

Thirteenth International Conference on Catholic Social Thought
in Business Education and
Ninth International Colloquium on Christian Humanism in
Business and Society

Sustainability and Integral Ecology in Business and Law

Universidad de Piura | Lima, Peru
July 1-2, 2025



UNIVERSIDAD
DE PIURA

Terrence J. Murphy Institute for
Catholic Thought, Law, and Business



CONFERENCE THEME & RATIONALE

In honor of the 10th anniversary of Pope Francis's ecological encyclical *Laudato Si: On Care for the Common Home*, we wish to study the implications of "integral ecology" on business and law. This encyclical introduced the term integral ecology into official Catholic social teaching, calling for an awareness of the interconnectedness between humans and nature. This new paradigm challenges our understanding of humanism. Based on the belief in the Creator, integral ecology appeals to our sense of ecological justice and spirituality regarding creation beyond the duty to exercise stewardship for nature.

New models in economics, business management, law, and politics are currently taking shape. In this symposium, we aim to address the legal, philosophical, theological, and spiritual underpinnings of the paradigmatic changes towards nature expressed in the notion "integral ecology." Human ecologies – the societies in which we evolve – and natural ecologies cannot be dissociated. Poverty and environmental degradation are mirror-forms of ecological attritions we must consider together. This puts the metaphysics and spiritualities with which people envision their connections with nature at the forefront of our discussions. Most questions are complicated and need to be conscientiously addressed, because only a relative harmonization, respectful of metaphysical pluralism, can pragmatically contribute a safeguard for our common home.

Religions add depth and purpose to sustainability and sustainable development goals by adding a foundation in God. Catholic social thought uses the term "integral ecology" for sustainability. Integral ecology includes the human ecology of faith, family, and the poor. Further, it defines our relationship and commitment to nature in business and law.

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

We invite papers that explore the theme of our conference (see subject tracks on the following page). Please send a 500-700 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 or Spanish. Papers must be presented personally by at least one of the authors at the conference. The plenary sessions will be translated simultaneously.

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

Interested presenters are invited to submit an abstract and, when doing so, select one of four subject tracks. This categorization will help the submission committee assign paper presentations to the correct sessions. The categories are as follows including topics related but not limited to:

Theological and Philosophical Foundations:

- Substance and dimensions of integral ecology;
- Environmental metaphysics and spirituality;
- Finance solutions for scaling the impact: social bonds, impact investing, venture philanthropy, corporate philanthropy;
- The Greening of Catholic social thought;
- Human and natural ecologies;
- Anthropocentrism vs. ecocentrism;
- Monotheistic religions in dialogue with religious approaches that verge on understanding nature as embodiment of a spiritual power;
- Technology, human progress and ethics on the horizon of an integral ecology;
- Monotheistic faiths and consensus on the relationship between humans and nature, and about the description of the latter as Creation;
- Stewardship, ecojustice, and spirituality of creation;
- Changing spiritual conceptions of nature in dialogue with science.

Economic Aspects:

- New models in economics regarding the environment;
- Interactions between poverty and environmental attrition;
- Sustainability in relation to integral ecology;
- Measuring economic success in view of protecting and enhancing our prosperity and the natural world at the same time.
- Natural capital;
- Consumerism and waste of products.

Business Aspects:

- Micro-foundations of sustainability: how do individual and psychological characteristics affect sustainability actions in organizations? (CEOs, Top Management Team, Employee "green" behavior, etc.).
- Sustainability expectations and corporate governance: how are governance structures evolving to include different kinds of social and environmental stakeholders?
- Sustainability and reporting: from purpose to impact, how can we measure the impact? What are the challenges due to competing sustainability frameworks, standards and certifications? What are the risks of Green/Health/Rainbow/Gender/Social washing?
- Dealing with sustainability: new strategies to transform problems into solutions. How can business tackle big challenges?
- Environmental, social, and sustainable entrepreneurship: hybrid organizations born to tackle great societal challenges. How do they make an impact?
- Finance solutions for scaling the impact: social bonds, impact investing, venture philanthropy, corporate philanthropy, what else?

Legal Aspects:

- New models in law and politics regarding the environment.
- Legal and political forms of ecocentrism or "legal animism."
- Lessons for the Western legal order from indigenous communities and their relationship to natural environment.
- Legal-personhood-of-nature hypothesis and religious traditions.

SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Submit paper and workshop proposals by November 15, 2024 at <https://link.stthomas.edu/lima2025submit>

Proposals will be responded to the week of February 3, 2025.

Final Conference Papers due June 1, 2025.

CONTACT

For questions, please contact [Michelle Rash](#), Terrence J. Murphy Institute Program Manager.
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CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

Registration Opens: February 3, 2025
Early Bird Registration Fee: \$129.00 USD
Early Bird Closes: April 1, 2025

Registration Fee: \$150.00 USD
Registration Closes: June 1, 2025

Register: <https://link.stthomas.edu/lima2025>

Student and Clergy discounts are available by request. A limited number of travel scholarships are also available and rewarded on a need basis.

Conference held in partnership with:

