



PONTIFICIA
UNIVERSITÀ
GREGORIANA

Istituto di Antropologia

Safeguarding – integral part of the Mission of the Church

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Jesus Christ, creator of safe and sacred space



Safeguarding =

Safe space

Safe relationships

Safe Practices / Processes

... what gives life and allows for growth!

Situation and reactions in the Church worldwide

- The topic is present everywhere.
- Uncomfortableness, lack of knowledge, lack of willingness to engage.
- Safeguarding measures  vs dealing with the past 
- Little transfer of experience and expertise.
- Cultural, legal, historical factors –
No “*one size fits all*”.

Public attention:



From abuse of children
to abuse of (adult) persons in
situations of vulnerability:
women; indigenous; people with
disability; LGBTQ+; elderly;
(im)migrants; women religious;
seminarians; (sexual) abuse
committed by women

Public attention:



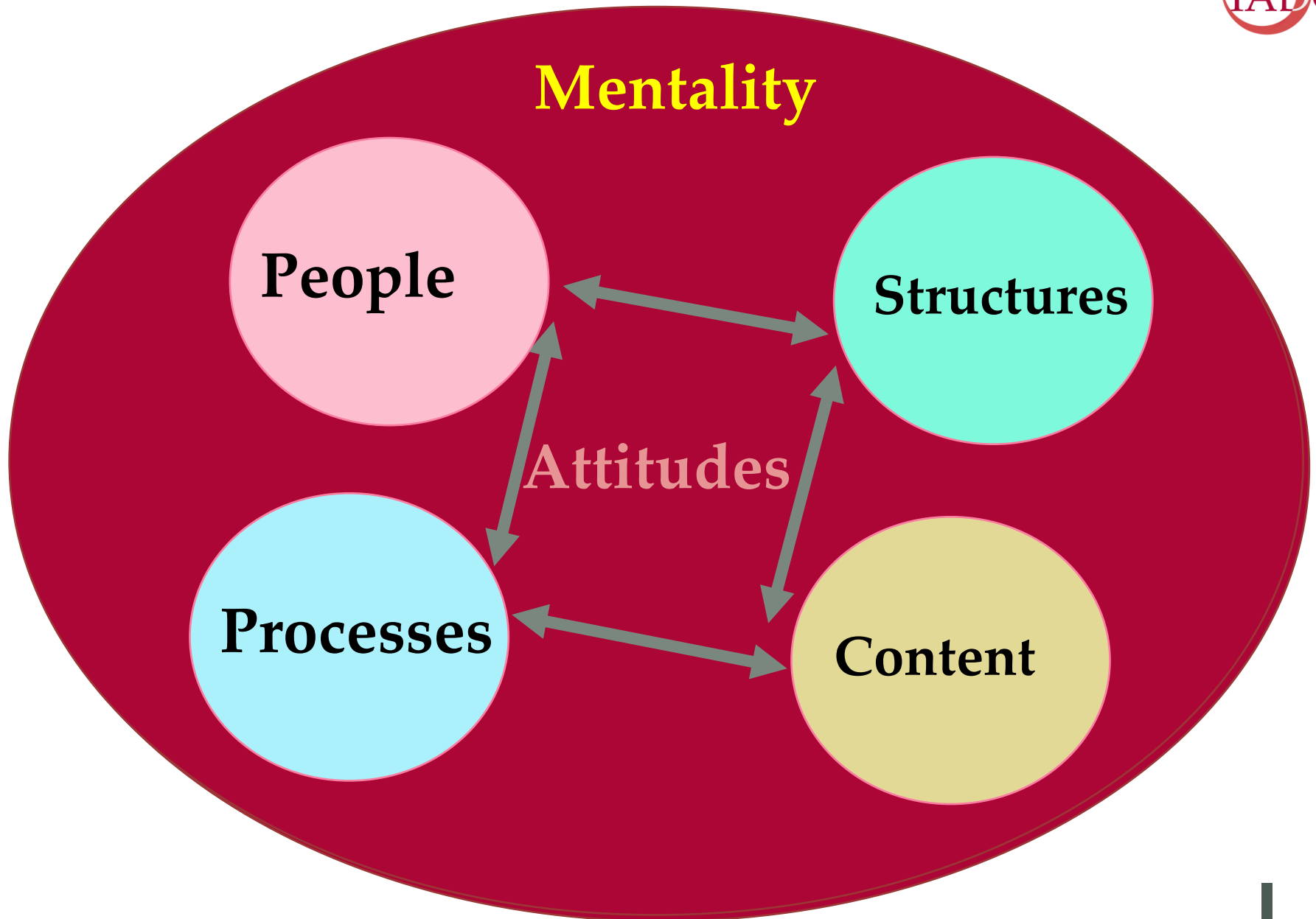
From sexual abuse
to sexual, physical, psychological,
emotional, verbal, spiritual abuse;
neglect;

