

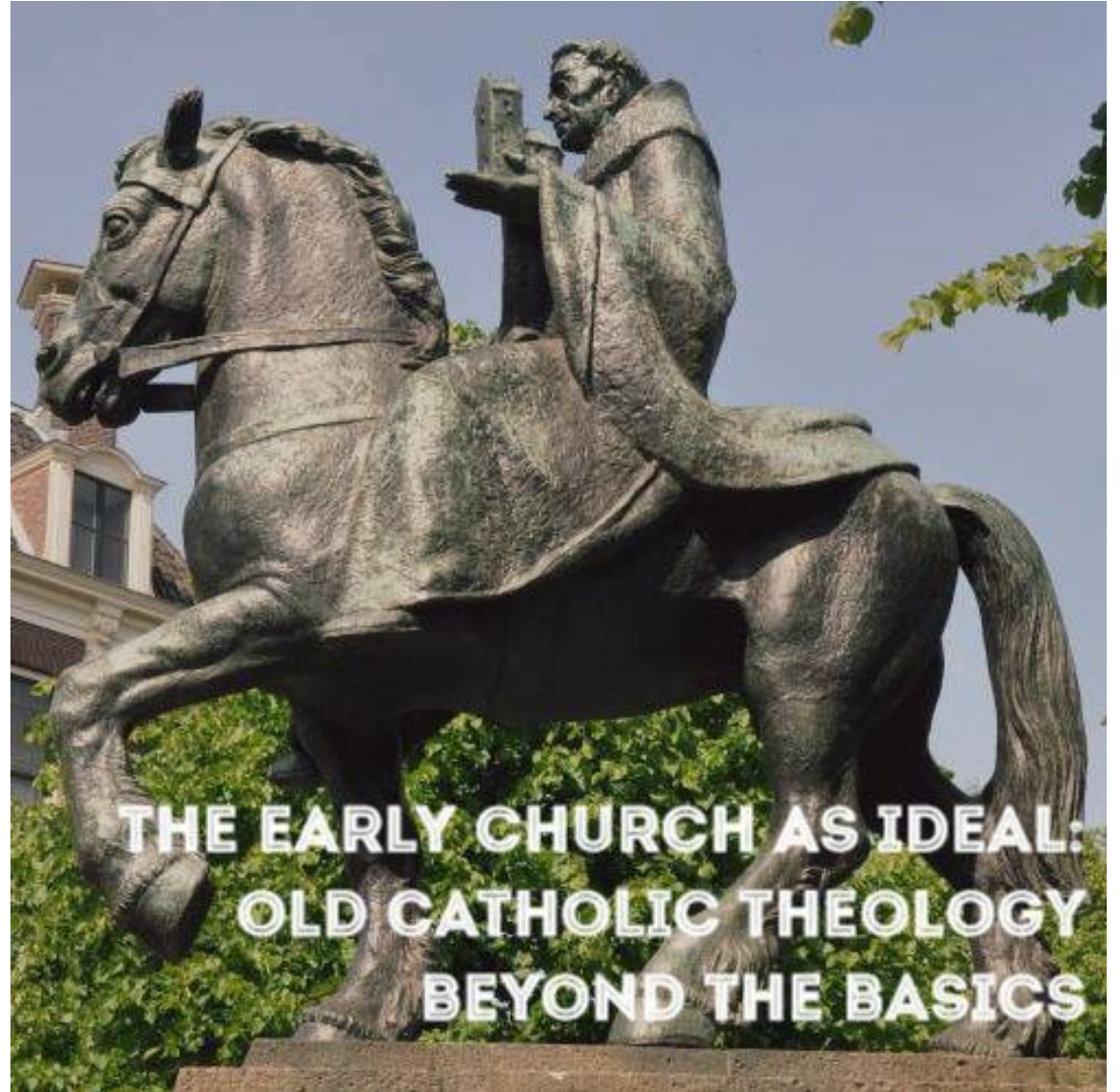
# THE EARLY CHURCH AS IDEAL: OLD CATHOLIC THEOLOGY BEYOND THE BASICS

## PROGRAMME\*

9 July 2021 – 15 July 2021

Old Catholic Seminary at Utrecht University

\*Tentative



# WELCOME



Prof. Dr. Peter-Ben Smit  
Course director

Dear visitor!

