EUROPEAN SOCIETY FOR CATHOLIC THEOLOGY | BIENNIAL CONGRESS 2027

CALL FOR PAPERS

WHOM SHOULD WE TRUST – OR NOT TRUST?
SEEKING THEOLOGICAL RESPONSES THROUGH TRANSDISCIPLINARY METHODS

1–4 September 2027 • Luxembourg School of Religion & Society

The European Society for Catholic Theology (ESCT) invites proposals for its 2027 Biennial Congress in Luxembourg. The Congress asks how a specifically theological understanding of trust can illuminate the urgent practical question of whom or what we should trust, trust again, or rightly distrust. It seeks to bring biblical sources, Christian Tradition and theological reflection into substantive dialogue with other disciplines, forms of knowledge and professional practice.

The Congress builds on the vision of transdisciplinary theology set out in Ad theologiam promovendam. Rather than simply juxtaposing disciplinary perspectives, it encourages critical exchange that can transform research questions, methods and outcomes. The aim is both to deepen theological understanding of trust and to develop responses relevant to concrete situations in which trust is fragile, damaged or contested.

Contributions may explore, for example, the relationship between trust and faith; the foundations and limits of interpersonal or institutional trust or trust in oneself; trust in the Church, politics, economic life or technology, including artificial intelligence; the role of justified distrust; and the possibilities and limits of rebuilding trust. These examples are not exhaustive. Proposals must address the Congress's central question explicitly and demonstrate a distinct theological contribution.

We welcome **individual papers**, **collaborative or practice-based research**, **projects linked to teaching**, and **initiatives involving doctoral researchers**. Contributions may also discuss **outputs designed for audiences beyond academia**. In all cases, applicants are encouraged to explain their transdisciplinary approach and reflect critically on the **heuristic, epistemic and relational dimensions** of their research process. Conventional scholarly papers remain welcome.

Submission requirements

Applicants should submit a draft of their proposed paper of 2,500–3,500 characters, including spaces and bibliographical references. The draft must focus specifically on the Congress theme, state its central question or argument, indicate its theological grounding and methodological approach, and identify relevant sources. Please also provide your full name, academic or professional affiliation, proposed paper title, and a brief biographical note (maximum 300 characters).

Deadline: 30 March 2027 | Send proposals to: **2027@lsrs.lu**

This call is a concise invitation to participate and should be read together with the longer 2027 Congress project description, "Whom Should We Trust – or Not Trust? Seeking Theological Responses through Transdisciplinary Methods", which explains the theological rationale, proposed research formats, and intended outcomes in greater detail.

For more information, visit https://lsrs.lu/events/esct2027.

Congress organiser: Msgr Prof. Dr Dr Jean Ehret, Director of the LSRS and Vice-President of the ESCT | jean.ehret@lsrs.lu