The Philosophy of Religion subject area in the Faculty of Divinity has a strong tradition reaching back to the beginning of the 20th century.

Later, Cambridge developed a style of teaching and research in this area in which the strengths and importance of both analytic and continental styles of Philosophy of Religion were affirmed. More recently the subject area has developed a new specialism in Jewish Philosophy; and it works closely with those teaching Islamic and Indian thought in the faculty whilst also continuing its historic collaborations with Christian theology.

The University Teaching Officers in this subject area are Professor Sarah Coakley, Professor Douglas Hedley, Professor Catherine Pickstock, and Dr Daniel Weiss. A wider community of senior scholars also working in Cambridge in this field take an active role in research seminars, supervision and occasional lectures.

General Enquiries: faculty-office@divinity.cam.ac.uk
There are many ways to think philosophically about silence. We may say that we fall silent, yet, according to Meister Eckhart: ‘Nothing creaturely is so like God as silence.’

Silence as a medium or discipline characterizes many of the prayerful or meditative, musical, and ritual practises that shape Abrahamic, Buddhist, and Hindu traditions.

This study day will bring together Divinity graduate students and faculty to think philosophically about silence.

**Inaugural Werner Beierwaltes Lecture**

**30th November 2017, 4.30pm – 6pm**

Runcie Room, Faculty of Divinity

Professor John Dillon will be speaking on Platonic Orthodoxy.

Professor John Dillon is the founder and Director Emeritus of the Plato Centre, Trinity College, Dublin.

*Professor Dillon studied Classics at Oxford, and subsequently completed a Ph.D at the university of California, Berkeley.*
Symposium - Rethinking Origen

25th April 2018
Runcie Room, Faculty of Divinity

A day-long symposium on Origen, taking place between 9:00am - 5:00pm in the Faculty of Divinity.

Speakers will include: Dr Rowan Williams, Professor Andrew Louth, Dr Giulio Maspero, Professor Douglas Hedley & Professor Sarah Coakley.

ENQUIRIES:
- Isidoros C. Katsos (cik22@cam.ac.uk)

Origen (184/185 – 253/254)

Ricoeur Reading Group
Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology, Grange Road

Memory, History, Forgetting – Paul Ricoeur

This reading group made up of theologians, anthropologists, and historians, each interested in different aspects of the ethical and civic character of history and memorial.

New members should contact Amy Daughton to join and receive updates about meetings.

NEW MEMBERS & ENQUIRIES:
- Amy Daughton (ald36@cam.ac.uk)
Hegel Reading Group
On Self-Consciousness
Room 6, Faculty of Divinity

The group will run on Wednesdays, between 9:00-11:00, from 1st November 2017.

MORE INFO:
Please consult Professor Douglas Hedley for details about texts:
- Professor Hedley (rdh26@cam.ac.uk)

Plotinus Reading Group
Room 7, Faculty of Divinity

The text will be Plotinus Enneads IV 8 (On the Descent of the soul into bodies)
Mondays at 11.00-12.30 starting, 16 October 2017
Aquinas Reading Group

Thursdays, 5-6 pm
Corpus Christi College, I3 (Front Court)

The Summa Contra Gentiles: On God (Book I)

An informal post-graduate group offering an opportunity to read Thomas Aquinas, and think through aspects of his thought in good company.

This academic year, we will read through the first book of the Summa contra gentiles.

The Summa contra Gentiles is available online in Anton C. Pegis’s translation: http://dhspriory.org/thomas/ContraGentiles1.htm

For the book, see: Saint Thomas Aquinas, Summa contra Gentiles:

Book One GOD, translated with an introduction and notes by Anton C. Pegis, Notre Dame IN: University of Notre Dame Press ©1955

Michaelmas Term 2017

- 12 October 2017: Chapters 1-13
- 2 November 2017: Chapters 14-25
- 23 November 2017: Chapters 26-36

ENQUIRIES:

- Silvianne Aspray (sb952@cam.ac.uk)
- Dr Andrew Davison (apd31@cam.ac.uk)
Alasdair MacIntyre Group

Faculty of Divinity

A new group for Lent Term 2018

More details to Follow.

ENQUIRIES:

- Daniel De Haan (dd461@cam.ac.uk)

Alasdair Chalmers MacIntyre (born 12 January 1929) is a Scottish philosopher, primarily known for his contribution to moral and political philosophy, but also known for his work in history of philosophy and theology.

Werner Beierwaltes Lecture

19th February 2018, 4pm
Runcie Room, Faculty of Divinity

Professor Lloyd Gerson (University of Toronto) will be delivering this lecture.

More details to Follow.

Lloyd Gerson’s research interests include ancient Greek philosophy, metaphysics, epistemology, and political philosophy.

ENQUIRIES:

- Professor Douglas Hedley (rdh26@cam.ac.uk)
DIVINE CREATION & LINGUISTIC CREATIONS

1 December 2017

Faculty of Divinity

*A conference in celebration of Professor Janet Soskice’s work.*

This celebration of Prof. Janet Soskice’s theological career and work brings together scholars from Yale, Notre Dame, the University of Cambridge, and beyond.

Topics drawn from her oeuvre include theological language and poetics, liturgy and symbolics of gender, creation ex nihilo, Soskician legacies, and the future of theology.

*Professor of Philosophical Theology*
*Fellow, Jesus College*

**Speakers Include:**

- Ian McFarland
- David Burrell
- Maggi Dawn
- David Ford
- David Bentley Hart
- Ruth Jackson
- Andreas Nordlander
- Karen Kilby
- Vittorio Montemaggi
- Giles Waller

*and others.*
Stanton Lectures 2018

Faculty of Divinity

Professor Joel Robbins will deliver the 2018 Stanton Lectures.

