

Newsletter of the International Society for Religion, Literature and Culture

August 2010

News from the ISRLC Conference

**2010 Biennial Conference of the International Society for Religion, Literature and
Culture**

Hosted by the University of Oxford's Theology Faculty

**Taking place at the University of Oxford
Between 23rd – 26th September 2010**

On the topic of: 'Attending to the Other: Critical Theory and Spiritual Practice'

Keynote Speakers:

**Toril Moi (see attached flyer), Amy Hollywood,
Paul Fiddes, Victor Seidler, Graham Ward**

www.theology.ox.ac.uk/ISRLC

We are pleased to say that preparations for the forthcoming ISRLC conference are going extremely well. The call for papers generated a phenomenal amount of interest and in the end over 400 abstracts were submitted to our 18 different panels. We have whittled those 400 down to the 150 best papers and you can now see for yourselves the range and depth of the panel papers by examining the full program (available online: www.theology.ox.ac.uk/ISRLC). The speakers at the conference represent institutions from Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, China, Denmark, France, Germany, India, Israel, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Portugal, Russia, Singapore, South Africa, Sweden, the UAE, UK, Ukraine and of course the USA – so this truly is an international conference!

The 18 panels comprise Literature, Modern Theology, Biblical Studies, Islam, Judaism, Religion and Modernity, German Idealism, Postcolonialism, Film and Religion, Visual Arts, Higher Education, Spirituality and Reconciliation, Continental Philosophy of Religion, Critical Theory, Gender, Theological Humanism, Music and Performing Arts.

Please register for the conference. The registration deadline has now been extended into August, so there is no excuse to miss this event, which also includes an opening reception in the University's Medieval Divinity School. See www.theology.ox.ac.uk/ISRLC for all the details, including the programme and registration form.

UK Call For Papers

- **Contemplations of the Spiritual in Contemporary Art**

Date: December 10-11, 2010

Place: Liverpool Cathedral, St James Mount, Liverpool, LI 7AZ

Submission deadline: August 30, 2010 to contemplationsofthespiritual@yahoo.co.uk

Further information: contemplationsofthespiritual@yahoo.co.uk

Contemplations of the Spiritual in Contemporary Art

Organisers:

Dr. Rina Arya, Lin Holland & Jane Poulton

The history of Western art comes out of a Judaeo-Christian legacy and for centuries the relationship between religion and art was close. It is only in fairly recent times, since the beginning of modernism and the advent of contemporary art, that the two have been considered apart. In this conference we are going to build on this theme by placing religion (which is taken in its more inclusive sense to refer to the spiritual) in dialogue with contemporary art. We look forward to the fruitful interdisciplinary debates that will ensue.

The conference was inspired by the work of Lin Holland and Jane Poulton who were artists-in-residence at both Liverpool Cathedral and the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King, Liverpool from November 2007 to November 2008. Their work will be showcased during the conference. Keynotes include James Elkins (School of the Art Institute of Chicago), John Harvey (University of Aberystwyth), Graham Howes (University of Cambridge) and David Jasper (University of Glasgow).

Registration fee (including delegate pack and refreshments) for the whole conference: £70 (£45 for one day).

We invite proposals for papers of 20 minutes duration, dealing with the conference topic.

The deadline for proposals is: 30th August 2010

Notification of accepted proposals: 11th September 2010

Please send proposals including: title of paper, abstract of 500 words maximum and a brief CV to Rina Arya at:

contemplationsofthespiritual@yahoo.co.uk

• **The Hospitable Text: New Approaches to Religion and Literature**

Date: July 14-16, 2011

Place: London Notre Dame Centre, UK

Submission deadline: September 15, 2010 to HospitableText@calvin.edu

Further information: <http://www.hospitabletext.org/>

The Hospitable Text:

New Approaches to Religion and Literature

Plenary lecturers will include: Julia Reinhard Lupton (UC Irvine) and John Schad (Lancaster University).

Other participants include: Jo Carruthers (Bristol University), Paul Contino (Pepperdine University), John Cox (Hope College), Robert Eaglestone (Royal Holloway, University of London), Mark Eaton (Azusa Pacific University), Peter Hawkins (Yale University), Emma Mason (Warwick University) and Susannah Monta (University of Notre Dame).

(With sponsorship from the Conference on Christianity and Literature, Literature and Theology, Religion and Literature, the University of Notre Dame, and the Calvin Center for Christian Scholarship.)

