**Greetings Maaike de Haardt (President of the European Society of Women in Theological Research) to the members of the first conference of the Queer Theological College, Barcelona May 4th 2014**

What a great, smart and timely project this Queer Theological College!

It is one of the follow-up projects of the ESWTR Dresden conference, where we launched a session called “ESWTR in action” and I am very proud that three of our distinguished members, Ulrike Auga, Lisa Isherwood, and Teresa Forcades i Vila were courageous and strong enough to found this Queer College on Queer Theology. They are right, at this moment there is hardly any place at the faculties of theology for thinking and acting outside the boxes of the academic, political, religious status quo and bureaucracies, and for paying systematic attention to ‘alternative, inclusive theologies’. Alternative, since these are theologies that are radical in their approaches, cutting deep in images, rhetoric and practices in which all kinds of violence is wrapped, in order to reveal the epistemic roots of exclusion and violence. Theologies that also point at the religious, philosophical, political and cultural translations of this epistemology and, at the same time, search for a different, inclusive and constructive approach, beyond the monologics of exclusion, profit and dissipation. A queer adventure indeed. It is recalcitrant and angry, serious and playful, and always deeply committed to another world, another vision of justice, peace and sustainability.

To be honest, I am jealous that I cannot join you at this fist conference, sharing with you, struggling with you, laughing with you and being engaged in the most challenging and thought-provoking way of doing theology.

I wish you a good and inspiring conference!