

**CALL FOR PAPERS**

**WOMEN IN RELIGION:  
from spiritual leadership to female empowerment**

**5th International Conference on Arts and Humanities**

Spring semester 2023, Rome, Italy



St Angela Merici (1474-1540), foundress of the first teaching order of women and secular institute of the Catholic church. White marble statue, Desenzano del Garda, Italy

We are pleased to invite you to the 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Arts and Humanities, organized by the International Centre for Studies of Arts and Humanities (ICSAH) and the Dante Alighieri Society of Nicosia in cooperation with the Libera Università Internazionale degli Studi Sociali Guido Carli (Luiss) and the Pontificia Università Salesiana. In continuation of our dialogue dedicated to women and gender-focused research, this year our aim is to explore the gender inequality within various religious systems and movements, by focusing on women of faith. The conference is to be held in the spring semester 2023 (May-June) at the Luiss University, Viale Romania, 32 00197 Rome, Italy. The dates will be announced soon.

We warmly welcome all papers broadly relevant to the subject without predefining chronological and territorial limitations, as the major goal of the conference is to address social issues that involve more than one research field and promote multidisciplinary dialogue and cooperation. The papers will be published online and in a dedicated volume.

**Abstract.** It is more than a cliché that gender plays a crucial role in religion, as most religious orders in the world were, and currently are, dominated by men. The role of women in cultic settings is, as a rule, secondary, as is also the authority of female ministers of religion, while the social benefits of those appointed with religious duties are also incomparable with the privileges received by men.

This year, we invite proposals that explore the female share in leadership roles related to religion (saints, prophetesses, priestesses, nuns, preachers, witches, shamans, gurus, heads of religious orders and more), and emphasize how their achievements are reflected in history and art. How prominent female figures have compromised men's secured positions of power in socio-religious structures? What was their role in shaping gender-responsive societies? We also encourage papers that examine through gender lens the impact of religion on civic life by analysing the deeds of women of faith from a political perspective, or deal with cases of political power over religion, in cases of women who achieved to change traditional religious concepts, practices, customs or symbols. We welcome papers that deal with all religious systems from ancient to present times.

**About ICSAH.** The International Centre for Studies of Arts and Humanities is a non-profit, interdisciplinary organization dedicated to the research, study and education in a vast range

of disciplines in the field Arts and Humanities. The mission of the organization is to:

- 1. Promote the worldwide understanding, study and teaching across a range of discipline of the Arts and Humanities, including, but not limited to:**
  - Ancient, Medieval, Modern and Contemporary History
  - Ancient and modern languages, linguistics and literature
  - Classics, Philosophy
  - Theology
  - History of Religions
  - Anthropology and ethnic studies
  - Archaeology
  - Visual arts
  - Performing arts, including theatre, dance, music
  - Those aspects of social sciences which have humanistic content and employ humanistic methods
  - Cultural heritage
- 2. Provide additional forums for the exchange of ideas regarding Arts and Humanities in schools, Universities, libraries, museums and other contexts**
- 3. Support the interchange of research and the scholarships of knowledge, teaching and service in the Humanities through conferences, publications and relative activities**



LUISS



**Submission rules:** To submit a proposal for a paper of approximately 20 minutes or a poster, please send an abstract of 350 words or less to [icsahcy1@gmail.com](mailto:icsahcy1@gmail.com) by **March 30th, 2023**. The proposed contributions should not have been previously published or accepted for publication elsewhere. Abstracts should include a title, a summary of the presentation, name of the author/s, institutional affiliation and email.

**Conference languages:** English, French, Italian.

**Conference fee:** 50€

For further information about the conference, please see our website [www.icsah.eu/](http://www.icsah.eu/)  
Please address any further enquiries to [icsahcy1@gmail.com](mailto:icsahcy1@gmail.com).