

CONFERENCE IN CELEBRATION OF THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF PHILOSOPHY AND THEOLOGY

WWW.TANDFONLINE.COM/RJPT

SISTERS IN ARMS
REINVENTING THE BOND BETWEEN PHILOSOPHY AND THEOLOGY
AFTER THE 'EMPIRICAL TURN'

DATE: WED 9, THU 10 AND FRI 11 JANUARY 2019

VENUE: MØLLER CENTRE, CAMBRIDGE, UK

[HTTPS://WWW.MOLLERCENTRE.CO.UK/DELEGATES/WELCOME/](https://WWW.MOLLERCENTRE.CO.UK/DELEGATES/WELCOME/)

ORGANIZING INSTITUTIONS:

IJP&T / VON HÜGEL INSTITUTE, CAMBRIDGE / INSTITUT FUER HERMENEUTIK, UNIVERSITÄT BONN

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE:

W. VAN HERCK, P. SCHAAFMA, L. SCHUMACHER, T. SCRUTTON, C. RICHTER, M. SAROT, G.
VANHEESWIJCK, J. GELDHOF, G.-J. VAN DER HEIDEN, PH. MCCOSKER

CONFERENCE WEBSITE: <https://www.uantwerpen.be/en/conferences/sisters-in-arms-2019/>

Although fundamental research is still in high esteem, it is clear that all academic disciplines meet the challenge of the so-called empirical turn. This implies that research should deal with real-life problems and be relevant to society at large. An empirical basis or component of the research should guarantee this relevance.

On another level, it seems that philosophy and theology have received more competition from other humanities than ever before. While some decades ago civil society looked at philosophers and theologians for moral guidance, nowadays disciplines like psychology, sociology and evolutionary studies have taken over this role to a certain extent. These disciplines collect empirical data to arrive at descriptions of the present situation. These are subsequently often used to answer topical questions, whether this was originally intended by the research or not. In this last step the descriptive research often takes on a normative weight.

Given this climate, what is the specific strength of fundamental or speculative reflection like it has been developed traditionally in philosophy and theology? Is it in danger of becoming obsolete? Is it still meaningful to aim for a bond between philosophy and theology as strengthening both disciplines? Or should one rather aspire an empirical turn, as slogans like 'lived theology' or 'lived philosophy' seem to indicate?

These questions are all the more urgent insofar as religion is concerned. The comeback of religion and metaphysics in philosophy of the last decades has led to reflection with a highly speculative appearance. In the meantime, theology is under severe attack from religious studies approach for its abstract or dogmatic character. The call for a theological turn to 'lived religion' is widespread. Are the times of an obvious bond between philosophy and theology past? What do the disciplines have to offer each other, as critical sparring partners in times in which their academic position is all but self-evident, as is religion itself? Is the divide between analytical and continental varieties of both disciplines symptomatic for the trend mentioned before or is there a chance for mutual reinforcement? Can theology and philosophy perhaps reinvent their coalition as one of 'sisters in arms', that is, of aiming for unfashionable approaches of academically neglected questions?

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Wednesday 9 January 2018

11:00 arrivals and registration

12:00 --- lunch

13:30 opening address by Walter Van Herck

13:45 The History and Future of Philosophy's Relationship with Theology
opening lecture by Lydia Schumacher

14:30 **Key note Sessions 1:**

Powerlessness, Enhancement, Resilience. Interdisciplinary Approaches and Critique (= 3x30')
+ discussion (30')

Chair: Professor Cornelia Richter (University of Bonn Institute of Hermeneutics)

- Dr. David Batho (University of Essex), *The Phenomenology of Powerlessness and Virtue Theory*
- Dr. Thiemo Breyer (University of Cologne), *Vulnerability and Resilience: Perspectives from Analytic and Phenomenological Philosophy*
- Professor em. Susanne Heine (University of Vienna), *Philosophical Implications of Psychological Concepts on Powerlessness and Enhancement*

16:30 --- coffee/tea break

17:00 parallel session **A** (20'+10')

Study Centre Suite 1

Study Centre 8

Study Centre Suite 3

A1 Tony Pacyna

A2 Tim Weatherstone

A3 Roger Abbott

17:30 parallel session **B** (20'+10')

Study Centre Suite 1

Study Centre 8

Study Centre Suite 3

B1 Isidoro Talavera

B2 Bruce Benson

B3 Oliver Davies

19:00 --- Conference dinner

Thursday 10 January 2019

09:00 parallel session **C** (20'+10')

Study Centre Suite 1

Study Centre 8

Study Centre Suite 3

C1 Ryan Haecker

C2 Jessica Eastwood

C3 Martin Grassi

09:30 parallel session **D** (20'+10')

Study Centre Suite 1

Study Centre 8

Study Centre Suite 3

D1 Katrin Glden

D2 Jamie Howard

D3 Pablo Irizar

10:00 --- coffee/tea break

10:30 **Key note session 2 :**

Living Religion

Chair: Dr Anastasia Scrutton (University of Leeds)

- Professor Beverley Clack, (Oxford Brookes University), *“Truth isn’t truth”: Shaping a Practical Feminist Philosophy of Religion for the Age of Trump’*

