



## Democracy, Religion, and Pluralism Theological responses

### A Doctoral Students' Conference

In the face of growing inequalities propelled by the neo-liberal free-market mechanisms, hyper-nationalist movements have emerged across the world, manifesting deep-seated resentment and anger among large sections of people that have telling consequences on the democratic practices. In such a volatile context, the conference wrestles with questions: have there been any movements to strengthen democratic ethos and values, and, have they succeeded or failed? Drawing upon Catholic Social Thought and classical as well as contemporary socio-political insights, the papers respond to these critically significant challenges. Catholic theological reflections offered here hope to highlight new insights and narratives that have potential to foster the deepening of democracy and democratic values.

**Thursday, November 11, 2021, 9:00–16:30**

Online: <https://webconference.uibk.ac.at/b/mon-g2v-pbl-fua>

# Program

**Thursday, November 11, 2021, 9:00–16:30**

- 9:00            Welcome: Bala Kiran Kumar Hrudayaraj SJ
- 9:10–9:30     Keynote by the Guest of Honour: Stanislaus Alla SJ (New Delhi)
- 9:30–10:30   Stephen Eyeowa SJ  
The Joshuarian Approach Towards Religious Pluralism:  
Beyond Ethnocentric Ideologies
- 10:45–11:45   Victor Chukwudobe Mordi  
The People of God and the People of the State: A Critique of  
the Role of the Church in Democracy in Nigeria, in the Light  
of *Ecclesia* in Africa
- 11:45–12:45   Gabriel Chapala  
The Catholic Social Teaching on Religious Freedom: A  
Theological Response in the Indian Context
- 14:00–15:00   Tony Kenneth  
Social Teachings of the Catholic Church: A Trajectory Towards  
Radical Ecological Democracy
- 15:00–16:00   Bala Kiran Kumar Hrudayaraj SJ  
Democracy as Public Reason and the Principle of Participation  
in Catholic Social Teaching: A Theological Response
- 16:00–16:30   Concluding Remarks: Wilhelm Guggenberger

## Contact

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