



War and Genocide, Reconstruction and Change: The Global Pontificate of Pius XII, 1939–1958

Research Meeting
Rome, 14 – 16 June 2021

Livestream

Registration is required:

14.6. and 16.6. École Française de Rome

For registration, please check the [website of the École française de Rome](#)

15.6. German Historical Institute in Rome

For registration please send an e-mail to info-event@dhi-roma.it (deadline: 14 June 2021).

Deutsches Historisches Institut in Rom
Istituto Storico Germanico di Roma
Via Aurelia Antica, 391
I - 00165 Roma
www.dhi-roma.it

École française de Rome
Piazza Navona, 62
I - 00186 Roma
www.efrome.it

Organisation and contact

Simon Unger-Alvi (DHI Rome)
unger-alvi@dhi-roma.it

Nina Valbousquet (EFR)
nina.valbousquet@efrome.it

With support of



In March 2020, the Vatican has opened its archives for the pontificate of Pius XII. Long-awaited within the scholarly community, these new sources will allow historians to address a whole range of topics that extend beyond Eugenio Pacelli's biography and relate to greater questions of global politics as well as twentieth-century social and economic history. This shared conference of the German Historical Institute and the École Française in Rome will now offer new archival perspectives on this period.

Pius XII steered the Catholic Church not only through the mass violence of the Second World War and the Holocaust, but also through the period of post-war reconstruction, the Cold War, and finally into a new era of globalization. This pontificate, in other words, stands amidst of the "Age of Extremes" that forced Catholics to situate themselves in relation to conflicting ideologies, totalitarianism, democracy, and modernity. Although a period of accelerating secularization, the pontificate also witnessed the re-emergence of the Catholic Church as an influential global force.

Fig.: Pius XII, visiting the San Lorenzo district of Rome after a bombing, 13 August 1943 (© Wikimedia Commons).

Monday, 14 June 2021, 9.00 am – 18.00 pm
École française de Rome

9.00 Brigitte Marin | Director of the EFR
Martin Baumeister | Director of the DHI
Sergio Pagano | Prefect of the Vatican Apostolic Archive
[Address of Welcome](#)

9.15 Nina Valbousquet | Roma & Simon
Unger-Alvi | Roma
[Research Questions on Pius XII](#)

I - Archival Opportunities

9.30 Giovanni Coco | Città del Vaticano
[Scrivere e riscrivere la Storia. L'apertura degli Archivi Vaticani per il pontificato di Pio XII](#)

Suzanne Brown-Fleming | Washington
[Il Papa Tedesco: Eugenio Pacelli and Germany](#)

Sascha Hinkel | Münster, Jörg Hörnschemeyer | Roma
[The Man Eugenio Pacelli in the Online Edition of his Nuncial Reports from Germany: A Digital Approach](#)

11.00 Break

II - Snapshots of a Papacy: Power and Media

11.30 Camilla Tenaglia | Trento
[Card. Eugenio Pacelli becomes Pius XII: the Mediatization of a Papal Election](#)

Michael Berkowitz | London
[The Making of Pius XII – by Sammy Schulman?](#)

René Schlott | Potsdam
[The Death of Pope Pius XII as a Global Event](#)

13.00 Lunch Break

III - Church Government and Authority

14.30 Elisabeth Richter | Münster
[Censoring Books during the Turbulent Years of War and beyond: the Index of Forbidden Books during the Pontificate of Pius XII](#)

Fabien Archambault | Limoges
[L'excommunication des communistes en 1949](#)

Stefan Samerski | München
[The Saints of the Pope – Canonization and Beatification in the Age of Pius XII](#)

Marta Margotti | Torino
[La questione dei preti operai e il nunzio a Parigi Angelo Roncalli \(1944–1953\)](#)

16.00 Break

IV - The Church and the Holocaust

16.30 Hubert Wolf | Münster
—
[Asking the Pope for Help. A Critical Online Edition](#)

18.00

Tommaso Dell'Era | Viterbo
[Anti-Jewish Prejudices and Theological Definition of Racism: their Impact on the Catholic Church's Attitudes during the Shoah](#)

