

**“Evolution and Transcendence:**

**Philosophical, Scientific, and Religious Perspectives”**

**2018 Meeting of the Institute for American Religious and Philosophical Thought**

Catholic Academy of Berlin, June 18-21, 2018

Program directors: Christian Polke, Nathaniel Barrett, and Stephan Steiner

**Monday, June 18<sup>th</sup>**

7 pm *Intellectual Autobiography*

**(Audi AB)**

Michael Raposa

8 pm Reception

**Tuesday, June 19<sup>th</sup>**

**Plenary Lectures – Transcendence**

9 – 11:30 am

Robert C. Neville

*Evolving Transcendence and the Engagement of Reality*

10.00 – 10.30 am

*Coffee break*

Saskia Wendel

*Self-Awareness and Self-Transcendence: The Origin of Religion and the Conduct of Life*

11:30–1:30 pm Lunch

**Concurrent Sessions – Transcendence**

1:30 pm – 3:30 pm

**Section A:** *Transcendence, Human Imagination, Ineffability*

Tyler Tritten, “Ineffability and Cataphatacism or Absolute Transcendence and *Peritrope* in Damascius”

Lisa Landoe Hedrick, "Whitehead and the Metaphysics of Yearning"

Andrew Irvine, "Arguing God's Existence as Exercise in Transcendence"

Section B: *Robert Bellah and the Evolution of Religion*

Danna Hargett, "Religion's Evolutionary Protection: Defining the upper bounds of biocultural evolution and the blunted impact of the Second Axial Age"

Yair Lior, "Complexity and Self-Organization in Religious Systems"

Daniel Ott, "Transcendence and Death Denial: Historicizing What Is Naturalized in Terror Management Theory"

Section C: *Hegel, Idealism, and Transcendence*

Till Nessmann, "Hegel and the structural relation of material and ideal as the basis of transcendence"

Annette Langer-Pitschmann, "Constructing the Concept of Transcendence: Evolution and Transcendence in G. Kaufman's Pragmatist Theology"

James McLachlan, "Hegelian Evolutions in America: August Willich, The St. Louis Hegelians, and George Holmes Howison"

3:30-4 pm *Coffee break*

4 – 6 pm Concurrent sessions

Section A: *Social Evolution of the Person, Community, and Ethics*

Oren Bader, "First there was a group: The priority of the group level in human evolution"

Robert Smid, "The Transcendence of Community: Emergence Theory, Language, and the Locus of Thought"

Don Viney, "Ethics, Evolution, and Dual Transcendence"

Section B: *Michael Tomasello and Naturalizing Morality*

Gary Slater, "Ethics without Bodies: The implications of mind uploading for human moral evolution"

Scot D. Yoder, "Updating James: 'The Moral Philosopher and the Moral Life' 125 Years Later"

Veenus J. Karamullil, "Transcendence at the Horizon of the Sciences of Man: A Test Case from the Natural History of Morality"

Section C:     *The Vocation and Home of Philosophy: The Transcendence of the Philosopher’s Work and Place in an Uncertain Future*

Randy Auxier, “Philosophy as the *New Science*: What the Public University *Might* Have Been”

Laura Mueller, “Education, Philosophy, and Morality: Virtue Philosophy in Kant”

Eli Kramer, “Farewell to the University: Transcending Professional Philosophy”

6.00 pm     *Dinner*

7.30 pm     Evening Lecture

Hans Joas

**(Audi AB)**

*Transcendence as Reflexive Sacredness: The Axial Age as Turning-Point in the History of Religion*

### **Wednesday 20 June 2018**

#### Plenary Lectures – Evolution

9 – 11:30 am

Volkhard Krech

*Theory and Empirical Analysis of Religious Evolution. Preliminary Considerations on a Research Program*

10:00-10:30 am

*Coffee break*

Georg Toepfer

*Universal Connectedness and Human Uniqueness: Two Modes of Transcendence in Evolution*

11.30-1.30 pm *Lunch* and Annual IARPT Board of Directors Meeting

#### Concurrent Sessions – Evolution

1:30 pm – 3:30 pm

Section A:     *Nietzsche and the Tradition of Philosophical Anthropology*

Christian P. Stritzelberger, "Cracks in reality: How evolutionary anthropology can explain the necessary interrelation of immanence and transcendence"

Gabriele Aleandri, "Transcendence, secularization, and state of nature: An anthropogenic perspective"

Nikolaos Loukidelis, The Concept of Immanent Transcendence

Section B: *Process Philosophy, Evolution, and Transcendence*

Leslie A. Muray, "The Way We Tell Our Stories"

Roland Cazalis, "Feeling, Believing, Transforming: A Human Landscape of Transcendence"

Marjorie Suchocki, "Evolution and Three Modes of Transcendence"

Section C: *F. LeRon Shults and the Evolution of Transcendence & Religion*

F. LeRon Shults, "The Birth of Transcendence: A Computational Model"

Brandon Daniel-Hughes, "Transcending Inherited Signs of Transcendence: Religious Narratives after the Birth of God"

Jeffrey B. Speaks, "Safe and Responsible God-Talk: Beyond F. LeRon Shults' Abstinence-Only Version of 'The Talk'"

3:30-7:30 *Free time for sightseeing (boat trip/museum/etc.) and dinner*

7:30 pm Evening Lecture

Henrike Moll (University of Southern California)

**(Audi AB)**

*Human-Unique Forms of Social Learning: The Case of Teaching*

### **Thursday, 21. June 2018**

#### Plenary Lectures – Challenging Religious Naturalism

9 – 11:30 am

Nancy Frankenberry

*A Common Faith Today? American Religious Naturalism Since Dewey*

10.00-10:30 am

*Coffee break*

Gesche Linde

*A Religion of Science: Charles Peirce on Evolution, Metaphysics, and Theism*

11:30-1:30 PM *Lunch*

Concurrent Sessions – Challenging Religious Naturalism

1:30 am – 3:30 pm

Section A: *Charles S. Peirce and Semiotic Evolution*

Rory Misiewicz, “Regressive Progression: How Peirce’s Triadic Account of Evolution Can Inform Cultural Narratives”

David Rohr, “Biosemiosis and the Synechistic Emergence of Mind from Matter”

Walter Gulick, “Understanding Understanding”

Section B: *Naturalism, Transcendence and Life in the Anthropocene*

Nicholas Aaron Friesner, “Perfectionist philosophy contra environmental philosophy: rectifying transcendence”

Thurman Todd Willison, “Personalism beyond Anthropocentrism”

William David Hart, “Atheism, Humanism, and Naturalism as nested relations”

3:30-6:00 Free time for sightseeing (boat trip, museums, etc.)

6.00-7.00 pm Business meeting

7.00 pm Conference Dinner: Schnitzerei Mitte  
Chausseestrasse 8  
10115 Berlin