Online abuse

Abuse of **power**

Safeguarding in times of war

Within a system...



Guidelines, policies, practices



- **Guidelines** = general rules, principles, procedures, consequences
- **Policies** = contents of guidelines adapted to a specific institution/reality and its audience
- **Practices** = lived policies: the customary, habitual, or expected procedure or way of doing of something
 - → forming **Attitudes**
 - → changing **Mentality**

theory

lived
practice

For a Change in Mentality

- „It will go away.“ $\leftrightarrow$ No, it won't
facing reality
- „I cannot do anything.“ $\leftrightarrow$ Yes, you can!
empowerment
- „Safeguarding as isolated specialisation“ $\leftrightarrow$
Safeguarding as **integral part of mission:**
pastoral, educational, spiritual, social,
community commitment
- *Then, and only then:*
Culturally adapted, effective Safeguarding.

Spiritual aspects

- Dealing with power
- Self-image as Church: Unity? Conversion?
- Fear of scandal
- Sexuality: tremendum et fascinans – violence – sin – shame
- Fear of vulnerability, of compassion, of admitting to crimes and sins: remorse – confession – penance/reparation
- Shifting responsibility vs. accountability
- Institutional and personal consequences

Reflection – Meditation

- Who can I talk to about what moves me about this topic?
- How do I talk to God about it?
- What am I called to do today?
- What can we do together – and what are the biggest obstacles to this?
- ‘Imagining Christ our Lord present and placed on the Cross, let me make a Colloquy, ... as one friend speaks to another,...’ (SpEx 53f)
- Mt 25,31-46
- Mk 10,13-16
- Lk 2,1–21

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The Institute of Anthropology



WHO?

Part of the Gregorian University from its beginnings, the IADC was founded in 2012 as the *Centre for Child Protection* with the aim of promoting education and formation for the prevention of sexual abuse of minors.

In 2021 it became the **Institute of Anthropology. Interdisciplinary Studies on Human Dignity and Care (IADC)**. Expanding its scope on vulnerable persons of all ages.

The IADC pursues its mission through:

- **Research & Conferences**– collaborating with **international** institutions and experts to promote academic discourse around the world
- **Academic programmes** – one-semester Diploma, 2 year Licentiate, Doctorates
- **Blended E-Learning Programme** – spread throughout institutions worldwide.

iadc.unigre.it

TO WHAT END?

The IADC researches and teaches the issues of dignity and care basing its approach on an anthropological view of human life from a Christian perspective.

Through education, the Institute is committed to promoting contexts where all humans can live in freedom and without fear from violation of their dignity, and receive the care they need and deserve.

The IADC follows the following guiding principles:

- Victims first
- Christian view of the human person
- Spirituality
- Cultural sensitivity
- Multidisciplinary.

HOW?



Information: iadc-network@unigre.it

Diploma in English/ Spanish (1 Semester)

<https://iadc.unigre.it/academics/diploma-in-safeguarding.html/>

Licentiate in Safeguarding (4 Sem.; ecclesiastical degree)

<https://iadc.unigre.it/academics/licentiate-in-safeguarding.html>

<https://iadc.unigre.it/blended-learning/>

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