

Invitation
Stichting Echo seminar
“Eat and Drink at My Table” (Lk 22:30)
Cultures of Food and Drink in Catholic Religious Orders and
Congregations in the Low Countries (Nineteenth and Twentieth
Centuries)

12 December 2025, KADOC-KU Leuven

From monastic beers to fasting – this seminar examines how Catholic religious have shaped their cultures of food and drink within their communities since the nineteenth century. What rituals, spirituality and rules were involved? Were there differences between female and male religious institutes? How did religious in mission contexts experience cultural culinary differences? And what impact does this monastic culture of food and drink continue to have on our contemporary society?



Free admission.

Register at wouter.kock@ru.nl. If you wish to attend remotely online, please state this when registering.

Location: Commissiezaal, [KADOC-KU Leuven](#), Vlamingenstraat 39, Leuven, Belgium



Programme

12:30–13:00 *Coffee and tea served*

13:00–13:10 *Welcome by Joep van Gennip, Stichting Echo chair*

13:10–14:25 *Papers and Discussion I*

Kristien Suenens: “Did Male and Female Religious Eat Differently? Gender, Food, and Religious Life in Belgian Convents, 19th–Early 20th Century”

Anton Milh: “What Shall We Do with the Drunken Bishop? A Case Study of Alcoholism within the Matrix of Religious Life, Mission and Ecclesiastical Authority”

14:25–14:40 *Break*

14:40–15:55 *Papers and Discussion II*

Jo Luyten: “‘Smoking Fathers’: The Perfume of Tobacco in the Daily Lives of Male Religious in the Low Countries, 19th–20th Century.”

Arputha Lilly Antony: “From Stamppot to Spicy Pickle: Food, Discipline, and Adaptation in the Missionary Life of JMJ Sisters in Colonial India”

15:55–16:15 *Break*

16:15–17:30 *Papers and Discussion III*

Terry Tastard: “Rationing and Solidarity: How South African Dominican Sisters Nourished their English Counterparts during World War II”

Brian Heffernan: “Black Fast and a Cup of Coffee: Fasting and its Discontents in the Female Dutch Discalced Carmel”

17:30–18:00 *Plenary discussion and conclusion*

18:00 *Practising cultures of food and drink: drinks reception*

