



## **The Will to Serve**

**Inspiring Models of Servant Leadership and Social Entrepreneurship**

### **Call for Papers**

**Annual European SPES Conference**

**May 24-26, 2018**

**Leuven, Belgium**

The European SPES Institute, the Institute of Leadership and Social Ethics (ILSE), and the Damien Center will organize the annual European SPES Conference entitled “The Will to Serve: Inspiring Models of Servant Leadership and Social Entrepreneurship,” in May 24-26, 2018, in Leuven, Belgium. We invite academic submissions from different disciplines regarding this topic. The deadline for submission of proposals is January 15, 2018 (see below).

### **Introduction**

Inspiring social and economic leaders are able to transform a conflictual human settlement into a collaborative and caring human community. Can we induce from their ‘way of doing things’ a model of civic entrepreneurship and leadership that can inspire people in profit, non-profit and public organizations? To what extent is the “will to serve” compatible with the will to maximize profit or the will to gain economic, political or religious power? Do different spiritual traditions create different models and examples of servant leadership? This conference is part of the Damien project of the European SPES Institute, a research project that focuses on spirituality in action through servant leadership and social entrepreneurship.

**Issues to be addressed:**

- The will to serve as a foundational dimension of life: anthropological/philosophical/spiritual foundations and socio-economic implications
- Integrating leadership and entrepreneurship. How do theories and practices of entrepreneurship and leadership relate to each other?
- Is the theory and practice of servant leadership different from other types of leadership?
- Current theories and practices of social entrepreneurship in profit, non-profit and public sector
- Servant leadership through the lenses of different spiritual traditions: Buddhist, Christian, Confucian, Muslim, Taoist and other spiritual driven theories of servant leadership
- Inspiring models of servant leadership in literature and art
- The economics of civil service
- What is the role and effect of inspiring examples both on theoretical and practical level?
- Case studies and examples of spiritual driven entrepreneurship and leadership
- Radicalism, charisma and heroism in leadership

## Keynotes



Patrick Nullens, *The Will to Serve as a Spiritual and Anthropological Foundation for Leadership*

President of the Evangelische Theologische Faculteit, Leuven and co-founder of the Institute of Leadership and Social Ethics (ILSE).



Laszlo Zsolnai, *Serving Future Generations*

President of the European SPES Institute and Director of the Business Ethics Center, Corvinus University, Budapest



Inge Nuyten, *Servant Leadership: Current Theory and Practice*

Researcher on servant-leadership at the Erasmus University Rotterdam; Co-founder of Redpoint Company



Marieke Huysentruyt, *The meaning(s) of social entrepreneurship*  
Academic positions at the Stockholm and London School of Economics; co-founder and partner of i-propeller, a social business innovation consultancy based in Brussels  
(invited, to be confirmed)



Bart Weetjens, *How to Become a Social Entrepreneur?*  
Ashoka fellow, social entrepreneur and Zen priest



Richard J. Major, *Business, servant leadership and virtue ethics. The practice of managerial exemplarity*  
Groupe IGS, Paris; Exemplarity consulting



Johan Verstraeten, *Father Damien as an Icon of Servant Leadership and Social Entrepreneurship*  
Prof. moral theology, KU Leuven



Chris Doude van Troostwijk, *Albert Schweitzer's Philosophy of the Will to Serve*  
Luxembourg School of Religion & Society and Free University of Amsterdam

## Abstracts and Deadline

Abstracts should be maximum 500 words, and should fall within the theme of the conference. Abstracts can be submitted by email to Luk Bouckaert at [Luk.bouckaert@econ.kuleuven.be](mailto:Luk.bouckaert@econ.kuleuven.be) or to Steven van den Heuvel, at [steven.vandenheuvel@etf.edu](mailto:steven.vandenheuvel@etf.edu)

The paper presenters will get 15 minutes to present a position statement. The remaining time is reserved for discussion.

A selection of the papers will be published in the series *Palgrave Studies in Sustainable Business – In Association with Future Earth* by Palgrave-Macmillan.

**Deadline for submission of Abstracts + CV: January 31, 2018**

You will receive a response before February 28, 2018.

## Place and Date

On May 24 (Thursday) and May 25 (Friday), the conference venue will be at Evangelische Theologische Faculteit (ETF), Leuven (Belgium). Address: Sint-Jansbergsesteenweg 95, 3001 Leuven

On May 26 (Saturday), the conference will be hosted at the Damien Center, Damiaanplein, Leuven.

## Accommodation

A limited number of rooms are available at ETF, at € 35 (single room) and € 45 (double room) per night. Hotels can be booked in Leuven.

## Participation Fee

€ 225,- for regular participants without presenting papers (includes lunch, coffee breaks and program material)

€ 200,- for paper presenters, members of SPES, ILSE and Damien Center

€ 125,- for students

€ 90,- for one-day participants

€ 65, for conference dinner on Thursday 24 May

€ 45,- for participants on Saturday morning

## Organizing Committee

Luk Bouckaert and Rita Ghesquière (SPES)

Patrick Nullens and Steven C. van den Heuvel (ILSE)

Ruben Boon (Damien Center)

## Scientific Committee

Jack Barentsen, prof. ETF Leuven, Belgium

Luk Bouckaert, prof.em. Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium

Lans Bovenberg, prof. Tilburg University, Netherland

Peter Heinckiens, ETF Leuven, Belgium

Josep M. Lozano, prof. ESADE Business School, Barcelona, Spain

Sharda Nandram, prof. Neyenrode University, The Netherland

Patrick Nullens, prof. ETF Leuven, Belgium

Henk Opdebeeck, prof. University Antwerp, Belgium

Mike Thompson, Chairman, GodBrand and director, Impact Hub, London, UK

Steven C. van den Heuvel, postdoc ETF Leuven, Belgium

Laszlo Zsolnai, prof. Corvinus University of Budapest, Hungary

## Organizing Partners

European SPES Institute ([www.eurospes.org](http://www.eurospes.org))

The Institute of Leadership and Social Ethics ([www.etf-ilse.org](http://www.etf-ilse.org))

The Damien Center ([www.damiaanvandaag.be](http://www.damiaanvandaag.be))

## Sponsoring Partner

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