



Theologies of Catholicity: Christology and Pneumatology

Rome Seminar Series
16–18 September 2022

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ACU IRCI Rome Seminar Series

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Australian Catholic University Rome Campus

Via Largo Giovanni Berchet, 4 00152 Rome

Convenors

Judith Wolfe, Philip McCosker and Stephan van Erp

Director's Welcome

On behalf of my colleagues in the Institute for Religion and Critical Inquiry I welcome you to the "new" ACU Rome Campus on Largo Berchet. While the campus still sits above Rome on the Gianicolo and has wonderful vistas of the city from its rooftop terraces, it is in the leafy and tranquil neighbourhood of Monteverde, some distance (but not too far!) from the tourists of Trastevere, and alive with local life, including the buzz of cafes and many fine restaurants, historical sites such as Villa Pamphili and its lakes and woodlands.

After the covid-enforced exile from the city, we are excited again to host a series of conferences that provide an opportunity for the Institute to bring together leading scholars to explore key issues in their fields of study. The respective seminars are a practical expression of our ongoing global collaboration in religion and theology, philosophy, biblical and early Christian studies, and, for the first time, medieval and early modern history.

Since the seminars were inaugurated in 2015 as invitation-only events they have been focussed on the participants themselves and their intellectual engagement around key questions and innovative topics. This year we are turning outwards. We are hosting a series of public lecture, aimed to showcase our three core research programs and to signal our commitment and aspiration to engage with the universities and academies that animate Rome with intellectual vitality.

I take this opportunity to thank fellows of the institute for the work they have undertaken to bring together wonderful programs for their respective seminars. My thanks also go to our former Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) at ACU, Professor Wayne McKenna, and now his interim successor, Professor James McLaren, for ongoing support and sponsorship of the IRCI Rome Seminars.

I trust that your participation 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 which not only create new knowledge but also have the potential to benefit belief, civil society, and our fragile world.

Professor Peter Howard
Director, IRCI

Theologies of Catholicity

The concept of 'catholicity' (from the Greek: *kath'holou*, according to the whole) is shared by the majority of the world's Christians, who profess belief in the 'one, holy, catholic and apostolic church' (*Nicaea*). At a time when ecclesial communities are riven by polarisation, and the secular world seems increasingly divided into incommensurable silos and political echo-chambers, a reappraisal of this central idea of Christianity may be not merely desirable but essential. It is increasingly difficult to articulate the 'common' or locate the 'whole' which frames us: we collapse manifold different kinds of difference into binaries of mutual exclusion or the indistinctness of diversity. A constructive analysis and retrieval of the concept of catholicity may help ameliorate this situation both within Christian contexts, and perhaps more broadly in not explicitly religious contexts.

For much of its history the concept of catholicity has been understood *quantitatively*, that is, in terms of geographical, temporal, or numerical extension. In this understanding, catholicity is near-synonymous with 'universality' and tends towards uniformity. However, catholicity may also be understood *qualitatively*: a fullness or unity-in-difference grounded in certain theological qualities or doctrines – including Christological, pneumatological, or creational—all undergirded by the presence of Christ and the pleromatic fullness of God.

It is such qualitative understandings of catholicity which this project explores and develops, taking as its starting point the *ressourcement* theologians of the early and mid-twentieth century. These theologians share a passion for catholicity understood qualitatively, and a heightened sensitivity to the ways in which this 'whole' holds together and is constituted by multifarious finite differences. Catholicity, for these theologians, is primarily a quality of God, and only derivatively a quality of the church or creatures.

In this first seminar of the project we seek to explore ways in which theologies of catholicity have been, or can be, shaped by Christology and pneumatology. How do these core doctrines structure conceptions and practices of catholicity? How can they help us think about catholicity afresh for the 21st century?

Schedule

Thursday 15 September

6 pm **Public Lecture**

Rev'd Professor Sarah Coakley FBA

'Re-thinking the *Ressourcement* Recovery of Patristic 'Spiritual Sensation': New Applications to Contemporary Church and Culture'

Responses: Professor Judith Wolfe and Professor Stephan van Erp

A public lecture followed by a reception will be held in association with the conference. Conference participants are welcome to attend.

