Philosophical Perspectives on Theological Realism

Call for Papers

In recent decades, an increasing number of philosophers in the so called “analytic tradition” have begun to produce exciting philosophical work on topics belonging traditionally to the provenance of systematic theology. The Analytic Theology Project is a multinational four-year endeavor that contributes to this development in a creative way. It funds systematic research to promote long overdue interdisciplinary cooperation among analytic philosophers and theologians. All research initiatives aim at examining the traditional questions of theology from the perspectives of contemporary Christian theology and analytic philosophy. In this way new advances at the intersection of both fields shall be explored. Moreover, the project will critically reflect on possible limits of analytic approaches and will consider the value of complementary philosophical approaches for theological research.

Among the main grant activities for achieving the goals of the project are three 10-day Summer Schools, the first of which has been carried out successfully at Munich in 2012. These seminars provide younger scholars with a survey of methods of analytic philosophy and theology as well as training in key topics in Analytic Theology. In addition the seminars aim to develop professional relationships among younger scholars in the interest of long-term collaboration and mutual intellectual support as their careers progress.

The Summer School 2013 will be held at Mainz (near Frankfurt/Main) and will focus on the issue of Theological Realism. It proceeds from the observation that the debate initiated by analytic approaches to the Philosophy of Religion can be characterised by three areas of discussion: the relation between the Philosophy of Religion and other philosophical disciplines, the connection between Philosophy of Religion and Theology and finally the correlation between the Anglo-American and the Continental Philosophy. The Frankfurt Summer School will serve as a forum to discuss the problem of Theological Realism as a test case with regard to all of these fields.

The Summer School will be followed by the International Logos Conference on the same topic, which will take place at Frankfurt/Main from 09. – 11. September 2013. For further information on the conference programme please follow the corresponding link on http://www.uibk.ac.at/analytictheology/summerschools/.

Organizers:
Prof. Dr. Thomas M. Schmidt (Goethe-Universität Frankfurt)
Prof. Dr. Oliver Wiertz (Philosophisch-Theologische Hochschule Sankt Georgen, Frankfurt)

Confirmed Speakers:
Philip J. Rossi SJ, Marquette University (USA)
Genia Schönbaumsfeld, University of Southampton (UK)
Sami Pihlström, Collegium for Advanced Studies Helsinki (Finland)
Merold Westphal, Fordham University (USA)

Invited Speakers:
Eleonore Stump, St. Louis University (USA)
Winfried Löffler, Universität Innsbruck (Österreich)
Holm Tetens, Freie Universität Berlin
For the Short Paper Sessions during the afternoons, contributions to the following areas are welcome:

Philosophy of Religion and other philosophical disciplines
- Epistemological Realism
- Metaphysical Realism
- Moral Realism

Four Ways of Challenging Theological Realism
- Pragmatism
- Hermeneutics
- Phenomenology
- German Idealism

Defense of Theological Realism

Applications in German or English can be made via email to Oliver Wiertz, wiertz@sankt-georgen.de until 15. April 2013 and should include an abstract (500 words), Curriculum Vitae, and a list of publications, if existing. All applicants will be informed whether or not their abstract has been accepted until 15 May 2013. The number of participants is limited to 15. Conference language will be English. Applicants must be enrolled as PhD students in philosophy or theology at an accredited degree-granting institution or be within 5 years of receiving their PhD. They will be chosen on the basis of demonstrated interest and on the likelihood of future productivity. Each selected seminar member will receive a stipend for travel and lodging costs.

Contact: Prof. Oliver Wiertz, Philosophisch-Theologische Hochschule Sankt Georgen, Offenbacher Landstr. 224, 60599 Frankfurt/Germany, wiertz@sankt-georgen.de

Conference location: Erbacher Hof, Main (http://www.ebh-mainz.de/).