



**Serafico Institute,
Assisi (Italy)
7–9 May 2026**

At the Roots of Economic Ethics

**800 Years of Poverty and Wealth
in the Name of Francesco**

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To mark the 800th anniversary of St. Francis of Assisi's death, The Economy of Francesco Foundation is hosting a two-day academic conference at the Serafico Institute in Assisi. This venue reflects the Franciscan ideals of care, inclusion, and love for the creation.

The conference aims to bring together **scholars, researchers, and practitioners from economics and related fields, with a special emphasis on approaches inspired by the life, teachings, and charism of St. Francis.**

He was a man who saw every creature, human and non-human, as a brother or sister sharing the same gift of life.

The conference aims to foster **interdisciplinary dialogue on the ethical, spiritual, ecological, and social aspects of economic thought.**

It examines how Franciscan principles can impact contemporary research and practice across various fields, including economics, social sciences, theology, and others. In the spirit of The Economy of Francesco, the discussion will reflect on an economy of relationships where the poor and the vulnerable, along with the Earth and all living beings, which are often marginalized in mainstream economic theory and practice, share in the same call to dignity and flourishing.

CALL FOR PAPERS

We invite submissions that address, but are not limited to, the following themes:

- Franciscan perspectives on economic theory, policy, and practice
- Ethical, spiritual, ecological, and moral dimensions of economic life
- Historical and contemporary interpretations of Franciscan-inspired economics
- Interdisciplinary approaches linking Franciscan thought with philosophy, theology, and the social and natural sciences
- Inclusion, disability, and the economy of care: new paradigms of human and social flourishing
- Innovative research on the implementation of Franciscan principles in modern economic systems, communities, and institutions
- The relational economy: fraternity with the poor, with the Earth, and with all creatures
- Franciscan influences within Catholic Social Teaching and global movements for justice and peace
- Global and regional economic dynamics and geopolitical instabilities: old and new challenges and perspectives
- Cultural and contextual reinterpretations of Franciscan-inspired economics in regions with limited Franciscan presence



This conference represents a unique opportunity to engage with a growing community of scholars exploring the intersection of economics, creation, and Franciscan thought, reflecting on the enduring relevance of **St. Francis' vision — a vision of peace, poverty, and fraternity that invites everyone to build an economy where no one is excluded, and all of creation can flourish.**

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Scholars interested in participating are invited to submit a curriculum and an abstract of no more than 200 words to scientificboard@francescoeconomy.org by January 28. Abstracts should clearly outline the research question, methodology, and relevance to the conference themes. Selected contributions will be considered for presentation during the conference sessions. If you wish to participate in the pre-conference workshop, please specify this in your submission email.

CONFERENCE FORMAT

The conference will primarily take place in person, and participants are strongly encouraged to attend on-site in Assisi. To accommodate those unable to travel, certain sessions will be available in a hybrid format. Limited financial support may be offered, subject to availability of funds.

PRE-CONFERENCE WORKSHOP

On May 7, a dedicated pre-conference workshop will be organized for researchers affiliated with the Economy of Francesco Academy. Academy members will present their ongoing research projects, fostering an environment of scholarly exchange and mentorship. While this session is primarily intended for Academy researchers and supervisors, it will be open to interested participants who wish to attend as observers.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Giacomo Todeschini, Helen Alford, Luigino Bruni, and others to be confirmed

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

- Leonardo Becchetti (Tor Vergata University – Rome);
- Luigino Bruni (LUMSA);
- Valentina Erasmo (University of Turin);
- Maria Jordet (University of Inland Norway);
- Jennifer Nedelsky (University of Toronto);
- Matteo Rizzolli (LUMSA);
- Caren Rodrigues (St. Joseph's Institute of Management);
- Valentina Rotondi (SUPSI);
- Paolo Santori (Tilburg University);
- Marcello Signorelli (University of Perugia).

ORGANIZING INSTITUTIONS

EoF Foundation –

The Economy of Francesco Foundation

HEIRS –

Happiness Economics and Interpersonal Relations

VENUE

Istituto Serafico per Sordomuti e per Ciechi

Viale Guglielmo Marconi, 6, 06081

Assisi PG (Italy)

MORE INFO

scientificboard@francescoeconomy.org

Further organizational and logistical details will be shared soon.

