

Interreligious Creativity in the Quest for Sustainability: Bridging the Gap between the Strong and the Weak, the Deep and the Shallow

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Jaime Tatay-Nieto
jtatay@comillas.edu
Assistant Professor
School of Theology - Universidad Pontificia Comillas (Madrid)

ABSTRACT: There is a renewed interest in the role religions in general, and theologies in particular, can play in the global quest for sustainability, as well as in the possibilities and limits of interreligious dialogue related to one of the main challenges of our time: the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) defined in the UN Agenda 2030. The growing interreligious discursive convergence on ecology has its roots in the acknowledgment of a set of ecological meta-problems, rather than in a common, single meta-narrative (Tatay and Devitt 2017). However, the similar *metaphors*, *models* and *images* used in both religious and scientific discourses on sustainability points towards a potentially fruitful dialogue and an emerging shared narrative. Furthermore, the academic disciplines of interreligious studies and environmental sustainability share substantial common ground: scholars in both fields claim interdisciplinarity, activist tendencies, and relationality to be key characteristics of their respective disciplines (Di Vecchio 2018). There are also several practical reasons why these two relevant societal actors should think and act together in order to bridge the academic gap between the shallow and the deep (Naess 1972), the strong and weak (Neumayer 1999) views on sustainability. A “pragmatic convergence” between science and religion could help bridge, bind, bond, sustain, strengthen and deepen the global quest for sustainability.

KEYWORDS: sustainability; interreligious; science-religion dialogue; interdisciplinarity; environmental science.