

Globalisation for the Common Good (GCG): A Brief Introduction and Summary

The Globalisation for the Common Good Initiative began in 2002 at a conference in Oxford. Since then, the GCG International Conference Series has become an annual event, traveling across the globe to St. Petersburg, Dubai, Nairobi and Kericho, Honolulu, Istanbul and Melbourne. The 2009 conference took place at Loyola University of Chicago and the 2010 conference will be held at California Lutheran University.

These multi-disciplinary and inter-faith conferences- each locally organised and funded, most often by regional organisations working in tandem with a university in cooperation with GCGI- have been lively and productive affairs, in which many scholars, representing many diverse faiths and none have come together from around the world for intense discussions on a spiritual and value-centered vision of globalisation and the common good.

Our work over the past few years has given rise to numerous collaborations, several book publications, and academic papers, as well as the establishment of the rapidly developing online *Journal of Globalisation for the Common Good*, hosted by Purdue University- Calumet, USA. There are also modules on Globalisation for the Common Good offered at different universities around the world, including Fatih University in Istanbul, Trinity College, University of Melbourne and Loyola University of Chicago.

In short, what the GCGI seeks to offer- through its scholarly and research programme, as well as its outreach and dialogue projects- is a vision that positions the quest for economic and social justice, peace and ecological sustainability within the framework of a spiritual consciousness and a practice of open-heartedness, generosity and caring for others, by encouraging us all to know and to serve the common good.

We combine empirical, theoretical and applied research with sustained engagement at international, regional, national and local levels to analyse many different facets of globalisation and the common good, empowering us to seek and suggest humane solutions to the challenges of globalisation. We aim for an enabling environment for international research excellence involving diverse and critical approaches.

We propose a comprehensive examination of the major attempts to integrate economics with ethics and spirituality, along with an exploration of the theoretical underpinnings of these activities. Our central focus is on solutions to the global economic crisis. In considering the need for bold economic initiatives, we will keep in mind the deeper questions that rarely find their way into political debate or public discourse. We explore the emerging economic issues as well matters that are deeply ethical and spiritual: What is the source of true happiness and well-being? What is the good life? What is the purpose of economic life? What does it mean to be a human being living on a spaceship with finite resources? How can the global financial system become more responsive and just? How can the world make the global trade system more equitable and sustainable?

These questions and more need to be reflected upon, debated and ultimately be answered and put into policy formation, guiding us to a more humane globalisation, enabling us all to live a fulfilling life.

GCGI is now recognised as an initiative that has succeeded in establishing a large, vigorous, interdisciplinary, inter-faith and spiritual team of researchers to focus on issues of globalisation, the common good and other related subjects. The expertise of those who have supported the GCGI includes economics, business studies, political science, international relations, history, philosophy, sociology, social anthropology, psychology, media studies, geography, environmental studies, mathematics, physics, chemistry, education, development studies, peace and conflict resolution, law, ethics and theology.

In conclusion it should be noted that, given the GCGI inclusive and pluralistic orientation, the Initiative neither emphasises nor excludes the perspective of any particular World Religion or spiritual point of view and it endorses no specific political party or political affiliation.

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www.globalisationforthecommongood.info

www.commongoodjournal.com
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Journal of Globalization for the Common Good

<http://www.gcgchicago2009.info/>
Globalisation for the Common Good- 2009 Conference, Loyola University, Chicago

http://www.callutheran.edu/CLV/2010_GCG_conference.pdf
Globalisation for the Common Good- 2010 Conference, California Lutheran University, Thousand Oaks