



Atheism, Religion and Experience

Rome Seminar Series
10 - 12 January 2019



ACU

INSTITUTE FOR
RELIGION &
CRITICAL INQUIRY

IRCI Rome Campus Seminars

2019

Atheism, Religion and Experience (10—12 January)

2018

Texts, Traditions, and Early Christian Identities (28—30 September)

Moral Disagreement (7—9 September)

Varieties of Atheism (19—22 August)

Modes of Knowing and the Ordering of Knowledge in Early Christianity II (26—28 July)

Redeeming Autonomy: Agency, Vulnerability, and Relationality (27—30 May)

Moral Disagreement: Global Issues in Ethics II (18—20 March)

2017

Texts, Traditions, and Early Christian Identities (13—16 October)

Companions in Guilt Arguments in Metaethics (1—3 September)

Modes of Knowing and the Ordering of Knowledge in Early Christianity (27—30 July)

Negative Political Theology (23—26 July)

Cosmopolitanism and National Identity (16—18 March)

The Enigma of Suffering (3—6 January)

2016

Atheism and Christianity: Moving Past Polemic (20—22 September)

Conceiving Change in the Church: An Exploration of the Hermeneutics of Catholic Tradition (13—16 September)

The Rise of the Christian Intellectual in the Second Century (27—29 July)

2015

'Laudato Si': The Greening of the Church? (22—24 September)

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Rome Campus

Australian Catholic University
Via Garibaldi, 28, 00153 Roma, Italy

Convenors

Claude Romano and Robyn Horner

Welcome

On behalf of my colleagues in the Institute for Religion and Critical Inquiry I welcome you to the ACU/CUA Rome Campus.

The IRCI Rome seminar series commenced in September 2015, when the Campus was opened. The series provides an opportunity for the Institute to bring together leading scholars to address and explore key issues in their fields of study. The respective seminars are a practical expression of our ongoing commitment to innovative, high-quality, international research collaboration in the disciplines of philosophy and theology. I take this opportunity to thank Claude Romano and Robyn Horner for all the work they have undertaken to bring together the wonderful program for this third seminar in the project *Atheism and Christianity: Moving Past Polemic*, this year focusing on religious experience. My thanks also go to Professor Wayne McKenna, the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) at ACU, for his ongoing support and sponsorship of the IRCI Rome Campus Seminars.

I trust this seminar will provide the opportunity to establish new connections and to enrich existing ones. I am sure there will be lively and engaging discussions and deliberations as you explore issues surrounding this significant topic.

Professor David Runia
Director,
Institute for Religion and Critical Inquiry, ACU

Preparatory Meeting:

| TIME | WEDNESDAY 9 JANUARY |
|--------|--|
| 6:00pm | Dinner on Campus (Atheism Research Team) Atheism Research Team meeting |

