

# Conference on Theology and Leadership

In a world marked by leadership fatigue, fragmented authority, and organizational disillusionment, scholars from around the world will discuss a vital question:

**How can we invite the S/spirit into our leadership?**

This conference seeks to examine how “spirit” – understood both theologically as the Holy Spirit (with a capital S) and, from a social-scientific perspective, as the “good or bad” spirit within a team, group, or organization – animates leadership practices, shapes collective purpose, and enables moral and organizational transformation.

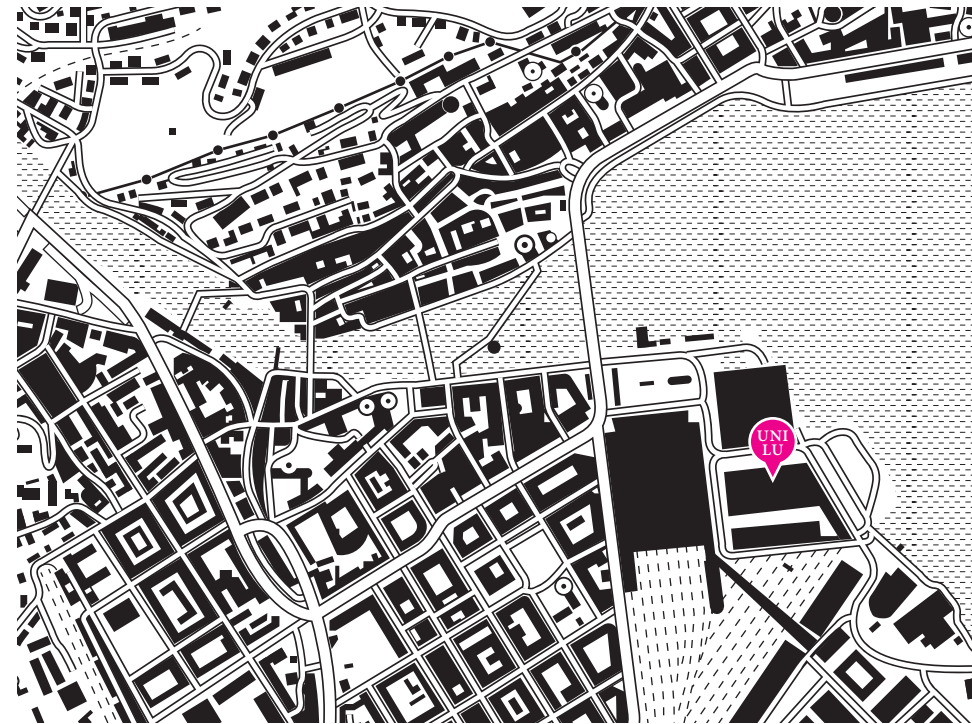
**This conference is designed for those who are willing to:**

- **Rethink leadership from its foundations**  
in the foundations and conceptual grounding sessions—exploring how **spirit** enters leadership.
- **Engage leadership as practice**  
in practices of leadership and verticalization—through communication, relationships, and team processes.
- **Learn from diverse contexts**  
in global and institutional contexts across cultures, organizations, and traditions.
- **Stay with the tensions of leadership**  
in sessions on power, conflict, and the dark sides of leadership.
- **Experience leadership as transformation**  
in the identity and transformation block—towards whole-person leadership.

Thanks to our supporters:



sg.  
kath.  
ch



## ORGANISATION

University of Lucerne  
Faculty of Theology  
Pastoral Theology  
Frohburgstrasse 3  
6002 Luzern

[www.unilu.ch/ictl2026](http://www.unilu.ch/ictl2026)  
[theologie.leadership@unilu.ch](mailto:theologie.leadership@unilu.ch)

Evangelische  
Theologische Faculteit  
Sint-Jansbergsesteenweg 95-97  
3001 Leuven

[info@etf.edu](mailto:info@etf.edu)

## CONFERENCE VENUE

University of Lucerne  
Frohburgstrasse 3  
6002 Luzern

(next to the Lake of Lucerne  
and the prestigious «KKL -  
Kultur- und Kongresszent-  
rum Luzern»)

## REGISTRATION

A registration is required and  
can be done online on  
[www.unilu.ch/ictl2026](http://www.unilu.ch/ictl2026)

UNIVERSITY OF  
LUCERNE

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON  
THEOLOGY AND LEADERSHIP

