

Shaping the Future of the Catholic Church - *A Symposium*

4 March 2020
Wednesday
1:00 - 5:00 PM

SMC Conference and Function
Centre

66 Goulburn Street, Sydney,
NSW 2000

Tickets -
[www.trybooking.com](http://www.trybooking.com/BHGJA)
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Speakers:

- **Prof Dr Massimo Faggioli**, a Church Historian and Professor of Theology, Religious Studies, Villanova University, Philadelphia, USA
- **Rev Dr Richard Lennan**, a Theologian and Professor of Systematic Theology at Boston College, Boston, USA; and
- **Prof Dr Myriam Wijlens**, a Canon Lawyer and Theologian and Professor of Canon Law at University of Erfurt, Erfurt, Germany.

Topics Include:

- Ecclesiology of Vatican II;
- Theology for a Future-Orientated Church; and
- Participative Engagement and Structures in a Missionary and Synodal Church.

Facilitator: Geraldine Doogue



SPEAKERS

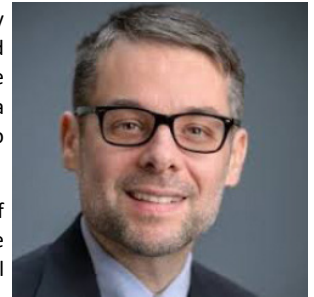
Massimo worked at the John XXIII Foundation for Religious Studies in Bologna from 1996 until 2008, when he moved to the United States. He was visiting fellow at Boston College's Jesuit Institute (2008–2009) and taught at the University of St Thomas, St Paul, Minnesota (2009–2016), where he was founding director of the Institute for Catholicism and Citizenship. He has also been Vatican II Studies co-chair for the American Academy of Religion (2012–2017).

Massimo writes regularly for Italian- and English-speaking newspapers and journals on the Church, religion and politics. He has columns in the Italian Catholic magazine *Jesus* and *La Croix International*. He has been a contributing writer for *Commonweal* since September 2016 and on the staff of the Italian magazine *Il Regno* since September 2017. His books and articles have been published in more than ten languages. His scholarly essays focus on Vatican II, Church history in Italy, application of the council of Trent, Vatican diplomacy, and new Catholic movements.

Among Massimo's numerous books are *The Liminal Papacy of Pope Francis. Moving Toward Global Catholicity* (Maryknoll NY: Orbis Books, 2020), *Catholicism and Citizenship: Political Cultures of the Church in the Twenty-First Century* (Liturgical Press, 2017) and *La onda larga del Vaticano II. Por un nuevo posconcilio* (Universidad Alberto Hurtado: Santiago de Chile, 2017).

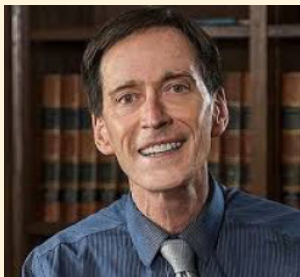
Massimo received his PhD from the University of Turin in 2002. His doctoral dissertation discussed the history of the appointment of bishops after the Council of Trent. He studied theology at the KarlEberhards-Universität Tübingen, 1999–2000, and was invited to work as a post-doctoral researcher in the Faculté de Théologie et Sciences Religieuses at the Université Laval, Québec, in spring 2002.

Massimo lives in the Philadelphia area with his wife and their two children.



Massimo Faggioli, PhD

Professor Theology and Religious Studies, Villanova University



Professor Richard Lennan, PhD

Professor of Systematic Theology, Boston College

Richard Lennan, who is Professor of Systematic Theology in the School of Theology and Ministry and Professor Ordinarius, grew up in Newcastle, on the east coast of Australia, and has been a priest of the Diocese of Maitland–Newcastle (Australia) since 1983.

Richard has a degree in history from the University of Newcastle, a Baccalaureate in Sacred Theology from the Catholic Institute of Sydney, a Master of Philosophy degree from the University of Oxford and a doctorate in theology from the University of Innsbruck in Austria, where his dissertation was on Karl Rahner's ecclesiology. From 1992 to 2007, he taught Systematic Theology in the Catholic Institute of Sydney; from 2005 to 2007, he was President of the Australian Catholic Theological Association.

Richard taught at Weston Jesuit School of Theology (2007–2008), before becoming part of Boston College's School of Theology and Ministry at its foundation in 2008; from 2010 to 2013, he was chair of the STM's Ecclesiastical Faculty. He currently directs the STM's Licentiate in Sacred Theology (STL) program, serves on the editorial board of *Theological Studies* and chairs the steering committee of the Karl Rahner Society. Richard has authored two books and edited five others.

Beyond theology, Richard's interests are movies, politics, modern history and trying to get fit (or less unfit) by running. On weekends, he assists with the liturgy in Sacred Heart parish in North Quincy, Massachusetts.

Myriam obtained a licentiate in Catholic Theology at the Catholic University of Nijmegen (The Netherlands) in 1986. Subsequently she studied canon law at Saint Paul University, Ottawa and at the University of Ottawa (degrees: Master and Licentiate, 1988; PhD and Doctor of Canon Law (JCD) 1990). In 1997 Myriam completed the habilitation at the Westfälische-Wilhelms-Universität Münster. (Germany).

After visiting professorships at The Catholic University of America (Washington DC) from 2001–2003 and Saint Paul University in Ottawa from 2004–2006, as well as being an assistant professor at the University of Tilburg (1999–2005), Myriam was appointed as full professor for Canon Law at the University of Erfurt in 2005. From 2008 till 2011 she served as vice president of the University of Erfurt.

The Pontifical Council for the Promotion of Christian Unity (Vatican) appointed Myriam as its delegate to the Standing Committee of the Faith and Order Commission at the World Council of Churches (Geneva) in 2008. In 2014 the delegation was renewed till 2022. In 2012 the same Pontifical Council mandated Myriam Wijlens to serve on the Consultation between the Roman Catholic Church and the Community of Protestant Churches in Europe. 2019 she was appointed as an expert to the Anglican Roman Catholic International Commission (ARCIC).

The University of Durham (UK) appointed Myriam as honorary professor for Ecumenism and Canon Law from 2012–2021, where she attends in particular to Receptive Ecumenism. Since 2004 Myriam Wijlens is co-moderator of the international research group "Peter and Paul Seminar" which focuses on necessary reforms of structures in the church. Hence, her own research focuses on ecclesiological and ecumenical themes with a particular attention for canonical issues. Other areas of research concern sexual abuse of minors and the law on consecrated life in religious institutes.

Since 1988 Prof. Wijlens has engaged in the topic of child abuse in the Catholic Church. At the request of several bishops she served as the investigator for the canonical procedures in different European countries in approx. 100 cases as well as an expert in a state court in Ireland. In 2018, Pope Francis appointed Prof. Wijlens as member of the Pontifical Commission for the Protection of Minors.

Myriam offers besides courses on canon law, interdisciplinary courses such as "The Well Being of Children: Rights – Protection – Promotion" and "Sexual Abuse of Minors in Institutions: Law – Causes – Prevention".



Myriam Wijlens, Ph. D.

Professor for Canon Law at the Faculty of Catholic Theology, University of Erfurt