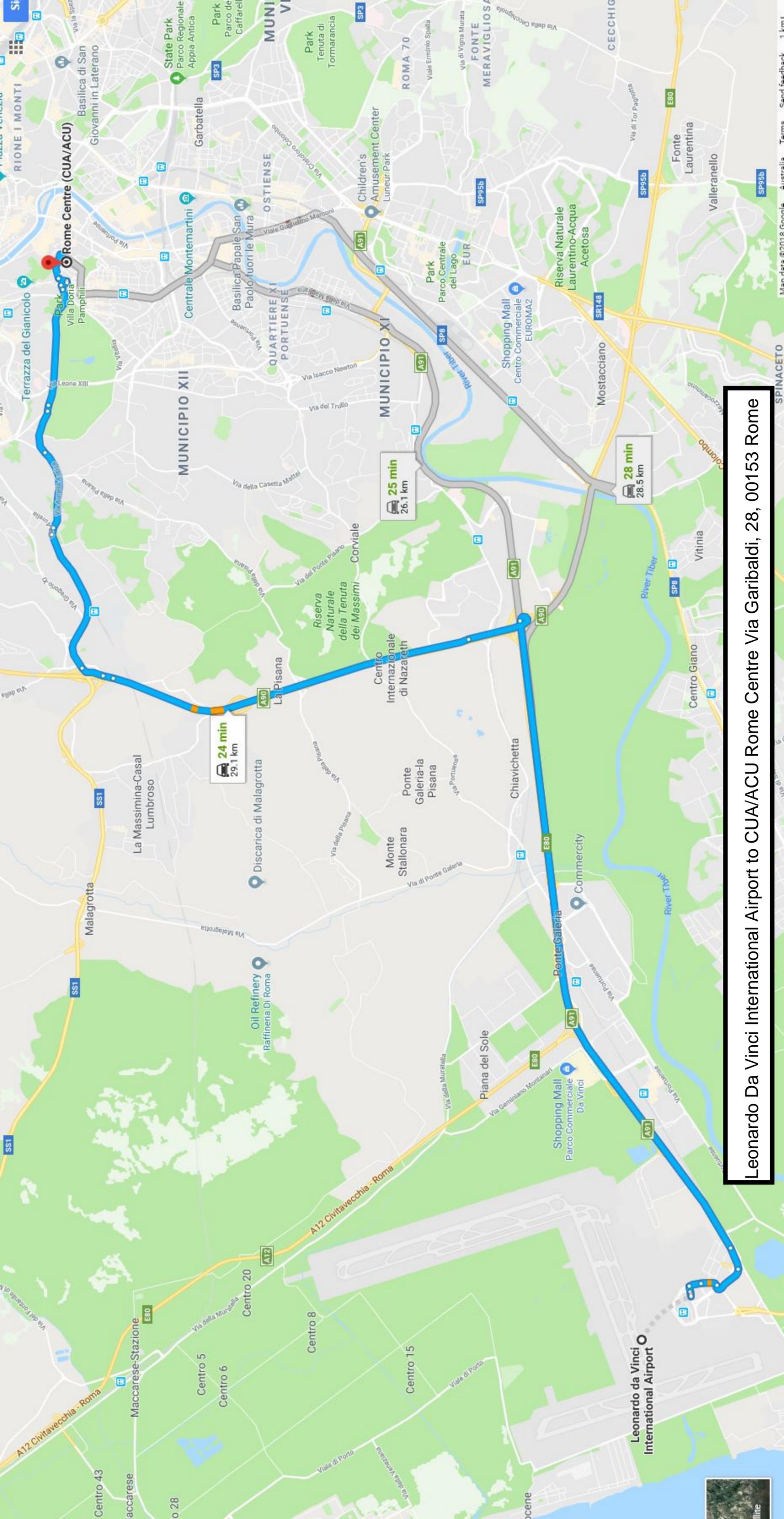
Rome Seminar: Atheism, Religion and Experience

| TIME | THURSDAY 10 JANUARY |
|--------|--|
| 1:00pm | Lunch on campus (all participants) |
| 2:30pm | Introduction Claude Romano |
| 3.00pm | Session 1 Jean-Luc Nancy (via Skype) <i>Expérience d'une foi démunie</i> Respondent: David Newheiser |
| 4.15pm | Afternoon tea |
| 4.45pm | Session 2 Catherine Malabou <i>Ni Dieu ni maître. De l'anarchisme comme exercice spirituel</i> Respondent: Richard Kearney |
| 6:00pm | Aperitivo |
| 7:00pm | Dinner on Campus |

| TIME | FRIDAY 11 JANUARY |
|---------|--|
| 10:00am | <p>Session 3</p> <p>Tamsin Jones <i>Materialism, Social Construction, and Radical Empiricism: Debating the Status of 'Experience' in the Study of Religion.</i> Respondent: Christiaan Jacobs-Vandegeer</p> |
| 11:15am | <p>Coffee break</p> |
| 11:45am | <p>Session 4</p> <p>Jeffrey Bloechl <i>Desire and Inertia</i> Respondent: Charles Lockwood</p> |
| 1:00pm | <p>Lunch</p> |
| 2:30pm | <p>Session 5</p> <p>Christina Gschwandtner <i>Faith and Finitude: Fault, Fragility, Frailty</i> Respondent: Stephen van Erp</p> |
| 3:45pm | <p>Afternoon tea</p> |
| 4:15pm | <p>Session 6</p> <p>Emmanuel Falque <i>Apocalypse or Revelation?</i> Respondent: Jake Benjamins</p> |
| 5:30pm | <p>Free evening</p> |

