



L-Università
ta' Malta

Faculty of Arts
Department of Philosophy

Engaging the Contemporary 2019:
THE PHILOSOPHICAL TURN TOWARDS RELIGION

7-8 November 2019

University of Malta (Valletta Campus)

Conference Programme

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#EtC2019UM

Day 1: Thursday 7 November 2019

8:00 – 8:30	Registration		
8:30 – 8:35	Welcome Address: Jean-Paul De Lucca (Head, Department of Philosophy, University of Malta)		
8:35 – 8:40	Welcome Address: Joseph M. Cacciottolo (Pro-Rector for Academic Affairs, University of Malta)		
8:40 – 8:45	Welcome Address: Claude Mangion (Conference Convenor, <i>Engaging the Contemporary</i>)		
8:45 – 9:45	<p style="text-align: center;">Keynote: <i>Speculate to Disintegrate: The 'New' Idealism in Philosophy of Religion</i> (Steven Shakespeare, Liverpool Hope University)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Room: Aula Prima</p>		
Venue:	Room 2	Room 3	Room 4
10:00 – 12:00	Panel 1.1 Messianism	Panel 1.2 Spirituality & Religious Identity	Panel 1.3 Reason & Post-Secularism
	Chair: Nebojsa Kujundzic	Chair: Mark Sultana	Chair: Keith Pisani
	An Exposition of Meillassoux's Concept of the Messianic (Claude Mangion, University of Malta)	To Personalise or not to Personalise: Simone Weil's Struggle in her Understanding of God (Tyrone Grima, University of Malta)	Paul Kahn's Political Theology and its Role in the Task of Redefining the Boundaries of Secularism (Vaida Baranovė, Vilnius University)
	Messianism and Subjectivity: The Case of Giorgio Agamben (Piotr Sawczyński, Jagiellonian University in Krakow)	Intentionalism and God's Fiction (Noel E. Boulting, Noboss, Kent)	Habermas and the Presupposition of Reasonableness (Karim Barakat, American University of Beirut)
	Posthuman Realities – Moving Towards a Techno-messianic Vision of the Future (Francois Zammit, University of Malta)	Jankélévitch and the Philosophy of Jewish Religion (Lorenzo De Donato, Milan State University)	The Ratzinger-Habermas Conversation: Epistemological Dead End and Practical Hope (Aaron Abdilla, University of Malta)
	The Concept of Forgiveness in Walter Benjamin's «The Meaning of Time in the Moral World» (1921) (Yorgos Prodromou, Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences)	“To Imagine Nothing”: Georges Bataille's Challenge to Materialist and Atheistic Spirituality (Lieven De Maeyer, Katholieke Universiteit Leuven)	Religious Dimensions in Transhumanist and Posthumanist Philosophies of Science (Evaldas Juozelis, Institute of Humanities, Mykolas Romeris University)

12:00 – 13:30	Lunch Break		
13:30 – 15:30	Panel 2.1 Radical Phenomenology	Panel 2.2 Religion & the Historical	Panel 2.3 Society, Secularism & Post-Secularism
	Chair: Kurt Borg	Chair: Aaron Abdilla	Chair: Francois Zammit
	Movements and Forms of Life (Zuzana Svobodová, Charles University, Prague)	The Prepositions of Participation: An Examination of the Doctrine of Participation through an Analysis of its Correspondent Prepositions (Lara Zammit, University of Malta)	Translation between Religious Truth and Secular Society (Esther Hudson, The School of Philosophy – The Catholic University of America)
	Interiority and Economy in Michel Henry's Phenomenology of Life (Robert Farrugia, University of Malta)	Pursuing the Truth and Confronting the Post-Truth – A Fruitful Lesson Taken from the Regensburg Religious Colloquy of 1601 (Lukáš Kotala, Palacký University, Olomouc)	Caritas Takes Precedence over Veritas (Rogi Thomas, Pontificio Collegio Scozzese, Roma)
	Phenomenological Spirituality and its Relationship to Religion (Neal DeRoo, The King's University, Edmonton)	Dreaming Descartes: Subjectivity and the Imaginal in the Postmodern (Bettina Borg Cardona, Canterbury Christ Church)	The Concept of Imago Dei as a Symbol of Religious Inclusion and Human Dignity (Wojciech Szczerba, Evangelical School of Theology, Wroclaw/Von Hugel Institute at St Edmund's College, University of Cambridge)
	Hope and Necessity (Sarah Pawlett Jackson, The Open University and the University of London)	«Antaios»: a Mythical and Symbolic Hermeneutics (Luca Siniscalco, eCampus University/ Università degli Studi di Milano)	Post-Secular Politics? The Political and the Turn to Religion in Contemporary Political Theory (Spyridon Kaltsas, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens)
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee Break		