- Dr Rhiannon Grant (University of Birmingham), *'What Is Religion? Finding Something Fading'*
- Dr Simon Hewitt (University of Leeds), *'Divine Personhood and Living Christianity : Some Wittgensteinian Lessons'*

13:00 --- lunch

14:30 **Key note session 3 :**

Discussing fiction as a Way of Introducing Lived Suffering and Lived Religion into Theodicy
Chair: Professor Marcel Sarot (Tilburg School of Catholic Theology)

- Dr Marc De Kesel (Radboud University Nijmegen), *'Christianity and Its Ideal of Selflessness. On a Novel by Shusaku Endo & an Essay by Michel de Certeau'*
- Professor David Jasper (University of Glasgow), *'The Nineteenth century Novel and the Rhetoric of Fiction'*
- Dr Bettine Siertsema (VU University Amsterdam), *'Fiction, fact and the search for truth in Holocaust literature'*

16:30 --- coffee/tea break

17:00 parallel session E (20'+10')		
Study Centre Suite 1	Study Centre 8	Study Centre Suite 3
E1 Gabriel Kalcheim	E2 Hanna Lucas	E3 David Luna Vinueza

17:30 parallel session F (20'+10')		
Study Centre Suite 1	Study Centre 8	Study Centre Suite 3
F1 Stephanie MacGillivray	F2 Valerian Mendocan	F3 Katharina Opalka

19:00 --- dinner

21:00 --- drinks in Cambridge Bars & Pubs

Friday 11 January 2019

09:00 parallel session G (20'+10')		
Study Centre Suite 1	Study Centre 8	Study Centre Suite 3
G1 Klaas Bom	G2 Fainche Ryan	G3 Lieke Werkman

09:30 parallel session H (20'+10')		
Study Centre Suite 1	Study Centre 8	Study Centre Suite 3
H1 Peter Versteeg	H2 Ton van Eijk	H3 ... (Sipling?)

10:00 coffee/tea break

10:20 **Key note session 4 :**

Anthropology and Theology [provisional title]

Chair: Dr Petruschka Schaafsma (Protestant Theological University Amsterdam)

- Professor Sarah Coakley (University of Cambridge)
- Dr Timothy Jenkins (University of Cambridge)
- Professor Nicholas Adams (University of Birmingham)

12:20 concluding remarks by Joris Geldhof and Walter Van Herck

13:00 --- lunch

14:00 departures

SHORT PAPER SESSIONS

Roger Abbot / A3	The Empirical Turn and Disaster Response
Bruce Benson / B2	Theology as Liturgical Practice
Klaas Bom / G1	The unknown side of the empirical: the 'theological turn' in anthropology of religion
Oiver Davies / B3	Philosophy, Theology and Science: an Evolving Conversation
Jessica Eastwood / C2	Divine Existence Beyond Realism and Anti-Realism
Martin Grassi / C3	Meaningful Wor(l)ds: Philosophy and theology as archeological discourses
Katrin Glden Le Maire / D1	The lost notion of Theology as a public discipline
Ryan Haecker / C1	Who Can We Crown 'Queen of the Sciences'? Reconsidering Quine's 'Naturalized Epistemology'
Jamie Howard / D2	Intuition: A Potential Life-Raft for Philosophy and Theology?
Pablo Irizar / D3	Thinking Experience as Experiencing Thinking' What is a 'social imaginary' and how does it integrate religious practice and theological speculation?
Gabriel Kalcheim / E1	Philosophy and Theology: An Augustinian View
Hanna Lucas / E2	The symbolic and the diabolic: early Christian ritual as the salve for a late modern malady
David R. Luna-Vinueza / E3	Theology, Metaphysics and Philosophy a Law: Towards a Critical Understanding of Legal Concepts and Phenomena
Stephanie MacGillivray / F1	Collaborative Ethics and Contemporary Language
Valerian Mendonca / F2	Towards a Process Metaphysics of Intersubjectivity: Connecting Philosophical and Theological Views on Interrelatedness in Whitehead and Teilhard
Katharina Opalka / F3	"The Depth of Being": A narrative for philosophy and theology based on Tillich
Tony Pacyna / A1	Execution before construction of meaning
Fainche Ryan / G2	Hope and Truth-telling in Thomas Aquinas
William Sipling / H3	What Has Frankfurt to Do with Jerusalem? Understanding Systematics through Social Theory and the "Aesthetic Turn"
Isidoro Talavera / B1	The Fallacy of Misplaced Empiricism in Theistic Religion
Ton Van Eijk / H2	Eucharist and Resurrection. Irenaeus between Calvin and Heshusius
Peter Versteeg / H1	The unknown side of the empirical: the 'theological turn' in anthropology of religion
Tim Weatherstone / A2	Theology and Philosophy as Daughters of Truth: supplanting fashion with foundations
Lieke Werkman / G3	Mixed Feelings. Reading empirical research theologically

Note: Abstracts can be retrieved via <https://www.uantwerpen.be/en/conferences/sisters-in-arms-2019/accepted-short-paper/>