

CONFERENCE IN CELEBRATION OF THE 80<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE  
*INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF PHILOSOPHY AND THEOLOGY*  
[WWW.TANDFONLINE.COM/RJPT](http://WWW.TANDFONLINE.COM/RJPT)

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

**--- CALL FOR PAPERS ---**

**EXTENDED DEADLINE : 20 SEPTEMBER 2018, 2PM**

**DATES:** 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:**

INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF PHILOSOPHY AND THEOLOGY

IN COLLABORATION WITH

CENTRE PETER GILES, UNIVERSITY OF ANTWERP

VON HÜGEL INSTITUTE, CAMBRIDGE

BONN INSTITUTE FOR HERMENEUTICS - UNIVERSITÄT BONN

**ORGANIZING COMMITTEE:**

W. VAN HERCK, P. SCHAAFSMA, L. SCHUMACHER, T. SCRUTTON, C. RICHTER, M. SAROT, G.

VANHEESWIJCK, J. GELDHOF, G.-J. VAN DER HEIDEN, PH. MCCOSKER

**CONFERENCE TOPIC**

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 what is often labelled as "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 keep on aiming 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 models of reflection with a highly speculative appearance which seem to have lost interest in engaging in societal

debates. 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?

### **CALL FOR ABSTRACTS**

Researchers are invited to contribute to the parallel sessions by presenting a paper (20' presentation + 10' Q&A) on the conference topic.

Papers on the general topic of the journal, namely the intersection between philosophy and theology are also welcome.

Applicants send **an abstract** of max. 250 words to: [walter.vanherck@uantwerpen.be](mailto:walter.vanherck@uantwerpen.be)

**Extended deadline is September 20, 2018.** Notification of acceptance will follow asap.

Note: the organizers have the intention of following the SWIP/BPA guidelines. See: <http://bpa.ac.uk/resources/women-in-philosophy/good-practice>.

### **KEYNOTE SPEAKERS will include:**

- David Jasper
- Rhiannon Grant
- Beverley Clack
- Simon Hewitt
- (other names to be confirmed shortly)

### **REGISTRATION FEE AND ACCOMMODATION**

#### ➤ **Registration fee**

- |                                  |                  |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
| - full programme (9-11 Jan 2019) | = € 110 or £ 100 |
| - only Wed 9 Jan                 | = € 55 or £ 50   |
| - only Thu 10 Jan                | = € 55 or £ 50   |
| - only Fri 11 Jan                | = € 35 or £ 30   |

(incl. all coffee breaks, lunches and dinners on the day(s) of attendance)

#### ➤ **Accommodation in The Møller Centre** in single or double en-suite \*\*\*\* rooms

- |  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| - two nights<br>(arrival on 9 Jan; departure on 11 Jan 2019) | = € 240 or £ 220 |
| - one night  | = € 120 or £ 110 |

Registration via an online form which will be made available on 25 Sep 2018 through <https://www.uantwerpen.be/en/conferences/sistersinarms>