

Intercultural Theological Ethics: Fundamentals, Frameworks, Processes

Edited by

Sigrid Müller,
Mirijam Salfinger,
and
Andrea Vicini, SJ

INTERCULTURAL THEOLOGICAL ETHICS:

Fundamentals, Frameworks, Processes

Copyright © 2025 Sigrid Müller, Mirijam Salfinger, and Andrea Vicini

All rights reserved.

Except for brief quotations in critical publications or reviews, no part of this book may be reproduced in any manner without prior written permission from the publisher. Write: Permissions, Wipf and Stock Publishers, 199 W. 8th Ave., Suite 3, Eugene, OR 97401.

Pickwick Publications

An Imprint of Wipf and Stock Publishers

199 W. 8th Ave., Suite 3

Eugene, OR 97401

www.wipfandstock.com

SOFTCOVER ISBN: 979-8-3852-8242-5

HARDCOVER ISBN: 979-8-3852-8243-2

EBOOK ISBN: 979-8-3852-8244-9

Cover image: Leonard M. Weber

DEDICATION

For all those who foster intercultural interactions in respectful and inclusive ways, contributing to a culturally richer and more just world.

Global Theological Ethics—Book Series

Series Editors

Jason King, St. Mary's—San Antonio, TX
M. Therese Lysaught, Loyola University Chicago

The Global Theological Ethics book series focuses on works that feature authors from around the world, draw on resources from the traditions of Catholic theological ethics, and attend to concrete issues facing the world today. It advances the *Journal of Moral Theology's* mission of fostering scholarship deeply rooted in traditions of inquiry about the moral life, engaged with contemporary issues, and exploring the interface of Catholic moral theology philosophy, economics, political philosophy, psychology, and more.

This series is sponsored in conjunction with the Catholic Theological Ethics in the World Church. CTEWC recognizes the need to dialogue from and beyond local cultures and to interconnect within a world church. Its global network of scholars, practitioners, and activists fosters cross-cultural, interdisciplinary conversations—via conferences, symposia, and colloquia, both in-person and virtually—about critical issues in theological ethics, shaped by shared visions of hope.

Online versions of the volumes in the *Global Theological Ethics* series are available for free download as chapters at jmt.scholasticahq.com. Paper copies may be purchased from Wipf & Stock. This dual approach reflects the *Journal of Moral Theology's* commitment to the common good as it seeks to make the scholarship of Catholic theological ethicists broadly available, especially across borders. Additionally, you can find the series listed on the CTEWC website at catholicethics.com/book-series/catholic-theological-ethics-series/.

Series Titles

Ethical Challenges in Global Public Health: Climate Change, Pollution, and the Health of the Poor, edited by Philip J. Landrigan and Andrea Vicini, SJ (2021)

The Rising Global Cancer Pandemic: Health, Ethics, and Social Justice, edited by Andrea Vicini, SJ, Philip J. Landrigan, and Kurt Straif (2022)

Doing Theology and Theological Ethics in the Face of the Abuse Crisis, edited by Daniel J. Fleming, James F. Keenan, SJ, and Hans Zollner, SJ (2023)

A Prophet to the Peoples: Paul Farmer's Witness and Theological Ethics, edited by Jennie Weiss Block, M. Therese Lysaught, and Alexandre A. Martins (2023)

Haciendo Teología y Ética Teológica Frente a la Crisis de Abuso, edited by Daniel J. Fleming, James F. Keenan, SJ, and Hans Zollner, SJ (2024)

Reproduction and the Common Good: Global Perspectives from the Catholic Tradition, edited by Simeiqi He and Emily Reimer-Barry (2024)

Plastic Pollution, Theological Ethics, and the Call of Laudato Si', edited by Andrea Vicini, SJ, Philip J. Landrigan, and Karen Bullock (2025)

Intercultural Theological Ethics: Fundamentals, Frameworks, Processes, edited by Sigrid Müller, Mirijam Salfinger, and Andrea Vicini, SJ (2025)

Table of Contents

Acknowledgments	viii
1. Introduction	
<i>Mirijam Salfinger, Sigrid Müller, and Andrea Vicini, SJ</i>	1
2. Relational Theology: Foundation for an Intercultural Morality	
<i>María Isabel Gil Espinosa</i>	9
3. Human Dignity, Cultural Norms, and the Good for All: Toward a Dialogical Method in Intercultural Theological Ethics	
<i>Sigrid Müller</i>	28
4. Spiritual Foundation: Contemplative Pragmatics	
<i>Peter Sedgwick</i>	47
5. Catholicity: A Hermeneutic Model for Intercultural Theological Ethics?	
<i>Franz Gmainer-Pranzl</i>	66
6. The Task of Living Together and Learning from Each Other: Catholic Ethics in the Context of Religious-Cultural Diversity	
<i>Shaji George Kochuthara</i>	81
7. Ensuring Equality and Objectivity in Intercultural Dialogue	
<i>Agnes M. Brazal</i>	103
8. Seeing the Unseen? Silenced Voices, Excluded Knowledge, and the Question of Representation in the World Church	
<i>Sigrid Rettenbacher</i>	120
9. The Role of Gender in Intercultural Ethics	
<i>Mirijam Salfinger</i>	145

10. Stimulating Change in Local Contexts
Richard N. Rwiza..... 165

11. A Genuine Intercultural Ethics Requires a Decolonized Pluriversal Dialogue Between the Colonizers and the Colonized
Jude Thaddaeus Buyondo 181

12. Personal Experience of Difference and Convergence: Teaching Moral Theology in Sri Lanka and Rome
Vimal Tirimanna, CSSR 203

13. Bioscientific Foundation: Bioscientific Dialogue as Model of Intercultural Dialogue
Adam Widera 212

14. From the Local to the Universal: Henry Odera Oruka’s Vision of a Just World as Stimulus for an Intercultural Theological Ethics
Maria Haneder-Kulterer 232

15. Intercultural Ethics and Institutions: Challenges and Possibilities
Andrea Vicini, SJ..... 255

Acknowledgments

Striving to foster intercultural theological ethics begins with acknowledging those who have made possible both the Workshop on Intercultural Theological Ethics held in Vienna in September 2023, which led to this book, and the publication of this volume. First, we express our gratitude to the “Hunold Stiftung” for their generous financial support in both instances. Their dedication to fostering intercultural exchange and research on intercultural theological ethics has been essential and greatly appreciated.

Second, we also would like to thank Prof. Dr. Prüller-Jagenteufel and Claudia Bernal Díaz, as well as Paul Draganoff, for their contributions and efforts in organizing the Workshop. Special thanks to Dr. Evan Sandmark for his careful and thorough proofreading of each chapter. His expertise and attention to detail have significantly contributed to the clarity and precision of this work and to refining the final manuscript.

Third, our heartfelt gratitude goes to the publishing team of Catholic Theological Ethics in the World Church (CTEWC) and to M. Therese Lysaught who together accepted the volume into the Global Theological Ethics book series and who have patiently waited for its completion, as well as to William Collinge and Aaron Weisel for their attentive editing.

Finally, we would like to explicitly acknowledge all those who have paved the way for a more systematic approach to intercultural theological ethics by engaging in intercultural ethical dialogue—including the many valuable books published with the support of CTEWC, which we deeply appreciate. Although we claim to be doing something new by striving to systematically integrate interculturality into theological ethical approaches, we are building upon the work of those who came before us.

Sigrid Müller, Mirijam Salfinger, and Andrea Vicini, SJ