16:00 – 17:30	Panel 3.1 Culture, Aesthetics & Neurotheology	Panel 3.2 Islam & Post-Secularism	Panel 3.3 Religion, Politics & Post-Truth
	Chair: Niki Young	Chair: Mary Ann Cassar	Chair: Luca Siniscalco
	The Complex Relationship between Sacred and Beauty: When Religion becomes Aesthetics and Aesthetics becomes Religion (Samanta Viziale, University of Torino)	Postsecular Challenges to the Unification of Islamic Discourses (Emi Goto, The University of Tokyo)	Alternative Epistemologies in the Context of ‘Post-Truth’: Enlightenment Philosophy, Constructed Validity, and the Case Study of Astrology (Abigail Klinkenberg, Humboldt Universität zu Berlin)
	Neurotheology as the New Hermeneutics of Body (Agnieszka Laddach, Independent Researcher)	Creating a Muslim Space in Postsecular Settings (Kei Takahashi, Toyo University, Tokyo)	The Conflict in Ukraine as a Religious and Cultural War in Aleksandr G. Dugin’s Political Theology (Marcin Skladanowski, The John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin)
	A Tourist Walks into a Funeral... (Jodie Bonnici, University of Malta)	Nonviolence in an Islamic Repertoire as ‘Postsecular’ Critique (Mohammed Moussa, Istanbul Sabahattin Zaim University)	Buddhist Activism: Boundaries Blurred in Post-Secular America and the Relevancy of Buddhist Ethics (Stacey Mitchell, Union Theological Seminary)

Day 2: Friday 8 November 2019

Venue:	Room 2	Room 3	Room 4
9:00 – 10:30	Panel 4.1 Ethics & the Virtuous Life	Panel 4.2 Religion & Science	Panel 4.3 Morality, Religious Diversity & Faith
	Chair: Robert Farrugia	Chair: John Avellino	Chair: Niki Young
	Rationalistic Value Realism as a Religion Without God (Stelios Virvidakis, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens)	Can there be a Conflict between Science and Religion? The Pragmatist's Answer and a Truth-based Response to it (Joe Friggieri, University of Malta)	The Ontological Nature of Morality: Overcoming the Ontological Divide (Sergei Sushkov, University of Central Asia/ Presidential Academy Moscow)
	Something Other than Oneself is Real (Robert Govus, University of Malta)	Same Words, Different Worlds (Zainab Sabra, University of Southampton)	Kabbalah and Religious Diversity: Contemporary Socioeconomic Aspects (Rui Samarcos Lora, University of Coimbra/Center of Social Studies)
	The Myth of the Psychological Dependence of Morality on Religion (Andrei Zavaliy, American University of Kuwait)	How Natural is Natural Selection: An Examination of Appeals to Kant's Philosophy in Contemporary Biology? (Andrew Jones, University of Exeter)	'Blessed are thou amongst women': Interpreting Mary's blessing in light of Kierkegaard and Kristeva (Michael Grech, University of Malta Junior College)
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee Break		