**INVITING THE S/spirit  
INTO LEADERSHIP**

**JUNE 17–19, 2026**

ILSE INSTITUTE OF  
LEADERSHIP &  
SOCIAL ETHICS

ILSE is  
a research  
institute of



# Programme

## JUNE 18, 2026 — OPENING & ENACTING VERTICALIZATION

---

**08:15** **Arrival & Registration**

### OPENING

**09:00** **Welcome & Introduction**

**09:10** **Keynote — Felix Eiffler**

Empowerment, Leadership and the Spirit (Verticalization through empowerment)

### FOUNDATIONS & CONCEPTUAL GROUNDING

**10:10** **Jack Barentsen**

Leadership with Vulnerability: Anthropological and Theological Foundations of Verticalization

**Babak Moradi**

Integrating Organisational and Self-Leadership through SLDS

**10:50** **Break**

**11:20** **Chukwuemeka Peter Dike / Christian Preidel / Patrick Renz**

Verticalization as Leadership Practice: Measuring and Enacting the S/spirit

**Eliška Vančová**

The Holy Spirit in the Ordination Liturgy of the Evangelical Church of Czech Brethren

**12:00** **Michael Bendorf**

The Competence Cube of Spiritual Leadership: A Pneumatologically Extended Model

**Cees Tulp**

Fostering Verticalization Through Jürgen Moltmann's Ethics of Life and Theology of the Spirit of Life

**12:40** **Lunch**

### PRACTICES OF VERTICALIZATION

**13:40** **Hadley Bennet**

Participation & Co-constructing conversation

**Heini Kesti**

Digital Fasting and Clearing Liminal Space

**14:20** **Peter Frühmorgen**

From the Wilderness to Leadership: Christian Storytelling as a Transformative Practice of Sense-Making

**Jen Smith**

Relational Leading and Learning by the Spirit While in the Flesh (and potentially on a computer!)

**15:00** **Dave de la Fuente / Kate André / Andria Seneviratne**

Inviting the Spirit Together After 2020: Reflections on the Ignatian CLA Program

**Claus Schreier**

Religious Beliefs and Decision Logic in Family Firms: Christianity, Buddhism, and Confucianism in Thailand

**15:40** **Break**

### CONTEXTUALIZING VERTICALIZATION

**16:10** **Francis Adebayo / John Ojo**

The Great Men of God: Spirit-led Leadership and Growth in Nigerian Pentecostalism

**Massimiliano Monaci**

Reclaiming Institutional Leadership: Values-Work, Sacralization and Purposive Action

### HOLDING THE SPACE

**16:50** **Keynote — Matthew Barber - Rowell**

Curating Spaces of Hope (Safeguarding processes for verticalization)

**17:50** **Book Pre-Launch**

of the Conference 2024 Publication

**18:20** **Social Event**

## JUNE 19, 2026 — TESTING, GROUNDING & INTEGRATING LEADERSHIP

### OPENING DISRUPTION

**08:30** **Keynote — Armin Kummer**

Dark Sides of Leadership (When verticalization veers off course)

### FROM CRITIQUE TO PRACTICE

**09:30** **Matthias Ederer / Patrick Renz**

Inviting S/spirit into Leadership: Old Testament Practices of Team Genesis and Collective Emergence

**Michael Schroth**

The S/spirit of Leadership in Pastoral Practice and Self-Image

**10:10** **Break**

**10:40** **Mark Fox**

Alternative Swiss Approaches to the Inclusion of Spirit in Church-State and Interreligious Dialogue Leadership

**Erika Huamaní Rimachi**

Power Conflicts and Synodality: An analysis for the reconstitution of faith praxis in the SDAC

### GLOBAL & RELIGIOUS CONTEXTS

**11:20** **Hussein Elkamel**

Being Promised Haven Yet Criticized: The Spirit of Muslim Individualism

**Tobias Bruegger**

See How Happy He Is

**12:00** **Lunch**

### IDENTITY & TRANSFORMATION

**13:00** **Tabitha van Krimpen**

In Search of the S/spirit of Leadership: A Narrative Approach to Moral Courage

### LEADERSHIP BEYOND FUNCTIONALITY

**13:40** **Giorgia Nigri**

Leading with Love: Loving action as a catalyst for transformation

**Hanlie Smuts / Jaco Beyers**

A guideline for Christian leadership in the digital age: a balance between immanence and transcendence

**14:20** **Short Break**

### INTEGRATION: LEADING THE WHOLE PERSON

**14:35** **Keynote — Alessandra Smerilli**

Leading with the Whole Person in Mind: Synodality, Economic Wisdom, and the Art of Accompanying Communities

### HARVEST & CLOSING

**15:35** **Collective reflection, synthesis, and closing**

**As of 16:00** **Farewell drinks** at KKL Luzern, Lakeview Bar

Please note that the programme is still subject to change.

Speakers listed within the same time slot will present in two parallel sessions.

The conference language is English.