| TIME | SATURDAY 12 JANUARY |
|---------|--|
| 10:00am | Session 7 Patrick Masterson <i>Atheism, Religion, Experience, (and Metaphysics!)</i> Respondent: Henning Tegtmeier |
| 11:15am | Coffee break |
| 11:45am | Session 8 Anthony Steinbock <i>Participation and Critique</i> Respondent: Claude Romano |
| 1:00pm | Lunch |
| 2:30pm | Session 9 Richard Kearney <i>Anatheism and Theopoetics</i> Respondent: Denys Turner |
| 3:45pm | Afternoon tea |
| 4:15 | Session 10 Integration and final discussion: Robyn Horner |
| 5:45pm | Break |
| 7:00pm | Dinner (restaurant) |

| Participant | Academic affiliation | Email contact |
|-----------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|
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Leonardo Da Vinci International Airport to CUA/ACU Rome Centre Via Garibaldi, 28, 00153 Rome

24 min
29.1 km

25 min
26.1 km

28 min
28.5 km



Practical Matters

Hotel: Donna Camilla Savelli, Via Garibaldi, 27, 00153 Roma

Campus address: Via Garibaldi, 28, 00153 Roma

Please note that the walk from the hotel to the Campus is uphill, approximately a quarter of the way up the Janiculum Hill. Although a relatively short distance the walk does involve a climb, part of which is at a steady incline. There is also no designated footpath on the side of the road.

Some nearby places of interest

- Fontana dell'Acqua Paola
- Museo della repubblica Romana e della memoria Garibaldina
- Piazza Garibaldi (including the Vittoriano Monument)
- Orto Botanico
- San Pietro in Montorio (including Tempietto del Bramante)
- Villa Pamphili
- Santa Maria in Trastevere
- Villa Farnesina – Renaissance frescoes

Some suggestions for food in Trastevere:

- Cave Canem (Piazza di. S. Calisto, 11).
- Da Enzo (Via dei Vascellari, 29).
- Trattoria Da Augusto (Vicolo De' Renzi, 15) no nonsense local
- Fatamorgana (Via Roma Libera, 11) for gelato.
- La Boccaccia (Via di Santa Dorotea, 2) for when on the run (pizza by the slice).
- I Suppli (Via San Francesco a Ripa, 137) for when on the run (Suppli - traditional Roman fried rice balls).

The Location

The Rome Campus lies within the Aurelian walls, approximately one-third of the way up the Janiculum Hill. Although the Janiculum is particularly well-known as the place where Garibaldi and his supporters fought to defend the newly established Republic of Rome in 1849 the site of the Campus also has some notable points of interest. Gió Ponti was involved in the design of the current building, which was built for the Sisters of Notre Dame de Sion in 1962-63. Within the confines of the previous structures and largely thanks to the work of Mother Marie Augustine and Mother Maria Agnesa the site was a place of refuge for Jews during WWII. Whole families were accommodated within the convent from October 1943 until the liberation of Rome in June 1944 (source: Notre Dame de Sion archives).

In the gardens is one other notable feature, which most likely dates from the first-century CE. It is a funerary relief of a man and a woman and an inscription. Dr Alan Cadwallader (formerly of ACU) has recently identified the relief and epitaph as *CIL* 6.16019, an item recorded in the seventeenth century but subsequently thought to be lost as the Janiculum Hill area was urbanised. Their apparent 'loss' was attested as recently as 1993, by Valentin Kockel in his work on Roman gravesites from the turn of the era. According to Dr Cadwallader, the relief and inscription belong together, making them quite unusual. It is likely that the original setting was a nearby grave structure, possibly situated in the vicinity of the Via Aurelia. The inscription suggests an interesting social history: they have Greek names (Anteros and Apollonia); they were ex-slaves who had belonged to different households and subsequently established their own household (source: A. Cadwallader, "CIL 6.16019 Rediscovered", *Antichthon* 52 (2108): 132-142.).

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*Front image: Emilio Franceschi, Eulalia Cristiana, 1880
(Galleria nazionale d'arte moderna, Roma)*