Recent years have seen a resurgence of interest in the relationship between religion and literature, with the broader critical turn to religion in the arts and humanities helping invigorate an interdisciplinary field that has been well served through the work of journals such as *Christianity and Literature*, *Religion and Literature* and *Literature and Theology*.

Recognising the importance of talking further about our different approaches to the field, this conference will bring together a wide variety of scholars in order to enable and enrich contemporary explorations of religion and literature.

Contemporary theorists and theologians have paid considerable attention recently to the idea of hospitality, recognising, among other things, the value of actively hosting viewpoints different from our own rather than merely tolerating their presence. With this in mind, the theme of our conference is *The Hospitable Text*.

The theme of our conference is 'The Hospitable Text'. Contemporary theorists and theologians have paid considerable attention recently to the idea of hospitality, recognising, among other things, the value of actively hosting viewpoints different from our own rather than merely tolerating their presence. With this in mind, papers are invited that address any of the following topics: Religious/literary/theological explorations of hospitality

- The relationship between religion and literature
- Literature and religious pluralism/difference
- Dialogism in the novel
- Controversy and literature
- Strangers, guests and visitors in literary texts
- Literary reflections on the Eucharist
- The relationship between the religious and the secular

- Related themes, such as friendship, tolerance, charity and peace.
- Literature and the Bible
- Fundamentalism
- Religious violence
- Hermeneutical conversations
- Communal reading

Papers are not restricted to a particular faith or religious tradition, or to a particular historical period.

Anyone wishing to offer a (20 min) paper at the conference should submit an abstract (max 400 words) and a brief biographical note (max 100 words) by 15 September 2010 to HospitableText@calvin.edu. Participants will be notified of their acceptance by 15 October 2010.

While we anticipate that most of the abstracts we receive will be for individual papers, we also welcome proposals for three-paper panels. If you offer a panel, please ensure that (a) the panel is composed of speakers from different institutions, and (b) that is clear whether you are willing for the papers to be considered individually if we do not accept your offer of a panel.

One of the distinctive features of the conference will be a slot devoted to [seminars](#). You are welcome to offer a paper as well as requesting to participate in a seminar. However, if demand is too high, you may be limited to one or the other. If you apply to give a paper and participate in a seminar, please indicate which you would prefer to do.

International Call For Papers

- **The Future of Continental Philosophy of Religion**

Date: April 7-9, 2011

Place: Syracuse University

Submission deadline: December 15, 2010 to perconf@syr.edu

Further information: <http://pcr.syr.edu>

Postmodernism, Culture and Religion 4
“The Future of Continental Philosophy of Religion”
Syracuse University
April 7-9, 2011

Plenary Speakers:

JOHN D. CAPUTO

Watson Professor of Religion and Philosophy

Syracuse University (<http://religion.syr.edu/Caputo.html>)

PHILIP GOODCHILD

Professor of Theology and Religious Studies

University of Nottingham (UK)

(<http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/Theology/People/philip.goodchild>)

CATHERINE MALABOU

Professor of Philosophy

University of Paris-X, Nanterre (http://www.u-paris10.fr/10980645/0/fiche_EE8_pagelibre/)

CALL FOR PAPERS

Paper submissions are invited on the topic “The Future of Continental Philosophy of Religion,” its past and present, its history and its prospects, in the widest possible terms, addressing the whole range of its implications—politics, feminism, constructive theology, philosophy, history, literature, interfaith dialogue, and the hermeneutics of sacred texts.

In the past, these conferences, which have provided a forum for the most influential philosophers, theologians, and cultural theorists to interact, have consisted solely of several keynote speakers. This conference will be different. It will feature three plenary speakers and offer multiple concurrent sessions devoted to papers submitted on a diversity of issues relating to the primary theme. This call for papers is deliberately open, befitting the conference's animating concern with the *future*. Papers are invited that address questions like (but not limited to) the following. What now, or what comes next—specifically, after the death, if not of God, at least of the generation consisting of Derrida, Deleuze, Foucault, Levinas, etc.? This question concerns not only the future *after* those significant theorists, but also the future *after-life* of these eminent minds who have left such a deep impact on

