



Catholicism and the Cold War in Latin America

International Conference
Oxford, 21–22 November 2024

What role did Latin America play in Roman Catholicism's Cold War? How did religion shape the global Cold War? This conference brings together members of the "Global Pontificate of Pius XII. Catholicism in a Divided World, 1945–1958" research network and leading scholars from three continents to discuss these questions across two days at the University of Oxford. Despite being home to a plurality of the world's Roman Catholics by the mid-twentieth century, Latin America has often been relegated to the peripheries of transnational accounts of Catholicism's Cold War. Similarly, considering the role

of religion broadly opens new understandings of the course of the Cold War. The assembled papers place Latin America at the center of transnational networks, conflicts, and discourses that structured the experience of a global faith tradition and institution of an equally global conflict.

Topics covered by the papers include Catholic Action and student movements, mass communications, Christian Democracy, missions and Indigenous peoples, Vatican diplomacy and outreach, the role of the US Catholic Church, and liberation theology.

Fig.: Protest of the Cost-of-Living Movement, Praça da Sé, São Paulo, Brazil, 27 August 1978 (photo credit: Fundo Jornal Movimento, Arquivo Público do Estado de São Paulo).

Conference venue

St Antony's College
Dahrendorf Room
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Oxford School of
Global and Area Studies



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In-person event. Only the Latin American History Seminar will be held as in-person event and on Zoom.

To join online, please register in advance:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/tZlufuyqqzouH9Yn8Z4BnCIMc3lTHgicwOPN>