I'm happy to welcome you to the summer school in Old Catholic theology. Since 2012, we have been inviting students to Utrecht to explore Old Catholic theology together. More than a course, the experience has been a real feast for all participants, students and professors alike.

Following on the success of the now classical introductory course '[Old Catholic Theology in its Ecumenical Context](#)', we offered an advanced course for the first time in 2021. '[The Early Church as Ideal: Old Catholic Theology Beyond the Basics](#)' also proved to be a wonderful experience for all participants. For this reason, we will be offering both courses again in 2022. Also, the option to combine both courses in one '[track](#)' will be back!

As we enjoyed the benefits of online teaching in 2021, we will return to the benefits of physical classes again in 2022. We hope to create the best conditions for an intense community of learners and a direct encounter with the context of the Netherlands in this manner. Should the pandemic not permit this format, we will offer the courses online again.

Therefore, I'd like to invite you to join us again in Utrecht in 2022! You can become part of a unique community of learners in Old Catholic theology. While you connect with participants from all over the globe, you will learn more about Old Catholic systematic theology, liturgy, history, spirituality, ecumenical relations, canon law, and praxis.

I am glad that faculty members of the Old Catholic Seminary in Utrecht are offering their time and talent again. They include some of the brightest minds in Old Catholicism, such as Dr. Mattijs Ploeger in the field of liturgy and systematic theology, Prof. Andreas Krebs from the Old Catholic Institute in Bonn in dogmatics, Dr. Dick Schoon, Bishop of Haarlem in church history, and practical theologian Rev. Jutta Eilander – van Maaren on spirituality and praxis. As always, we'll cooperate with the prime museum of religious art in the Netherlands, the Catharijneconvent. A new part of 'Old Catholic Theology in its Ecumenical Context' will be an excursion to Amsterdam, where (Old) Catholicism enjoyed a rich (and oftentimes illegal) existence.

Feel free to explore the two course offerings at the Utrecht Summer School website, [here](#) for the classic introductory course "Old Catholic Theology in Its Ecumenical Context" and [here](#) for the bright new advanced course, "The Early Church as Ideal: Old Catholic Theology Beyond the Basics". And are you feeling ambitious? The two courses can be combined in the [track](#) "Old Catholic Theology: The Early Church as Charism and Challenge" (with a discount!)

Should you ask yourself the question: is this for me? The answer is probably: yes, it is! Courses are suitable for theologians, clergy and interested lay persons alike. Please be in touch with Ms. Rieneke Brand, at [rieneke.brand@okkn.nl](mailto:rieneke.brand@okkn.nl) should you have any questions.

With every good wish,

Prof. Dr. Peter-Ben Smit, course director

# PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION

This course offers the possibility to deepen your knowledge of Old Catholic theology by thematic and in-depth case-driven classes, linked to a key starting point of Old Catholic theology: the faith and order of the Early Church. How can a modern church be so 'traditional' at the same time? This apparent tension and paradox will be the core theme of this weeklong, intensive course. The course will be taught by experts in Old Catholic theology affiliated with the Old Catholic Seminary in Utrecht and beyond.

The topics and disciplines covered by the course include: fundamental and liturgical theology, spirituality, and ecumenism. Case studies that will be explored cover topics such as marriage, the ordination of women and mission. The course will also engage with Old Catholic worship as it is being celebrated today. Old Catholic theology is understood as the theological discourse within the Old Catholic Churches of the Union of Utrecht.

At the end of the course, students will have a deepened knowledge of, and insight in Old Catholic theology and her appeal on the Early Church and will be able to apply this knowledge in theological reflection and research. The course is at the advanced level of a MA curriculum. Students may be expected to do advance reading for the course.

Entry requirements for this course are having attended the course 'Old Catholic Theology in an Ecumenical context', advanced knowledge of theology or a similar qualification. The course '[Old Catholic Theology in an Ecumenical context](#)' is offered in immediate connection with this advanced course. Are you interested in participating in both courses? You can apply for the combination track here: [Old Catholic Theology: The Early Church as Charism and Challenge](#).

## Target audience

- Students who attended the course: '[Old Catholic Theology in its Ecumenical Context](#)';
- Students of theology interested in Old Catholicism and ecumenism;
- Clergy and theologians interested in Old Catholicism and ecumenism;
- Laypersons with formal or informal theological training interesting in Old Catholicism and ecumenism.

