

Istituto Religioni e Teologia (ReTe)

Biblical Wisdom and the Ethics of Eating: Ancient Values in Modern Food Debates

Lugano, August, 27th 2025
Facoltà di Teologia di Lugano, USI West Campus

This one-day conference brings together four presentations to explore how key biblical principles – stewardship of creation and hospitality – can shape contemporary discussions on food ethics. While the focus remains on biblical moral thought, the conference acknowledges that food ethics is deeply embedded in a broader interreligious and philosophical discourse. By engaging with issues such as sustainability, global health, and food justice, the event examines whether biblical perspectives – when considered in dialogue with other religious and ethical traditions – can offer meaningful alternatives to dominant paradigms that prioritize individual choice and rationalist frameworks. Each concept will be analyzed through the lens of contemporary thought, considering how 20th- and 21st-century philosophers and theologians, both within and beyond the biblical tradition, have reassessed these moral principles in response to modern challenges. By situating biblical ethics within a pluralistic framework, the conference seeks to highlight how ancient moral traditions continue to shape ethical debates on environmental responsibility, communal well-being, and the morality of consumption. Ultimately, this event explores whether engaging biblical ethics in an interreligious perspective can provide a constructive alternative to prevailing food ethics models.

Programme of the event

| | |
|-------------|--|
| 09.30 | Greetings by the Authorities |
| 09.40 | Opening Remarks by Prof. Gabriela Eisenring |
| 09.50 | Introduction by the Convener, Prof. Adriano Fabris |
| | First Session Chair: Myriam Di Marco |
| 10.00-11.00 | <i>Food, health, and ecology. Some ethical considerations</i> Luca Valera , University of Valladolid |
| 11.00-11.15 | Coffee Break |



| | |
|--|---|
| 11.15-12.15 | <i>Testimony of "Bread and Wine"</i> Manca Erzetič , INR and University of Ljubljana |
| 12.15-14.30 | Lunch Break |
| <hr/> Second Session Chair: Marco Menon | |
| 14.30-15.30 | <i>"Eat when you are hungry": Ethics of eating from a perspective of interreligious dialogue</i> Seung Chul Kim , Nanzan University |
| 15.30-15.45 | Coffee Break |
| 15.45-16.45 | <i>Towards an Integral Relational Framework for Food, Well-Being, and Hospitality</i> Marta Bertolaso , University Bio-Medical Campus, Roma |
| 16.45-17.00 | Final Discussion and Closing Remarks |



Contact

Istituto Religioni e Teologia (ReTe)
rete.ftl@usi.ch
+41(0)586664551