

Freedom, Subsidiarity, and the Spirit of Gift

The TWELFTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE on
CATHOLIC SOCIAL THOUGHT and BUSINESS EDUCATION
The EIGHTH COLLOQUIUM on CHRISTIAN HUMANISM in BUSINESS and SOCIETY
at the University of Public Service - Ludovika
Budapest, Hungary
June 23-24, 2022



UNIVERSITY OF
PUBLIC SERVICE
LUDOVIKA

John A. Ryan Institute
Center for Catholic Studies



CONFERENCE THEME & RATIONALE

Pope Francis reiterates that business is a noble vocation if it serves the common good. The way we shape business is crucial: business policies and practices can respect and promote human dignity, but they also can be detrimental. The present challenges go across all fields of applied business, governance, and management. During this conference we wish to explore how work should be guided by three distinct principles and values of Catholic Social Teaching.

First, we wish to explore the consequences of the principle of subsidiarity, specifically for society and business. According to this principle, higher entities should not replace smaller entities in fulfilling their tasks, unless the smaller entities are unable to do so. Each person and each group should be empowered to develop in moral responsibility to their own calling and social relationships. As such, subsidiarity defends the personal freedom of individuals and of smaller groups against the power of collectives, while at the same time ensuring harmony and balance in society. Subsidiarity is thus integral to the common good.

Second, we wish to explore freedom, the capacity of the human will to determine an action that our reason presents as good not out of constraint but by inner assent. On an organizational level, freedom is important for subsidiarity because subsidiarity is a principle of distribution of persons and of self-allocation that needs freedom as its cultural framework, in order to realize human dignity. Social and political freedom is a precious cultural achievement that has cost great human sacrifice in the past. In the present, freedom is again under pressure, not least due to the measures deemed necessary in the pandemic.

Third, in the context of freedom, the spirit of gift becomes relevant. The gift of freedom is the origin of a free society, in the sense of a renunciation of a part of our free will in order to submit to the needs

of others and thus set them free. At the beginning of every relationship in conformity with human dignity, there is a gift of meaning. In business, the logic of gift has many implications. A phenomenon studied widely in business literature is that of the Social Business Hybrids, organizations that adopt various models which, inspired by the spirit of gift, operate in the market with the aim of generating a positive social impact. However, the discussion regarding the nature of the impact, in particular when it refers to the person, is still open for debate. When people flourish within the organization under the logic of subsidiarity, they experience their giftedness.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

We invite papers that explore what freedom, subsidiarity, and the spirit of gift mean in theory and practice. How can they be applied to specific professional fields? How can they be adequately taught? Please send a 500 to 700 word proposal that includes a thesis or purpose statement and an outline of the paper as well as a one-paragraph biography that includes institutional position and affiliation, recent publications, research interest and practical experience. Eligible papers and presentations must be in English. Papers must be presented personally by at least one of the authors at the conference.

CALL FOR WORKSHOPS

In addition to the classic formula for presentations (30-40 minutes each per presenter in a session for presentation and discussion), workshops in groups may also be proposed, with brief talks and an immediate discussion of ideas. We will admit arguments that seek to find connections between the other participants and small groups already engaged in a specific topic. Presentations of professional activities and educational experiences are also welcome. Organizers of workshops must present their proposal in cooperation with two to three other presenters. A workshop will only be approved as a panel of three to four presenters who commit to participate.

SUBJECT TRACKS:

When you submit your abstract, you will be invited to select one of three tracks or categories. This will help the submission committee assign your paper to the correct panel. The three categories are:

Theory: theoretical, foundational, general, abstract, descriptive, speculative papers on the level of principles. Topics related but not limited to

- Theological and philosophical aspects of freedom in business and society;
- Theological and philosophical dimensions of subsidiarity in business and society;
- Business and the spirit of gift.

Practice & Application: practical implementations of principles, empirical research, papers that deal with specific fields of business or specific departments of business schools (management, finance, marketing, personnel, governance, organizational design, etc.)

Topics related but not limited to

- Doing business by subsidiarity;
- Subsidiarity in governance, organizational design or human resource management;
- Freedom in management, organizational design or governance;
- The spirit of gift in business;
- Social Entrepreneurship;
- Social Business Hybrids.

Curriculum Development: papers that develop new courses or syllabi or reflect on pedagogical aspects of Catholic social thought in business education, especially as they relate to how freedom, subsidiarity, and the spirit of gift can be taught in business education.

Day Trip to Archabbey Pannonhalma

Saturday, June 25th we will take a day-long excursion to the Archabbey Pannonhalma, established in 996 A.D. We will have time for Mass; explore the grounds of this world heritage site including the Arboretum, herb garden, and vineyards; have lunch at the Bistro and visit the archabbey treasury.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE:

NOV. 15, 2021

Submit paper and workshop proposals by Nov. 15, 2021 at <https://link.stthomas.edu/2022CallforPapers>

Proposals will be responded to the week of January 17, 2022.

Final Conference Papers due June 1, 2022.

Email questions to cathsocial@stthomas.edu

CONFERENCE BACKGROUND PAPERS

Conference background papers and documents will be available for reference at <https://link.stthomas.edu/Budapest2022>

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Registration Opens: February 1, 2022

Early Bird Registration Fee: \$200.00 USD

Early Bird Closes April 1, 2022

Registration Fee: \$300.00 USD

Registration Closes: June 1, 2022

Register: <https://link.stthomas.edu/Budapest2022>
Student and Clergy discounts available by request. Email cathsocial@stthomas.edu.

SATURDAY'S EXCURSION TO ARCHABBEY PANNONHALMA IS NOT INCLUDED IN THE CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FEE.

ADDITIONAL REGISTRATION FOR THE EXCURSION ON JUNE 25TH IS REQUIRED.



Conference held in partnership with:

Terrence J. Murphy Institute for
Catholic Thought, Law, and Public Policy



**CIOCCA
CENTER**
FOR PRINCIPLED ENTREPRENEURSHIP

THE CATHOLIC
UNIVERSITY
OF AMERICA



Stiftung zur Förderung der Katholischen Soziallehre