Continental philosophy of religion. What is the future of Kant and German Idealism, of Kierkegaard and Nietzsche in Continental philosophy of religion? What remains for the future of phenomenology? Of the "theological turn" in the phenomenology of Jean-Luc Marion and others? Of Gadamer, Ricoeur and philosophical hermeneutics? Of apophatic or mystical theology? What is the future of feminism and Continental philosophy of religion? What are the status and future of the new trinity of Agamben, Badiou and Žižek? What relevance do the political interpretations of Antonio Negri, Michael Hardt, and the more recent Continental philosophers such as François Laruelle and Catherine Malabou have to philosophy of religion and political theology? What about the future of sovereignty, of money and capitalism, as in the work of Philip Goodchild? What is the future of the movements of Radical Orthodoxy and of radical death of God theology, whether in their original or contemporary manifestations? What about the new sciences of information and complexity in thinkers like Mark C. Taylor and Michel Serres? What about Continental philosophy of religion and our "companion species" in Donna Haraway? What about "Post-Humanism"? What is the future of Continental Philosophy of religion and Judaism? And Islam? Or world religions generally? What is the relationship between postmodernism, religion and postcolonialism? What role can Continental philosophy play in the future of religion? In the professional study of religion? How does Continental philosophical theology relate to the ethnological and empirical-scientific study of religion? How does Continental philosophy of religion differ from traditional philosophy of religion? Or from analytic philosophy of religion? What *is* continental philosophy of religion anyway?

Instructions: Submit electronic copies of completed papers (up to 3000 words). Abstracts cannot be considered. Papers will be subject to a double blind review by a selection committee. Include your name, paper title and contact information on a separate page. Include the paper title but not your name on a header or footer on each numbered page of the paper itself. The papers must be previously unpublished in any format. The Conference reserves the right of first refusal of the submitted paper for inclusion in a projected volume to be based upon the conference. **Paper submissions are due by December 15, 2010** and acceptances will be made by February 15, 2011. Send your papers to: pcrconf@syr.edu.

Coordinator: John D. Caputo, Watson Professor of Religion, Syracuse University
For further information contact pcrconf@syr.edu or visit <http://pcr.syr.edu>.

UK Conferences

- **Theology, Aesthetics, and Culture: Conversations with the Work of David Brown**

Date: September 6-8, 2010

Place: St Mary's College, University of St Andrews

Registration deadline: August 20, 2010

Further information: <http://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/divinity/rt/itia/conf2010/>

- **Visions and Revisions: Putting God into Writing (CLSG autumn conference)**

Date: November 6, 2010

Place: Corpus Christi College, Oxford

Further information: <http://www.clsg.org/html/conference.html>

- **Women and Religion: Doctrinal, Historical and Social Perspectives**

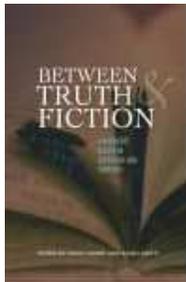
Date: November 20, 2010

Place: University of Bristol

Further information (such as cfp and registration):

<http://www.bris.ac.uk/arts/gradschool/community/conferences/women-religion.html>

New Publications



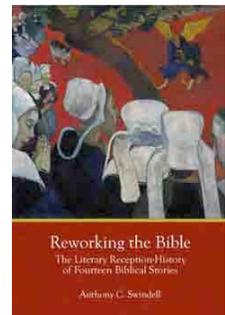
Jasper, David & Smith, Allen. *Between Truth and Fiction*. SCM press, 2010.

Details: <http://www.scmpress.co.uk/bookdetails.asp?ISBN=9780334041924>

Swindell, Anthony, *Reworking the Bible: The Literary Reception-History of Fourteen Biblical Stories*. Sheffield Phoenix Press, Publication: July 2010.

Details: <http://www.sheffieldphoenix.com/showbook.asp?bkid=158>

This is a study of the literary reception-history of fourteen biblical stories in the light of the theories of Genette about rewriting and of Bakhtin about chronotopes and polyphony.

