

CALL FOR PAPERS
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF PISAI

DECEMBER 11-12, 2026

ROMA

**FOR A FUTURE OF EXCELLENCE: ONE HUNDRED YEARS
BETWEEN MISSION AND FORMATION**

The year 2026 marks the centenary of the foundation of the Pontifical Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies (PISAI), a training, study, and research institute dedicated to religious dialogue and a witness to a century of encounters, and which has always been linked to the activities of the Society of Missionaries of Africa (White Fathers).

From its origins in the Maghreb as a training centre at the service of the mission of the White Fathers, following the historical events of the early 1960s and the initiatives of the Second Vatican Council, PISAI transferred to Rome, transforming itself into a seed of dialogue, often barely visible but always fruitful, and is currently experiencing a productive period of studies and a profound and animated experience of Christian-Muslim relations.

On the occasion of this important anniversary, PISAI is organising an international scientific conference dedicated to the past, present, and future of the Institute and invites researchers and scholars to submit original contributions.

CONFERENCE TOPICS

1. The History: A Century-Long Journey

- The foundation in the Maghreb and the original mission
- The transfer of PISAI to Rome and the influence of the Second Vatican Council
- Commitment to Christian-Muslim Dialogue
- Events that have marked the life of the Institute and the Church

2. The Pillars of PISAI: Figures of Dialogue

- Profiles and contributions of key figures in interreligious dialogue:
Maurice Borrmans, Robert Caspar, Étienne Renaud, Jean Fontaine, Michael Fitzgerald, etc.
- The legacy of the martyrs of Algeria, seven of whom had been students at PISAI
- Muslim-Christian relations as they are experienced in the field and their impact on the Institute's studies

3. International Dimension: Publications, Conventions, and Research

- PISAI as an expression of the universal Church and a Centre of Excellence for training in Arabic and Islamic studies
- The important collaborative relationships the Institute has developed over time, with Western and Arab universities, networks and research centres (Gregorian University, Georgetown University, the Institut Français Centre Saint-Louis, IDÉO, ICM, Trends, CEI, Pluriel), and has also inspired various institutions in Africa (Dar Comboni in Cairo, IFIC in Bamako, IRDIS in Nairobi)
- The *Chaire Méditerranée, religions et sociétés* and dialogical theology in the Mediterranean context, which is the result of a strategic partnership between PISAI and IFCSL, translating and putting into practice Pope Francis' commitment to developing a dialogical theology in the Mediterranean context
- Academic journals as a reflection of the Institute's scientific continuity: *Islamochristiana, Études Arabes, Encounter*

4. Teaching Today: Methods and Content Between Past and Future

- The approach to teaching Arabic, the Islamic sciences, and Christian-Muslim relations
- The evolution of teaching methods and future prospects for specialised training
- The role of seminars, conferences, and study days as an integral part of PISAI's pedagogy
- Enrolled students and alumni who have already completed their studies are invited to share their experiences, both during their studies and when the content they learned was put into practice as a lived experience
- The library as the beating heart of PISAI. Since its foundation, it has specialised in works and journals on Arab and Islamic culture, in line with the Institute's scientific approach to sources in their original language, without neglecting texts on Oriental studies and works dedicated to interreligious dialogue

HOW TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS

Language of presentation: Italian, French, English and Arabic

Duration of presentation: presentations will last 30 minutes, followed by a Q&A session

Calendar

April 1, 2026: deadline for receiving presentation proposals

May 15, 2026: notification of acceptance of proposals after double-blind review by the scientific committee

November 1, 2026: Deadline for submitting the final version of the presentation for simultaneous translation on the day of the conference

Proposals Format

Abstracts of presentations should not exceed 300 words and must be accompanied by a brief biography specifying the institutional affiliation of the participants

Please specify which theme(s) the proposal aligns with

Submission of proposals to:

Eugenia Di Gregorio: events@pisai.it

Wasim Salman: wasim.salman@pisai.it

Publication conference proceedings

- **Calendar:**

March 15, 2026: Deadline for receiving articles for publication (in one of the conference languages)

June 1, 2026: Notification of article acceptance after double-blind review

- **Publication Process:**

Manuscripts will be published after double-blind peer review. The editorial guidelines must be strictly adhered to and will be subject to evaluation.

Scientific Committee

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