

FIDELITER INTELLEGENS  
AUGUST 25<sup>TH</sup>–29<sup>TH</sup> 2021 / ABBEY OTTOBEUREN  
INTERDISCIPLINARY SUMMER ACADEMY  
FOR YOUNG CATHOLIC SCHOLARS

## DISCOVERING LIFE

### From its Beginnings to its Ends

This year's academy is all about *life*. Life from its spatial and temporal dimensions. Spatial, from the micro-level, the smallest cell, to the perhaps infinite extension of the universe. Temporal, from its beginning to its end in time. Both the life of the world as a whole, and the life of each individual living being within this world and their connections to each other can be a field of consideration. The dimensions of life found in nature can be examined in their ecological context. The hierarchical structures, which are particularly tangible in the relationship of living beings to each other and to their environment, can also be the subject of scientific debate. This also includes the question of when life can be spoken of, whether "*artificial life*" is possible at all and what criteria for life result from the answers to these questions.

The human being is in a prominent position in two respects: On the one hand as the only living being capable of reflecting on its own life, on the other hand as the being that actively attributes a value to itself in this world and tries to enforce this value. Conceivable contributions to this subject area could come from biology, ecology, physics, astrophysics, philosophy, history, chemistry, artificial intelligence, technology or climate research.

In addition to the scientific-philosophical component of life in the world (or on a macro-level the life of the world), a moral-anthropological perspective of the topic could be opened up. What moral consequences result from the finiteness and limits of life? To what extent, for example, are there limits to man's dependency on the life of the rainforest, the sea, the Arctic and other natural phenomena? Man's ability to transcend and control the limits of nature raises philosophical and moral questions about the responsible use of these abilities. These questions arise in every form of application of technical means to natural resources available to humankind - examples of this could be found in medicine, genetics, energy production or technical means of transport. Who sets these limits technically or legally and who guarantees that they are observed? Starting point for these questions can be the awareness that nature is permeated by a rationality (*ratio*) that not only enables an empirical scientific approach, but always includes the question of whether a consequence for the social, economic and societal order of human life also arises from this rational order of nature. For this subject area, contributions from the fields of medicine, technology, law, philosophy of law, moral theology, economics, politics or any empirical social research could be fitting

And finally, the finiteness of life in the world must also be seen as a force that influences human life psychologically, philosophically and religiously, more than almost any other fact. Especially last year's, pandemic showed the finiteness of the human life in an unvarnished way. The effects of this tension find their historical and social expression in art, music, in social and political orders, in memorial culture, but also in social relations. Last, the Christian-teleological conception of the world as something finite in contrast to the conception of infinite life in the kingdom of God gives rise to a tension that has shaped and continues to shape life in Christian cultural spheres. Especially Benedictine monasticism offers a possible answer to this question in a special form of regulated life. Conceivable for

this subject area would be contributions from history, sociology, educational sciences, art history, philosophy, archaeology, psychology, anthropology or theology.

Especially scientists from the fields of technical and scientific disciplines are encouraged to register! The diverse methodological and scientific approaches to the academy's topic are part of the concept. In any case, the prerequisite is a doctorate that has already begun, is in progress or has just been obtained. In special cases, applications from Master's students with the prospect of a doctoral project can also be considered.

It is possible to present in English or German. Please consider, that all participants will come from different scholastic disciplines, so it could be possible to give some basic information about your terminology or method. If necessary you could send something in advance to the other participants.

**Application procedure for speakers:** Proposals for presentations (abstract max. 300 words) and a tabular curriculum vitae should be sent to [thomas.kieslinger@fi-akademie.de](mailto:thomas.kieslinger@fi-akademie.de) by **June 20th, 2021** at the latest. The entire cost contribution of the participants (including board and lodging) will be covered by external sponsors. Travel costs will be paid by the participants themselves.