Friday 16 September

10 am–12 noon Planning Meeting for CIs

Participants to arrive at ACU Campus (Largo Giovanni Berchet 4, 00152, Roma) and check in by 5 pm

5:30 pm–6:30 pm **Session 1**

Welcome and Introduction to the Project

Judith Wolfe, Philip McCosker, and Stephan van Erp

6:30 pm-7:30 pm

Welcome Reception

Refreshments

7:30 pm-9:30 pm Dinner on Campus

Saturday 17 September

9:30 am–10:45 am	Session II Kevin Hughes <i>Ressourcement</i> Catholicity Philip McCosker Christology, Paradox, and Catholicity <i>Response</i> Judith Wolfe
10:45 am-11:15 am	Coffee break
11:30 am-12:45 pm	Session III Mark Edwards Patristic Christology and Catholicity Thomas Cattoi <i>Communicatio idiomatum</i> and Catholicity <i>Response</i> Sarah Coakley
1:00 pm-2:00 pm	Lunch on Campus
2:30 pm-3:45 pm	Session IV Andrew Louth Cosmic Christology and Catholicity Paul DeHart Life in Christ and Catholicity <i>Response</i> Oliver Crisp
3:45 pm-4:15 pm	Coffee break
4:15-7 pm	Free time
7:00 pm-7.30 pm	Pre-Dinner refreshments
7:30-9:30 pm	Dinner on Campus

Sunday 18 September

9 am-11 am	Time for Liturgy
11 am-12:30 pm	Session V Agbonkhianmeghe Orobator SJ Spirit Christologies and Catholicity James Hanvey SJ Newness and the Spirit <i>Response</i> Francesca Murphy
1 pm-2 pm	Lunch
2:30 pm-3:45 pm	Session VI Ian McFarland Resurrection and Catholicity <i>Response</i> James Alison
3:45 pm-4:15 pm	Coffee break
4:15 pm-5:30 pm	Session VII Ben De Spain Denys Turner Evaluation
7:00pm	Walk to Dinner
7:30pm-9:30pm	Seminar Dinner (off campus)

Monday 19 September

AM Delegates' departure

9.30 am-12 noon CIs planning meeting

ACU Rome Seminars, Institute for Religion and Critical Inquiry

2022 Religious Mobilities: Europe and the Medieval and Early Modern Worlds

2022 Theologies of Catholicity: Christology and Pneumatology

2022 Redeeming Autonomy III

2019 Jewish Traditions and the Social Imagination of Early Christians

2019 Modes of Knowing the Ordering of Knowledge in Early Christianity III

2019 Redeeming Autonomy II

2019 Atheism, Religion, and Experience

2019 Religion and Democracy: Global Issues in Ethics III

2018 Counter Narratives: Telling the Christian Story Differently

2018 Modes of Knowing the Ordering of Knowledge in Early Christianity II

2018 Redeeming Autonomy: Agency, Vulnerability, and Relationality

2018 Varieties of Atheism

2018 Moral Disagreement: Global Issues in Ethics II

2017 Texts, Traditions, and Early Christian Identities I

2017 Modes of Knowing the Ordering of Knowledge in Early Christianity I

2017 Negative Political Theology

2017 The Enigma of Suffering

2017 Companions of Guilt Arguments in Metaethics

2017 Cosmopolitanism and National Identity: Global Issues in Ethics I

2016 The Rise of the Christian Intellectual in the Second Century

2016 Atheism and Christianity: Moving Past Polemic

2016 Conceiving Change in the Church

2015 *Laudato Si'*: The Greening of the Church?

Participants

James Alison	Imitatio
Thomas Cattoi	Santa Clara University
Sarah Coakley	University of Cambridge
Oliver Crisp	University of St Andrews
Paul DeHart	Vanderbilt Divinity School
Ben DeSpain	Australian Catholic University
Mark Edwards	University of Oxford
Stephan van Erp	KU Leuven
James Hanvey SJ	Curia Generalizia, Society of Jesus
Kevin Hughes	Villanova University
Andrew Louth	Durham University
Philip McCosker	Australian Catholic University
Ian McFarland	Emory University
Francesca Murphy	University of Notre Dame
Agbonkhianmeghe Orobator SJ	Jesuit Conference of Africa and Madagascar
Denys Turner	Yale University
Judith Wolfe	University of St Andrews

Notes

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'Toccata II', by Sir Stephen Hough (stephenhough.com)