The following Lectures will take place on Wednesdays, at 4pm:

- 24th January 2018
- 31st January 2018
- 7th February 2018
- 14th February 2018
- 21st February 2018
- 28th February 2018

With two additional discussion sessions on Thursdays at 5pm:

- 15th February 2018
- 1st March 2018
Grammars of Wonder Lecture Series
2017-18

The Von Hügel Institute
St Edmund’s College, Garden Room

This year the VHI seeks to explore and revitalise the forgotten grammars of wonder.

Events are free, open to the public, and followed by drinks.

Michaelmas 2017:

- Friday 10th November | 16:00
  Economics and Wonder: The Hidden Theology of Economic Life
  Philip Goodchild

- Friday 24th November | 16:00
  Poetry and Wonder: Cataphasis, Redemption and a Mucker Fog
  Hilary Davies

Lent 2018:

- Friday 9th February | 16:00
  The Annual Von Hügel Lecture, Cardinal Blase Cupich

- Friday 16th February | 16:00
  Wonder and Insight: Escaping the Snow
  Queen's Palace, Andrew Pinsent

- Friday 23rd February | 16:00
  Philosophy and Wonder, William Desmond & Catherine Pickstock

- Friday 9th March | 16:00
  Creativity and Wonder, Robin Attfield

Easter 2018:

- Friday 27th April | 16:00
  Creativity and Wonder, Robin Attfield

- Friday 18th May | 16:00
  Love and Wonder, Aldegonde Brenninkmeijer-Werhahn

- Friday 25th May | 16:00
  The Lattey Lecture, Ian Boxall

- Friday 1st June | 16:00
  Innocence and Wonder: Lecture-Recital, Steven Isserlis

- Friday 8th June | 16:00
  Feminism and Wonder, Marguerite La CazE
D Society 2017-18

The D Society is the senior seminar for the subject area, and became particularly focussed on philosophy of religion and ethics under Donald MacKinnon (right), former Norris-Hulse Professor.

It meets in the Lightfoot Room, 2-4pm, and is convened by Sarah Coakley.

Michaelmas 2017:

- 13th October, 3.00 pm – ‘Divine Simplicity and Divine Freedom’ - Professor Brian Leftow (Nolloth Professor of the Philosophy of the Christian Religion, Oriel College, Oxford)
- 27th October, 2.00 pm - ‘What is the meaning of monotheism?: Comparing philosophical and biblical-rabbinic understandings and their human implications’ Dr Daniel Weiss (Faculty of Divinity, Cambridge)
- 10th November ‘Naturalism and Supernaturalism: Beyond the Divide – A Debate’ - Professor Sir Roger Scruton (independent writer, philosopher) and Professor Fiona Ellis (Heythrop College, University of London)

- November 24, ‘Why we need Avicenna to Know what Aquinas Meant by “Being”’ - Dr. Daniel De Haan (Faculty of Divinity, Cambridge; post-doctoral fellow in Theology, Philosophy of Religion and the Sciences)

Lent 2017:

- 26th January
- 9th February
- 23rd February
- 9th March

Easter 2017:

- 4th May 2018
- 18th May 2018
- 1st June 2018
Call for Papers: Graduate Conference

This annual conference brings together graduate students from Cambridge, Oxford, Nottingham, London & Durham to discuss topics in the area of Philosophy of Religion.

This year the theme of the conference is 'desire' and graduate students interested in offering a paper should contact Prof Sarah Coakley by the beginning of Lent term 2018.

SUBMISSIONS:
- Professor Sarah Coakley (sc545@cam.ac.uk)

noesis

Graduate Society for Philosophical Theology & Systematics at the Faculty of Divinity, Cambridge University

Noesis was founded in 2014 to provide a forum for graduate students conducting research in the field of philosophical theology and systematics at the University of Cambridge.

The society meets once or twice termly to receive and discuss papers offered by its members. Sessions are open to all, last for an hour and a bit, and are followed by tea and baked goods in the Selwyn Room.

MORE INFO:
- Noesis Website: http://noesis.divinity.cam.ac.uk
noesis: Seminar

28th November 2017, 2pm – 3pm

Lecture Room 2, Faculty of Divinity

The following speakers will discuss:

Daniel Soars, PhD candidate ‘The beginnings of Indology in British India’

Nadya Pohran, PhD Candidate: ‘Hindu-Christian Dialogue in 20th Century North India: A Case Study’

noesis: Review

This is the annual review of the Graduate Society for the Study of Philosophical Theology and Systematics at the Faculty of Divinity, University of Cambridge.

It is usually released at the end of the Easter Term

Cost:

- Complete set (Vol. 1-4): £10
- Volume 4: £5
- Volume 3: £2
- Volume 2: £2
- Volume 1: £2

MORE INFO:

- Purchase Online: https://tinyurl.com/yaqafk7f
Eriugena Reading Group
Tuesdays, 3pm-4.30 pm
Starting 16 January 2018

A new group for Lent Term 2018 on the magnum opus of John Scotus Eriugena, Periphyseon (De divisione naturae): On God (Book 1). We will be using the critical edition of Edouard Jeuneau (1996-2003), and we will also consult the translation of Sheldon-Williams and O’Meara (1987).

John Scottus Eriugena (ca. 815-877)

Lent Term 2018

ENQUIRIES:

- Dr Adrian Mihai
  (am2614@cam.ac.uk)