11:00 – 12:30	Panel 5.1 The Problem of Evil	Panel 5.2 Religion & Modernity	Panel 5.3 Metaphysics & the Other
	Chair: Michael Grech	Chair: Karim Barakat	Chair: Robert Farrugia
	<p>Is an Unpopulated Hell Problematic? (Alex Gillham, St. Bonaventure University)</p>	<p>Charles Taylor and Durkheimian Dispensations (Ranier Fsadni, University of Malta)</p>	<p>Failing to think God. Transformative Experience in Negative Theology (Rico Gutschmidt, University of Konstanz)</p>
	<p>Evolution, Middle Knowledge, and Theodicy: A Philosophical Reflection (Daniel Spencer, University of St Andrews)</p>	<p>Sources of the Possibility of the Contemporary Turn towards Religion (Antoni Torzewski, Casmir the Great University)</p>	<p>Heidegger, the Other and Sameness. A Reading of Ex 3, 14 in the light of Heidegger's Notion of Tautophasis (Miriam Metze, University of Vienna)</p>
	<p>The Dialectic of Evil in Paul Ricoeur: The Philosophical Value of Religious Narrations (Martina Nicolai, Università degli Studi di Roma Tor Vergata)</p>	<p>The Religious Foundations of Modernity (Mark Camilleri, University of Malta)</p>	<p>Étienne Gilson as a Critical Reader of Phenomenology (Tsun Sang Chong, The University of Jean Moulin Lyon 3)</p>

12:30 – 14:00	Lunch Break				
					Room: Aula Prima
14:00 – 16:00	Panel 6.1 The Nature & Existence of God	Panel 6.2 Religious Experience & Empathy	Panel 6.3 Political Theology	Panel 6.4 Religion, Phenomenology & Hermeneutics	
Chair: Jodie Bonnici		Chair: John Avellino		Chair: Mark Sultana	
<p>God in the Center of Philosophy: Karl Jaspers and Panagiotis Kanellopoulos (Andreas Antoniou, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki)</p>		<p>The Religious Experience and the Search for God (John Berry, University of Malta)</p>		<p>Until Death does not do us Part. Or on what the Afterlife can still Teach us Today (Kristof K.P. Vanhoutte, Paris Institute for Critical Thinking/Pontifical University Antoniantum/ University of the Free State)</p>	
<p>Hard God, Soft God (John Thorp, Department of Philosophy, University of Western Ontario)</p>		<p>How Do Religious Conversions Change our Life-world? A Phenomenological Analysis (Martin Nitsche, Institute of Philosophy at the Czech Academy of Sciences in Prague)</p>		<p>Towards a Metaphysics of the Bond and a Phenomenology of Force: Ontology and the Philosophical Parameters of Religious Experience (William L. Connelly, The Catholic University of Paris)</p>	
<p>Exploring Badiou’s Approach to Religion (Duncan Sant, University of Malta)</p>		<p>Is The Theology of Immanence of Giorgio Agamben a Path out of Political Theology? (Kohei Nagashima, Keio University)</p>		<p>Hermeneutical Plays with Body and Voice: Critical Encounters with Gadamer and Falque (Katerina Koci, Charles University, Prague)</p>	
		<p>On The Im/Possibility Of Empathy (Charles Nweke, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka-Nigeria)</p>		<p>The Radical Political Theology of John D. Caputo (Calvin Dieter Ullrich, Ecumenical Institute, Ruhr Universität Bochum)</p>	
				<p>Interruptive Encounters between Phenomenology and Theology: Case Emmanuel Falque (Martin Koci, University of Vienna/ Institute for Philosophy)</p>	

	Existence and Reality Encore (Nebojsa Kujundzic, University of Prince Edward Island)	Empathy Versus Humility: Three Ways To Deal With The Other (Elizaveta Kostrova, St Tikhon's Orthodox University, Moscow)	Religious Atheism: Assessing Critchley's Faith of the Faithless (Dennis Vanden Auweele, KU Leuven)	Gadamer on the Sensus Communis (Barry Stephenson, Memorial University of Newfoundland)
16:00	Closing Address (Aula Prima)			