Elena Mazzini | Firenze
[The Local Church, the Holy See and the Rescue Practices. The Aids to the Jews during the Nazi-Fascist Occupation of Florence in light of New Archival Knowledge](#)

Alessandro Santagata | Padova
[Il cattolicesimo italiano nella Resistenza \(1943–1945\): stato della ricerca e nuove prospettive](#)

Tuesday, 15 June 2021, 11.00 am – 19.30 pm
Deutsches Historisches Institut in Rom

V - Postwar Reconstruction

11.00 Gianfranco Armando | Città del Vaticano
[Gli archivi della POA e dell'ONARMO: Chiesa cattolica e ricostruzione post-bellica](#)

Rosario Forlenza | Roma,
Bjorn Thomassen | Roskilde
[Pius XII and the Emergence of Christian Democracy in Post-World War II Europe](#)

Camille Mahé | Paris
[The Role of the Pontificia Commissione di Assistenza in the Reconstruction of Italy in the Second Post-War Period](#)

Marie Levant | Paris
[Pius XII and the Middle East: General Background and Case Studies](#)

12.30 Lunch Break

VI - A Global Church in the Postwar Era

14.00 Olivier Sibire | Paris
[The Holy See and the New World: Asia-Pacific \(China, Korea, Japan\) from 1945 to 1955](#)

Jaime Pensado | Notre Dame, Indiana
[The Radicalization of Latin American Catholic Students During the Postwar Era](#)

Susanna de Stradis | Notre Dame, Indiana
Roman Perspectives on the US and American
Catholicism (1945–1958): Open Questions
and New Sources

Maria Chiara Rioli | Venezia-Fordham, New York
The Vatican and the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict:
Humanitarianism, Diplomacy and Interreligious
Relations

15.30 Break

VII - Decolonization and Missions

16.00 Siegfried Weichlein | Fribourg
Papal Diplomacy and Decolonization:
Perspectives and Questions

Marialuisa Sergio | Roma
Missionary Activity and Decolonization
during the Pontificate of Pius XII.
Theological Debate and National Cases

Edouard Coquet | Paris-Pisa
Africanisation and Centralization:
Roman Strategies in Sub-Saharan Africa
in the Late Colonial Period (1930s–1950s)

17.30 Break

18.00 *Public Roundtable*

— **Genocide, Diplomacy, and Humanitarianism**

19.30 Giuliana Chamedes | Wisconsin, Madison
David Kertzer | Providence, Rhode Island
Raffaella Perin | Milano
Karène Sanchez Summerer | Leiden



Wednesday, 16 June 2021, 11.00 am – 16.00 pm
École française de Rome

VIII - Cold War and Communism

11.00 José Ramón Rodríguez Lago | Vigo
The Iberian Axis. The Catholic Factor and the Role
Played by the Vatican and the United States
in Spain and Portugal between 1939 and 1958

Emilia Hrabovec | Bratislava
La Santa Sede e la Cecoslovacchia nel contesto
dell'inizio della guerra fredda 1945–1949

Marion Dotter | München
Watching the Iron Curtain's Descent: Perception
and Reaction of the Holy See to the Development
of a Communist Rule in East Central Europe

Cécile Gonçalves | Paris
Global Anticommunism and the Dogma of the
Assumption in Salazarist Portugal

12.30 Lunch Break

IX - Political and Cultural Changes: Toward Vatican II

14.00 Rachel Johnston-White | Groningen
The Catholic Church and the Question of Authority,
1939–1962

Michael O'Sullivan | Poughkeepsie, New York
Sex and Birth Control in West Germany: Reacting to
Pius XII's Speeches on the Rhythm Method

Kristien Suenens | Leuven
The Vatican Archives and Transformations
of Convent Life in Post-War Belgium

Liviana Gazzetta | Roma
Mondo cattolico italiano e cittadinanza femminile
durante il pontificato di Pio XII (1939–1958)

15.30 Nina Valbousquet | Roma &
— Simon Unger-Alvi | Roma
16.00 **Concluding Remarks**