



**STOQ'07 – THE STOQ INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
« ONTOGENY AND HUMAN LIFE »
November 15-17, 2007**



**Pontifical Athenaeum 'Regina Apostolorum'
in collaboration with the Pontifical Academy for Life
Rome, Italy**

PRESENTATION

The STOQ '07 Conference will be focused on the topic of the ontogeny and development of human beings.

It is well known that in the last decades this topic, and in particular the question of the identity and status of the human embryo, has stirred hot and endless bioethical debates, with notable repercussions on the social and political issues of many countries.

Obviously, such an item must be tackled from different and intermingling viewpoints, from biology to law, or from medicine to anthropology, dealing with questions like: is human ontogeny a continuous process, or is it marked by biological and ontological discontinuities? If so, when and where to place such discontinuities, and what ethical and juridical conclusions to draw? Is there a clear cut between embryos and pseudo-embryos, or there is a continuum between perfect normality and total abnormality? How to deal with situations challenging the concepts of individual and organism, like conjoined twins or developmental chimaeras?

In a more general framework, the concept of ontogeny also reminds us of a bio-philosophical theme that seems today largely underestimated, that of biological genesis, with questions ranging from epigenesis to the origin of life, from genetics to phylogeny.

Thus, the next STOQ Conference will provide a unique opportunity to rigorously deal with, and serenely discuss, the numerous aspects of human development and ontogeny, in the context of a high-level academic board and in the beautiful setting of the town of Rome.

The Conference will be accordingly divided in four Sections:

- a) Biological Aspects
- b) Biomedical Aspects
- c) Philosophical and Theological Aspects
- d) Bioethical and Juridical Aspects

Concluding each day of the Conference, Panel Sessions will give all the participants an opportunity to intervene in open debate on these topics.

English and Italian are the official languages of the Conference, with simultaneous translation in both languages.

PROGRAM

Thursday, November 15th

Morning Session

Introductory Addresses

- 09.00 Pedro Barrajon (Rector of the Pontifical Athenaeum 'Regina Apostolorum', Rome)
Welcome Address
- 09.30 Card. Paul Poupard (PCC), *Introductory Speech*
- 10.00 Mons. Elio Sgreccia (Pontifical Academy for Life), *Opening Lecture*
- 10.45 Vincenzo Cappelletti (Italian Society of the History of Science, Roma):
Historical Introduction
- 11.30 Coffee Break

SECTION A: BIOLOGICAL ASPECTS

Morning Session

- 12.00 Scott Gilbert (Swarthmore College, Swarthmore, PA):
The State of the Art of Developmental Biology: communication and emergence

Afternoon Session

- 15.30 Alessandro Minelli (University of Padova): *Evodevo Today*
- 16.10 William Hurlbut (Stanford University, Stanford, CA):
Human Development in the Light of Synthetic and Systemic Biology
- 16.50 Coffee Break
- 17.20 Mónica López Barahona (Director of VidaCord Company, Madrid):
The Genetic Status of Human Embryo
- 18.00 Pietro Ramellini (Pontifical Athenaeum 'Regina Apostolorum', Roma):
On the Concept of Genesis in Biology
- 18.40 Discussion

Friday, November 16th

Morning Session

SECTION B: BIOMEDICAL ASPECTS

- 9.00 Giuseppe Noia (Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, Roma):
Physiological and Pathological Aspects of the Mother-foetus Interactions
- 9.40 Matthew H. Kaufman M. H. (University of Edimburgh, UK):
The Embryology of Conjoined Twins
- 10.20 Carlo Valerio Bellieni (University of Siena):
Fertilisation Environment: Long-term Consequences
- 11.00 Coffee Break
- 11.30 Ingolf Schmid-Tannwald (Ludwig-Maximilians-University, Munich, Germany):
The integration of the Biological and the Social Reality of Man in a System Model
- 12.10 Discussion

Afternoon Session

SECTION C: PHILOSOPHICAL AND THEOLOGICAL ASPECTS

- 15.30 José Antonio Izquierdo Labeaga (Pontifical Athenaeum 'Regina Apostolorum', Roma):
*The Concept of Embryo in Albert the Great and Thomas Aquinas and the Question of
Enslavement*
- 16.10 Ramón Lucas Lucas (Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome):
The Anthropological Question: Is the Embryo a Human Personal Entity?
- 16.50 Coffee Break
- 17.20 Paul O'Callaghan (Pontifical University of the Holy Cross, Rome):
Souls and Embryos
- 18.00 Mons. Willem Jacobus Eijk (Bishop, Groningen-Leeuwarden):
Theological Moral Questions on Ontogenesis
- 18.40 Discussion

Saturday, November 17th

Morning Session

SECTION D: BIOETHICAL AND JURIDICAL ASPECTS

- 9.00 Gonzalo Miranda (Pontifical Athenaeum 'Regina Apostolorum', Roma):
The Bioethical Debate about Human Embryos
- 9.40 Alicja Grzeskowiak (The John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin, Poland):
Juridical Aspects of the Embryo Debate
- 10.20 Laura Palazzani (LUMSA University, Rome):
The Biojuridical Debate about the Status of Human Embryo
- 11.00 Coffee Break
- 11.20 Carlo Casini (Member of European Parliament):
Human Embryo in European Law
- 12.00 Patricio Ventura-Juncá (Catholic University of Chile):
The Morning-after Pill, Ethical, Scientific and Juridical Questions
- 12.40 Conclusive Panel:** Pietro Ramellini, Laura Palazzani, Carlo Casini, Gonzalo Miranda

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