast

Jesuit education strengthens people. The God of the Scriptures is found with the poor, orphans, widows and strangers. Yahweh was beside the poor and the oppressed. He led His enslaved people out of Egypt with “the mighty hand and the outstretched arm” (Deuteronomy 7:19) and made them a great nation. And Jesus aligned with the poor and outcast. His mission was to preach deliverance to captives (Luke 4:18) and that the kingdom of heaven shall belong to the poor in spirit (Matthew 5:3). In the parable of Lazarus and the rich man, (Luke 16:19-31), Jesus called the beggars Lazarus (those who God helps) but does not name the rich man, in contrast to the common practice of recognising and catering to the wealthy and ignoring and casting out the poor.

Environmental and economic justice

Under Pope Francis’s leadership, the Church has taken on a leading role in the promotion of economic and environmental justice. *Laudato si’* has won the respect of world leaders and the enthusiastic support of those interested in tackling the growing economic inequality in and between nations. By connecting the environmental crisis to its roots in economic powers and demanding comprehensive environmental humanism, the Church has pointed out the economic, social, political and psychological changes that are needed if we want to survive in our “common home”. How can Jesuit institutions take a leading role in tackling these challenges that are actually two sides of the same coin?

Dialogue and interreligious understanding

Jesuit universities live in a globally connected world formed by very diverse religious contexts. In some places, religious pluralism, where Christians may be the minority or majority or is one of many types of social identity, has been a normal aspect of everyday life for centuries. This same pluralism may be experienced peacefully or be the source of social division, tension and conflict. Many Jesuit universities and higher education institutions are set within societies that are affected by changes in the religious make-up due to movement of populations, political changes or changes in common beliefs or practices. Some areas suffer violence fuelled by religious tensions or the emergence of religious fundamentalism. Others find themselves in the midst of growing religious indifference (particularly among young people) or going through a process of secularisation that ranges from the subtle to the aggressive.

Leadership as an Ignatian course of action

The future of Jesuit education depends on the availability of people, Jesuits and laypersons, who are capable of guiding our universities and faculties in accordance with the mission of the Society of Jesus. Thus, the need to train leaders for the mission. Leaders who are distinctive for their Ignatian way of proceeding, a way that is true to the nearly 500 year old tradition and at the same time, creative and constantly evolving. Although this aim exists at the local, regional, national and international levels, the intention is that the new network of Jesuit higher education institutions should afford an opportunity to take advantage of vital resources more effectively and sustainably. Other priorities include: education of the poor and outcast, of civic and political leaders for the common good, promotion of comprehensive approaches for economic and environmental justice, dialogue and understanding in a religiously plural world and striving for peace and reconciliation.

Peace and Reconciliation

In line with the spirit of General Congregation 36, Jesuit universities are called to play a key role to move towards peace and reconciliation. Through education and research, Jesuit schools can help students to understand the roots of the conflict and injustice that divide communities. Students should be encouraged to promote a culture of dialogue and become committed citizens capable of bridging gaps. Furthermore, Jesuit institutions also have the capacity to help victims of conflicts and can play a mediating role in hostilities. Therefore, truly global networking can enable these institutions to identify the best practices to boost closer collaboration to achieve peace and reconciliation.

Programme

Sunday 8 July-Deusto, Bilbao

- 18:30 mass in the Gothic Chapel
- 20:00 welcome dinner at the Guggenheim Bilbao Museum

Monday 9 July-Deusto, Bilbao

- 9:15 welcome, prayers and opening session. Cardinal Versaldi
- 11:00 official inauguration and speech by Cardinal Ravasi
- 14:15 presentation of the six thematic areas
- 18:00 mass in the Gothic Chapel

Tuesday 10 July-Deusto, Bilbao

- 9:00 speech by Pankaj Mishra
- 14:15 speech by Gaël Giraud, SJ
- 19:00 mass at the Santiago Cathedral

Wednesday 11 July-Loyola, Azpeitia

- 10:00 speech by the Father General of the Society of Jesus and the setting up of the IAJU, International Association of Jesuit Universities
- 16:30 mass in the Basilica of Loyola

Thursday 12 July-Deusto, Bilbao

- 9:00 presentation of the IAJU projects
- 14:30 plenary session: reports from the conferences and discussion of recommendations
- 19:00 closing mass in the Gothic Chapel
- 20:00 meeting at the University

Further information

- Website: <http://iaju.deusto.es/>.
- Newsletter: A newsletter will be sent daily with an account of all the activities, photographs, videos and documentation created. Subscribe to the newsletter <http://iaju.deusto.es/newsletter>
- Social media sites:
Twitter (<http://twitter.com/iajunews>)
Facebook (<http://facebook.com/iajunews>)
Flickr (<http://flickr.com/iajunews>)
YouTube
(<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1gPBpt2ERJUAAnTtVDD8QQ>).