All of us are linked by unseen bonds and together form a kind of universal family, a sublime communion which fills us with a sacred, affectionate and humble respect. *Laudato si’* 

COVID-19 pandemic poses striking moral and spiritual questions about people and their routine life. What is the meaning of life? What kind of life is worth living? Where are we going? Who are we and how do we define ourselves in relation to those who have been affected by this pandemic? Do we have a duty towards others? Who are these *others*? Are they fellow citizens or members of the community of humankind? A glance at the media shows that, motivated by a sense of responsibility, either natural, moral, or spiritual, there are many who not only sympathize with the affected people but are also thinking about the future of humanity and our common destiny. The Encyclical Letter *Laudato si’* of the Holy Father Francis on Care for Our Common Home, and published in 2015, not only already warned us for detrimental global transformations destroying the heritage of mankind; more importantly, it provides a source of inspiration for reinterpreting human responsibility concerning the care of our common home and destiny. The holistic perspective introduced in the Encyclical appeals to a moral duty for safeguarding human life on the one hand, and the entire nature and ecology, on the other.

This roundtable discusses the following questions about the timeless message of *Laudato si’* for the community of humankind:

- How to create a rooted dialogue on the sacred mission of caring for our common human community?
- Which policies and measures would be appropriate in addressing the situation of rapidification? Would this situation entail reforms, or fundamental changes in the complex systems in human life?
- Given the cosmopolitan moral appeal of the letter, what would be practical measures for the actualization of this moral appeal at the various levels of the society?
- One of the central parts of the encyclical addresses the decline in the quality of life. Who should take the responsibility to restore the quality and the meaning of life? Governments, International institutions? Communities, People? Who? How?
- In what way could *Laudato si’* become a source of inspiration in fostering capacity-building, empowering marginalized individuals, and restoring their dignity?
- What about global inequality? The Pope calls on humanity to take this issue very seriously. Which would be the ideal response to this malaise in the community of mankind?
These and similar questions will be discussed by our distinguished participants who are all experts in religion and spirituality, philosophy and ethics, welfare and human development, as well as social policy and protection. This roundtable format webinar will be held via a zoom teleconference and will be broadcasted live on our social media channels. It will also be recorded for offline media.

**Date:** Friday, June 19, 2020  
**Time:** Amsterdam 19:00; Ottawa 13:00; Chicago 12:00  
**Registration and Participation** is free of charge

### The panelists

Dr. Hille Baker holds the Richard McCormick S.J. Endowed Chair of Catholic Moral Theology at Loyola University Chicago. Her research focuses on the foundations of ethics, moral identity, literary & narrative ethics, Christian ethics as critical social ethics, bioethics, and feminist ethics. Her current projects include a book on The Renewal of Catholic Social ethics (forthcoming 2019), and a book on two basic concepts of ethics, *Recognition and Responsibility*.

![Dr. Hille Baker](image)

Dr. Mahmoud Masaeli is a Canadian Iranian political philosopher, ethicist, spiritualist, and poet. His area of research, teaching and publication include Global Ethics, Human Rights, Hermeneutics of Selfhood, and Human Development. Mahmoud is the founder and Executive Director of Alternative Perspectives and Global Concerns (ap-gc.net). He also a visiting fellow at Ottawa University.

![Dr. Mahmoud Masaeli](image)

Dr. Rienk Lanooy is one of the two pastors of the Kloosterkerk, The Hague. Before he worked as a pastor in Paris for the Dutch community, and as an assistant at the Institute for Ecumenical and Missiological Research, Utrecht University. He wrote a dissertation about bilateral interchurch dialogues (1960-2000).

![Dr. Rienk Lanooy](image)

Dr. Rico Sneller has been teaching philosophy and ethics at the Leiden Faculty of Humanities, Institute for Philosophy & Religious Studies, and the Technical University of Eindhoven. He is the Vice President of APGC and responsible for strategic planning and policymaking for the Network as a whole. He served as a board member of the European Societas Ethica (www.societasethica.info). His current research focuses on exceptional states of consciousness in relation to philosophy.

![Dr. Rico Sneller](image)