

Defense of the Doctoral Thesis of Professor Isabel González Sosa



The Academic Committee with the new Doctor Isabel González Sosa

Last Wednesday, February 26, the defense and successful reading of the thesis by Dr. Isabel González Sosa took place at the Doctoral program in Humanities, History, Philosophy, and aesthetics at Francisco de Vitoria University. Her thesis, titled “Robert Enright’s Forgiveness: An Empirical Study of the Forgiveness Questionnaire among Groups and Points of Convergence with René Girard’s Renunciation of Violence”, was supervised by Dr. Ángel Barahona and Dr. Saray Bonete.

The committee was composed of Dr. Leonardo Rodríguez Duplá, professor at the Complutense University of Madrid, as the president of the panel; Dr. Javier López Martínez, professor at the San Pablo CEU University, as a member of the committee; and Dr. Clara Molinero Caparrós, professor at the Francisco de Vitoria University, as the secretary.

The main objective of the thesis was to discover whether there was a relationship between the renunciation of violence in René Girard’s mimetic Theory, and Robert Enright’s concept of forgiveness. The doctoral candidate delved into investigating whether the concepts of forgiveness

proposed by this author constitutes as a valid response to violence, if it could be applied at a group level, and, along with this, whether there is coherence between the various insights provided by both Girard and Enright from an epistemological, anthropological, ethical and meaningful perspective.

The work explored concepts such as interpersonal forgiveness and forgiveness among groups, conducting an empirical study that enabled the validation of the forgiveness questionnaire among groups (EGFI) in the Spanish population as the first key result. On the other hand, the anthropological part highlighted this path of forgiveness and the common points these two authors share from different disciplines, in an exercise of open reasoning.

By observing her results, Isabel concluded that both the renunciation of violence and forgiveness can be considered two proposals pointing to the same phenomenon, as they present highly interconnected foundations.

Isabel's doctoral thesis was graded with the highest distinction. This recognition reflects the excellence of the work done and its contribution to the field of psychology and humanities, specifically in the theme of forgiveness. At the Institute of Forgiveness, we celebrate Isabel González Sosa's great achievement, both for her significant contributions and the scientific impact of her research.