



Universität Innsbruck - Institut für Christliche Philosophie

Gastvortrag

Organisation und Kontakt: Georg Gasser

Andrew Pinsent (Oxford):

Aquinas's Copernican Revolution of the Moral Life: From First-Person to Second-Person Virtue Ethics

Mittwoch, 18. April 2012, 18.00 s.t.

Seminarraum VI (Karl-Rahner-Platz 3, 1. Stock)

The idea that Aquinas's treatment of the virtues is a modified form of Aristotelianism continues to exert a powerful hold on the scholarly imagination. As a result, the peculiarities of Aquinas's account are often ignored or accommodated in an ad hoc fashion, like the epicycles added to Aristotelian cosmology to save the phenomena of a geocentric cosmos. In this presentation, I argue that contemporary work in experimental psychology, notably in the field of autistic spectrum disorder, provides the key to a new metaphoric understanding of Aquinas's work founded on the principle of 'second-person relatedness', a phenomenon highlighted most famously in the pioneering work of Martin Buber. Aquinas's insights, together with new research into social cognition and character formation, may therefore help to promote a kind of 'Copernican revolution' in the understanding of virtue – a shift in the locus of explanation from the first-person to the second-person perspective.

ANDREW C. PINSENT is Research Director of the Ian Ramsey Centre for Science and Religion at the University of Oxford, a member of the Theology Faculty and a Research Fellow at Harris Manchester College. He is a named author on thirty-one papers of the DELPHI experiment at CERN and has doctorates in both physics and philosophy, besides a degree in theology. His current research interests are in metaphysical problems pertinent to contemporary science and theology.

Alle Interessent/innen sind herzlich eingeladen!