The course is of specific interest for students with Anglican, Orthodox, Lutheran, Old Catholic, and ecumenical backgrounds.

## Aim of the course

The goals of the course are, the following;

1. The student will have a deepened knowledge of and insight in Old Catholic theology and her appeal on the Early Church;
2. The student will be able to apply this knowledge in theological reflection and research;
3. The student will be able to undertake further independent study of aspects of Old Catholic theology.

## Study load

4 contact hours/day; about 40 hours of preparatory self-study will be required.

## Costs

Course fee: € 425

## Registration

Application deadline: 01 May 2022

# LECTURERS (a.o.)



The Rev. prof. dr. Peter-  
Ben Smit

Prof. dr. Andreas Krebs

The Rev. dr. Mattijs  
Ploeger

Rev. Leonie van  
Straaten

Mr. Adriaan Snijders,  
LL.M.

Ecumenism

Old Catholic and  
Ecumenical theology

Systematic Theology

Spirituality

Canon Law

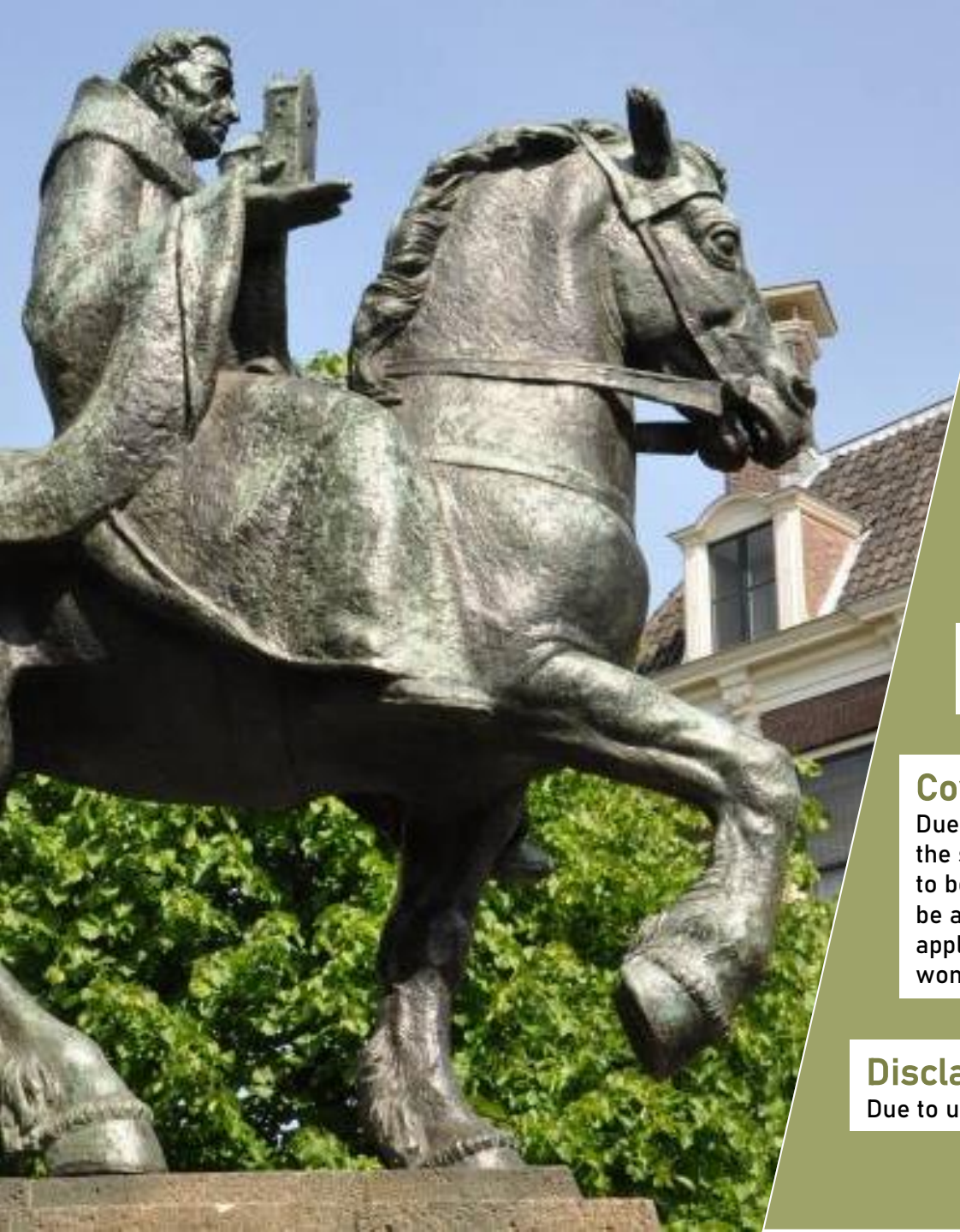


# PROGRAMME PART I

Time	Location	Description	Lecturer
<b>Saturday, 2 July</b>			
12.00-18.00	Key pick up (for new participants)	You will find the exact key pick up location in the pre-departure information, which becomes available after you have paid the course fee.	
<b>Sunday, 3 July</b>			
10.00	Mass at Gertrud's Cathedral, Willemsplantsoen 2, Utrecht	Attendance of Mass and subsequent coffee hour with the local priest and parishioners.	
<b>Monday, 4 July</b>			
10.00-12.00	Introduction	Introduction: The Appeal to the Early Church: Inspiration and Problem	Prof. dr. Peter-Ben Smit
12.00-13.30	Lunch Break		
13.30-15.30	Seminar. Location t.b.d.	Spirituality and Structure: The Old Catholic Eucharistic Prayers and Patristic Inspiration - Case study I	Dr. Mattijs Ploeger
<b>Tuesday, 5 July</b>			
10.00-12.00	Lecture. Location t.b.d.	Old Catholics in Search of God in A Secular Age: The Early Church as Help and Hindrance	Prof. dr. Andreas Krebs
12.00-13.30	Lunch Break		
13.30-15.30	Seminar. Location t.b.d.	Ancient Marriage in Search of Modern Meaning - Case Study II	Prof. dr. Andreas Krebs

# PROGRAMME PART I

Time	Location	Description	Lecturer
<b>Wednesday, 6 July</b>			