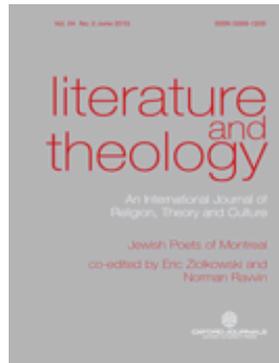


John Waddington-Feather has written several plays, all containing religious undertones. Any members interested in receiving a list of his publications is welcome to send him an email at: john@jjwfeather.co.uk

Literature and Theology

- **Literature and Theology eTOCs**

Do you know you can receive by email the table of contents of the journal Literature and Theology? Here is the eTOC of the current journal issue. To subscribe, follow the link: <http://services.oxfordjournals.org/cgi/alerts/etoc?goAlpha=Alphabetically>



Literature and Theology Table of Contents Alert

A new issue of [Literature and Theology](#) is available online:
Jewish Poets of Montreal: June 2010; Vol. 24, No. 2

The below Table of Contents is available online at:
<http://litthe.oxfordjournals.org/content/vol24/issue2/index.dtl>

Editorial

Eric Ziolkowski

Editorial—Jewish Poets of Montreal: A Prefatory Note

Literature and Theology Advance Access published on May 10, 2010

Literature and Theology 2010 24: 119-120; doi:10.1093/litthe/frq019 [\[Full Text\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)

Articles

Norman Ravvin

Making it Mainstream: Montreal and the Canadian Jewish Poetic Tradition

Literature and Theology 2010 24: 121-136; doi:10.1093/litthe/frq020 [\[Abstract\]](#) [\[Full Text\]](#)

[\[PDF\]](#)

Zailig Pollock

A. M. Klein and Kabbalah

Literature and Theology 2010 24: 137-149; doi:10.1093/litthe/frq021 [\[Abstract\]](#) [\[Full Text\]](#)

[\[PDF\]](#)

Kenneth Sherman

Irving Layton and his Brother Jesus

Literature and Theology Advance Access published on May 10, 2010

Literature and Theology 2010 24: 150-160; doi:10.1093/litthe/frq022 [\[Abstract\]](#) [\[Full Text\]](#)

[\[PDF\]](#)

Goldie Morgentaler

The Prayer House of Chava Rosenfarb: Poetry, Religion and the Shadow of the Holocaust

- Literature and Theology 2010 24: 161-174; doi:10.1093/litthe/frq023 [\[Abstract\]](#) [\[Full Text\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)
- Chava Rosenfarb
'Yitkhok's kholem', Isaac's Dream
Literature and Theology 2010 24: 175-178; doi:10.1093/litthe/frq025 [\[Full Text\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)
[\[Reading of English Translation by Goldie Morgentaler\]](#)
- Chava Rosenfarb
'Ikh volt arayngegangen in a shulekhl', I Would Go Into a Prayerhouse
Literature and Theology 2010 24: 179-181; doi:10.1093/litthe/frq026 [\[Full Text\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)
[\[Reading of English Translation by Goldie Morgentaler\]](#)
- Norman Ravvin
Poland, Yiddish and a Canadian Writer's Life: Interview with Chava Rosenfarb
Literature and Theology 2010 24: 182-191; doi:10.1093/litthe/frq024 [\[Full Text\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)

Book Reviews

- Francis Stewart
Believing Again. By Roger Lundin.
Literature and Theology Advance Access published on March 29, 2010
Literature and Theology 2010 24: 192-194; doi:10.1093/litthe/frq014 [\[Full Text\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)
- Brian D. Ingrassia
'A God of Justice?': The Problem of Evil in Twentieth-Century Black Literature. By Qiana J. Whitted.
Literature and Theology Advance Access published on March 15, 2010
Literature and Theology 2010 24: 194-196; doi:10.1093/litthe/frq015 [\[Full Text\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)
- Rowan Williams
The Sacred Body Asceticism in Religion, Literature, Art and Culture. By David Jasper.
Literature and Theology Advance Access published on May 10, 2010
Literature and Theology 2010 24: 196-198; doi:10.1093/litthe/frq017 [\[Full Text\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)
- David Jasper
The Remains of Being: Hermeneutic Ontology after Metaphysics. By Santiago Zabala.
Literature and Theology Advance Access published on May 10, 2010
Literature and Theology 2010 24: 198-199; doi:10.1093/litthe/frq027 [\[Full Text\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)

Notes on the Contributors

- Notes on the Contributors**
Literature and Theology 2010 24: 200; doi:10.1093/litthe/frq031 [\[Full Text\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)

Notices and Reports

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Literature and Theology 2010 24: 201-209; doi:10.1093/litthe/frq029 [\[Full Text\]](#) [\[PDF\]](#)

*Information for the following Newsletter?
send it to Marie.Holdsworth@uclouvain.be*