COMMON HOME, PUBLIC THEOLOGY AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Complexity and the UN 2030 SDG Agenda

Prof. Alex Villas Boas

Universidade Católica Portuguesa

Common Home is a shared concept between the UN Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) and the Encyclical Letter *Laudato si’* (Ls), published in 2015 by Pope Francis. Although it is a pontifical document, it is not restricted to the Catholic sphere and has proven to be a milestone for the dialogue between various religious around SDG. Therefore, it is also a new moment to the epistemological dialogue between religions and public agenda.

Considering that Ls is quoted in more than 2,000 scientific papers from different areas in High Impact Factor Journals, only 300 scientific papers came from the Religious Studies, including here theological studies. This issue refers to the emergence of what was called public reason and a certain litigation with theological thought that became self-referential, in a cultural dialectic movement between religious traditions, public space and secularism from 18th to 20th
The main reason of the Ls – which is the idea of “everything is connected” and its overture for a shared commitment in a post-secular society – demands an epistemological shift that could be reached in the complexity theory. That is because the dynamic in which different people and groups, with common problems, start to seek cooperative solutions. Generally, it is possible to recover a cooperative solution, with respect for otherness, in other words, a process in which the task of a public theology can be thought of.

Considering that, this panel welcomes papers that approach how the Common Home issue could be a way to promote a complexity consciousness in hegemonic historical social actors as the traditional religions were, not without considering its historical reminiscences still alive in some contexts.