10.00-12.00	Lecture. Location t.b.d.	A Model for All Others? The Early Church as an Inspiration for Canon Law in the 21st Century	Mr. Adriaan Snijders, LL.M.
12.00-13.30	Lunch Break		
13.30-15.30	Excursion. Dom Church Utrecht	Stones that Speak: The Dom Church as a Source of Spiritual Renewal in Utrecht	Ds. Hans Uytenbogaardt.
<b>Thursday, 7 July</b>			
10.00-12.00	Seminar. Location t.b.d.	Renewing Spirituality out of Ancient Sources: Cases from a Dutch Old Catholic Praxis – Case Study III	Rev. Leonie van Straaten
12.00-13.30	Lunch Break		
13.30-15.30	Seminar. Location t.b.d.	What has not been assumed has not been redeemed: Ancient theology for a modern church order – the ordination of women - Case Study IV	Dr. Mattijs Ploeger
<b>Friday, 8 July</b>			
10.00-12.00	Lecture. Location t.b.d.	t.b.d.	t.b.d.
12.00-13.30	Lunch Break		
13.30-15.30	Lecture. Location t.b.d.	Back to the Future? Possibilities and Impossibilities for an Appeal to the Early Church in the 21st century	Prof. dr. Peter-Ben Smit



# FURTHER INFORMATION

For more INFORMATION or to APPLY for this course check:

[The Early Church as Ideal: Old Catholic Theology beyond the Basics](#)

Not attended the FIRST course yet?

[Old Catholic Theology in its Ecumenical Context](#)

Applying for BOTH? Check the combination TRACK for discount:

[Old Catholic Theology: The Early Church as Charism and Challenge](#)

## Scholarships:

For information regarding financial assistance, please contact the course director at [P.B.A.Smit@uu.nl](mailto:P.B.A.Smit@uu.nl).

## Covid reservations:

Due to the unpredictability of covid/travel restrictions the course organization will definitively decide whether the summerschool will take place offline in Utrecht on the 1st of June 2022. Keep this in mind when you need to book a flight or train. If it somehow will not be possible to organize the summerschool in Utrecht there will be a back-up plan to deliver the summerschool online like last year. There will be a possibility to cancel your application in the case you only want to attend the summerschool when it takes place in Utrecht. N.B. there won't be a recording or online livestream when the course will take place in Utrecht.

## Disclaimer:

Due to unforeseen circumstances the programme could be (slightly) changed.