



## **Lydia Fox and Richard Ayoade Reconvene Performance-Based Workshop for St Edmund's Students: 'To be, or not to be'**

The 'Shakespeare and the Common Good?' initiative continues to create dynamic opportunities for St Edmund's students, led primarily by VHI Distinguished Affiliates [Ms Lydia Fox](#) and [Mr Richard Ayoade](#). This time, students took on Shakespeare's famous soliloquy, and explored the relationship between suffering and community.

*Photo Credit: Cian Sacker Ooi.*

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## Europa-Universität Flensburg Announces Closer Cooperation with the Von Hügel Institute

International conference *Conflict Resolution and Interreligious Encounter* took place on 5-8 September, jointly organised by the Von Hügel Institute and the Wasatia Graduate School at the Europa-Universität Flensburg (EUF).

The conference served as a collaborative opportunity to examine questions of justice, reconciliation, political ethics, and interreligious dialogue, most especially those relevant to Jewish, Muslim, and Christian communities, focussing primarily on the use of scriptural reasoning as a dialogical training method to cultivate empathy across religious difference.

*Photo Credit: Tristan Selden.*

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## 'Ethics of Care and Motherhood' Seminar Proposes New Evaluative Framework for Maternity Hospitals, Featuring 2023 Templeton Award Winner, Dr Edna Adan Ismail

VHI Research Associate [Dr Thana de Campos-Rudinsky](#) directed 'Ethics of Care and Motherhood: Towards a Public Policy' at the Pontificia Universidad Catolica de Chile. The seminar introduced a moral framework that evaluates hospitals based on the quality of care offered to mothers and newborns, using love and flourishing as indicators to rank institutions.

Dr Edna Adan Ismail, midwife, activist, and winner of the 2023 Templeton Prize, delivered the keynote.

[Photo Credit: Tim Cole.]

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## Joint Guest Lecture Series with University of Notre Dame London Global Gateway, Michaelmas Term 2023

[Dr Andrew Skotnicki](#), Professor of Religious Studies at Manhattan College, presented a lecture on 'Francisco Suárez, Criminal Injustice, and the Catholic Conception of Law'. Inspired by the intersection of his scholarly work in theological ethics and his decades-long experience teaching in American prisons, Skotnicki entered into lively conversation with new VHI Senior Research Associate [Dr Paolo Carozza](#) and VHI Research Associate [Mr Scott Jackson](#) regarding the nature and horizons of law in theory and in practice today.

New VHI Affiliate [Professor Michael Driessen](#), Associate Professor of Political Science and International Affairs at John Cabot University, gave a guest lecture at St Edmund's College, drawing from his new book, *The Global Politics of Interreligious Dialogue: Religious Change, Citizenship and Solidarity in the Middle East* (Oxford University Press, 2023). In his lecture, Driessen presented the growth of state-sponsored interreligious initiatives in the Middle East and their use as a policy instrument for engaging with religious communities and ideas.

*Photo Credit: Matt Cashore, University of Notre Dame.*



## New Members Admitted to the VHI

Earlier this year, several new researchers joined the VHI and were officially admitted as senior members of St Edmund's College: [Dr Paolo Carozza](#), [Professor Mihaela Kelemen](#), and [Professor Clemens Sedmak](#) (Senior Research Associates); [Mr Scott Jackson](#) and [The Rev'd Dr Carole Irwin](#) (Research Associates); [Fr Stephen Chase Pepper, CSC](#) (Postdoctoral Research Associate).



The institute also welcomed its first group of Affiliate Members and Doctoral Affiliates: [Professor Michael Driessen](#) and [Dr Maria Devlin McNair](#) (Affiliate Members); [Ms Sofia N Carozza](#) and [Mr Peerawat Chiaranunt](#) (Doctoral Affiliates). The VHI is also proud to have welcomed its first Distinguished Members, writers and actors [Ms Lydia Fox](#) and [Mr Richard Ayoade](#).

Read more about the growing VHI community and the work of our researchers and new members [here](#).



## Senior Research Associate Gives Address at the Feast of St Edmund of Abingdon 2023

[Dr Paolo Carozza](#) highlighted the significant contributions that institutions like St Edmund's and the University of Notre Dame can make in a rapidly changing and polarised world—a world rife with challenge, yet filled with opportunity.

To read Dr Carozza's full speech, click on the link below.

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## VHI Interns Reflect on Experience in Cambridge

For Michaelmas term 2023, [Leah Brucal](#) and [Maria Murinova](#) joined the Von Hügel Institute as part of the internship programme through Notre Dame's London Global Gateway. After a successful term at the VHI, they reflect on their time at St Edmund's College: 'It's amazing how much four months [can] change your life.'

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