



INSTITUTE FOR ADVANCED JESUIT STUDIES

Jesuit Studies Café

Fall 2026

Join us for informal conversations with scholars working on the history, spirituality, and educational heritage of the Society of Jesus.

Register Here:



Collaborating
Partners:



Our Speakers



Natale Vacalebri

University of Alcalá, Spain

Oct. 22
9:20 a.m.
U.S. Eastern

God's Arsenal: The Libraries of the Society of Jesus in the Early Modern Age (1540–1773)

This presentation explores how Jesuit institutions acquired, classified, controlled, read, and circulated books. Moving between normative prescriptions and everyday practice, it considers libraries as essential infrastructures of education, discipline, and knowledge production. The history of the Jesuit College of Perugia serves as an extended case study through which these broader structures and practices can be observed in detail.



Fr. Sam Conedera, S.J.

St. Louis University, Missouri

Nov. 19
9:20 a.m.
U.S. Eastern

Son of Ignatius, Son of Israel: Pedro de Ribadeneyra, S.J.

The Jesuit author and administrator Pedro de Ribadeneyra (1526–1611) spent his life articulating a vision of his order's identity centered on filiation to Ignatius of Loyola. He never acknowledged his Jewish lineage according to the flesh, yet he was deeply implicated in the controversy over Jesuit conversos. Conedera's research explores the relationship between these two notions of sonship in Ribadeneyra's life and work, as well as his lasting contribution to Jesuit historiography.



Silvia Eleonora Brera

Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, Milan

Dec. 17
9:20 a.m.
U.S. Eastern

From Mission to Local Church: The Jesuits in the Rhodesias (1939–1958)

This talk presents part of an ongoing Ph.D. project on Catholic missions in sub-Saharan Africa from 1939 to 1958. Focusing on Jesuit activity in Northern and Southern Rhodesia (present-day Zambia and Zimbabwe), particularly in education and the formation of local clergy, it examines the transition from mission to the local Church.