

Press Invitation

Vulnerability and Healthcare: doctoral students from SACRU gather in Rome for the presentation of an interdisciplinary research project

The event “*Vulnerability and Healthcare*” will take place on **Monday, April 7**, from **4:30 PM to 7:00 PM** at the **Rome campus of the Australian Catholic University** (L.go Giovanni Berchet, 4). The initiative is organized by the Working Group on Vulnerability of [SACRU](#), the Strategic Alliance of Catholic Research Universities, and will present the outcomes of a collaborative research project. Following the **Jubilee of the Sick and of the Healthcare World**, which will be held on **Saturday, April 5 and Sunday, April 6**, SACRU, an international network of Catholic Universities, is hosting a roundtable discussion on an interdisciplinary project involving doctoral students from seven universities of the Alliance, together with the members of the Working Group.

Throughout a series of virtual meetings, the doctoral students explored the theme of vulnerability and healthcare through the lens of their respective **research projects**, which address topics such as: vaccine trials in developing countries, physician-assisted suicide, prenatal genetic testing, interreligious dialogue on healthcare in conflict zones, boundaries in environmental ethics, the history of monastic medicine, Aristotelian and Thomistic virtues, and social and ecological justice in elderly residential care.

The meeting will be opened by **Prof. David G. Kirchhoffer**, Director of the **Queensland Bioethics Centre** at the Australian Catholic University and Chair of the SACRU Working Group on Vulnerability. This will be followed by the keynote speech “*The Concept of Vulnerability: Recent Developments in Theological Ethics*” by **Professor James Keenan, SJ**, Vice Provost for Global Engagement at **Boston College**.

The **Roundtable on Vulnerability and Healthcare** will be led by doctoral students from SACRU member universities: **Lachlan Green** (Australian Catholic University), **Dorothy Goehring** (Boston College), **Gabriel Vidal** (Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile), **Jefferson da Silva Bellarmino** (Pontificia Universidade Católica do Rio de Janeiro), **Joana Ramos** (Universidade Católica Portuguesa), **Enrico Frosio** (Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore), with contributions from **Aitana Juan Giner** (Universitat Ramon Llull) and **Geetanjali Rogers** (Australian Catholic University).

After a **Q&A session and open discussion**, the final speech “*Reflections on Vulnerability and Healthcare: A Response to the Panel*” will be delivered by **Carolina Montero Orphanopoulos** (Universidad Católica Silva Henríquez), winner of the **2024 Centesimus Annus Pro Pontifice Foundation Prize** in “*Economy and Society*” for her research titled “*Vulnerability: Toward a More Humane Ethics*.”

Journalists wishing to attend the event are kindly asked to send their request to sacru.alliance@unicatt.it by Friday, April 4.