



Governing the Universal Church – Governing the Consciences

Programme Event

International Committee of Historical Sciences | 26–30 August 2026 | Leipzig, Germany

DATE 28 Aug 2026, 08:30 - 10:30	LOCATION House 5 SR 143
THEME J - Connections, Entanglements, and Universal Perspectives on History	CONFERENCE International Committee of Historical Sciences

Overview

With the return of the Curial offices back to Rome after the intense Avignon period and the Church Councils summoned to end the Great Schism of the Latin Church, the Papacy had to face and introduce important changes and reforms into the system of Church governance, as well as to define relations between the Holy See and the local churches, strongly related with the historical and cultural events marking the passage from the Middle Ages to the Early Modern Age such as geographical explorations and discoveries, colonisation of the American continent, Atlantic commerce, globalisation. Consequences of these changes are still visible today in the structure of the Catholic Church, and, far from concerning only the Roman institutions, strongly influence the modern and contemporary world.

The proposed panel intends to offer an interpretation of the period of changes on the bases of the most recent researches conducted in the Roman Curial Archives, dedicated to the history of the Papacy and the Roman Curia, in close and intense dialogue with other historic and social disciplines, relating closely to the new technologies and digital methods.

Participants

Convenor

- Jadranka Nerali? (Department of History, University of Zagreb)

Panelists

- Benedetta Albani (Max-Planck-Institut für Rechtsgeschichte und Rechtstheorie Frankfurt)
- Antonín Kalous (Department of History Palacky University of Olomouc)
- Antal Molnár (Institute of History, Hungarian Academy of Sciences)

Papers

Cardinal Congregations: flexibility and functionality of a novel governance system for the universal Church in the Early Modern age. A diachronic reading between history, legal history and Digital Humanities

Benedetta Albani (Max-Planck-Institut für Rechtsgeschichte und Rechtstheorie Frankfurt)

Papacy: An Extension - Papal legates in spiritual and temporal governance

Antonín Kalous (Department of History Palacky University of Olomouc)

The missionary turn of global Catholicism: Rome towards Eastern Europe and the Balkans

Antal Molnár (Institute of History, Hungarian Academy of Sciences)

A new voice in the convent: visions and canonical regulations of the Congregation of Regulars in governing local monastic life

Jadranka Nerali? (Department of History, University of Zagreb)

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