

The Sixteenth Conference of the British Society for the Philosophy of Religion
Creativity and Creation
4th – 6th September, 2025
Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford

Thursday 4th September

12.30 – Registration desk opens (Monson Room)

14.00-15.30 – Short paper session 1 (streams)

Stream A – Simpkins Lee Theatre

1. Victoria Gross: 'The metaphysics of the creative will'
2. Ivan Broisson: 'Étienne Gilson on the metaphysics of creation'
3. Roberto Di Ceglie: 'Aquinas on beauty and Umberto Eco's interpretation'

Stream B – Talbot Hall

4. Stephen Cheung: 'Paul, Nietzsche and the creation of the human being'
5. Sylwia Wilczewska: 'God, inquiry and the creation of meaning'
6. Audrey Southgate: 'Towards a philosophy of integrated literacy and creativity'

Stream C – Paul Oster Room

7. Victoria Harrison: 'Imaginative hermeneutics as method: A fictionalist approach to religious ontology'
8. Tomasz Laskowski: 'Let's believe in fantasy: atheists and imaginative immersion'
9. Eric Yang: 'Theological modeling as conceptual artmaking'

15:30 - Tea and Coffee (Monson Room)

15.50 – Registration desk closes

16:00 – Welcome from the President - **Simpkins Lee Theatre**

16.15 – Plenary session #1 – Simpkins Lee Theatre

Catherine Pickstock (Cambridge)

17:15 – *Religious Studies* 60th Anniversary Reception (all welcome) – **Monson Room**

18.30 – Dinner

20.00 – Plenary session #2 – Simpkins Lee Theatre

Michael Puett (Harvard)

21.15 – Pub

Friday 5th September

8.00 – Breakfast

9.00-10.30 – Short paper session 2 (streams)

Stream D – Simpkins Lee Theatre

10. Klaas Kraay: 'Creativity in creation: God's personality and preferences'
11. Brian Ballard: 'Creativity is more meaningful if God exists: an argument for pro-theism'
12. Jasmine Frost: 'Cosmic artwork and the axiology of theism: The added artistic value argument for pro-theism'

Stream E - Talbot Hall

13. T. Ryan Byerly: 'From creator theology to pantheism'
14. Monika Morkūnaitė: 'Should divine creation be bound by classical logic? Meeting the quantum challenge'
15. Robbie Hoque: 'Ibn Taymiyya and divine creation: prospects for a substantive Islamic analytic theology?'

Stream F – Paul Oster Room

16. Noa Lahav Ayalon: '*Causa sui* and the concept of creation in Spinoza's philosophy'
17. Mattia Geretto: 'The creative power of God and human architectural capability according to Leibniz'
18. Sepid (Zahra) Birashk: 'Recreating creation: The role of human creativity in Schelling's speculative theogony'

Stream G – Olga Pocock Room

19. Mor Segev: 'Maimonides on the Biblical creation account, Aristotle's eternalist cosmology, and cosmic perfection'
20. Johnson Uchenna: 'Creation in African traditional thought'
21. Ho-yeung Lee and Pak-lin Leung: 'Living in an axiarchic world: Lessons from Zhu Xi'

10.40 – Tea/coffee (Monson Room)

11.20-12.50 – Short paper session 3 (streams)

Stream H – Simpkins Lee Theatre

22. David Ellis: 'Wittgenstein and arguments from design'
23. Bartosz Wesół: 'Teleology and creativity: abduction and C.S. Peirce's argument for the reality of God'

24. Nathan Coundon: “‘It’s all in your head *and it’s true*.” How to create divine attribute concepts according to Basil of Caesarea and Gregory of Nyssa’

Stream I – Talbot Hall

25. Marco Fiorletta: ‘Hölderlin’s poetic creativity: writing as struggle and revelation’
26. King-Ho Leung: ‘Elena Ferrante on the spiritual experience of freedom and creativity’
27. Nathalia Bell: ‘Aesthetic theology: a Deleuzian reading of the Book of Job’

Stream J – Paul Oster Room

28. Simon Hewitt: ‘All numbers great and small: a neo-Fregean approach to the creation of numbers’
29. Ian Davies: ‘Creation of new souls: do traducianists need to be panpsychists?’
30. Katelyn O’Dell: ‘On the possibility of personal knowledge of a creator God’

Stream K – Olga Pocock Room

31. Douglas Hedley: ‘Creativity and play: theology and the bowling game in Cusa’
32. Mikel Burley: ‘The playful creativity of the divine: the concept of *līlā* in Vedānta theology’
33. Samuel Glenn: ‘The globe game of Cusanus’

13.00 – Lunch

14.00-15.30 – Short paper session 4 (streams)

Stream L – Simpkins Lee Theatre

34. Phillip Quinn: ‘How can creation be a gift?’
35. Ben Page: ‘Can God wrong me by ceasing to conserve me?’
36. Akumjung Pongen: ‘Cooperative creation and the sole-source thesis’

Stream M – Talbot Hall

37. Mina Yi: ‘Creation in movements: art-making and world-making’
38. Noemi Call: ‘A philosophy of landscape: exploring artistic experimentation and religious imagination’
39. Gareth Polmeer: ‘Image and likeness: artistic creation and the shaping of the soul’

Stream N – Paul Oster Room

40. James Lorenz: ‘Creation, creativity and the grammar of sacramental theology’

41. Serafim Seppälä: 'Human and divine creativity in Orthodox theology: conceptual models'
42. Davide Andrea: 'To make oneself like the Creator: an interpretation of early Daoist soteriology'

Stream O – Olga Pocock Room

43. Sasha Lawson Frost: 'Obedience as a creative act: authority and mediation in artistic practice'
44. Sayyid Maisam Haider Ali Rizvi: 'Between *technē* and *theia mania*: acts of *mimēsis* and the place of poetic creativity in Al-Fārābī and Ibn Sīnā's prophetic psychology'
45. Errol Boon: 'One Last Miracle: Creativity, Indeterminacy and Artificial Intelligence in Plato, Kant and Arendt'

15.40 – Tea/coffee (Monson Room)

16.00 – General Meeting of the Society - **Simpkins Lee Theatre**

17.00 – Plenary session #3 – Simpkins Lee Theatre

Clare Carlisle

18.15 – Conference dinner

20:00 – Plenary session #4 – Simpkins Lee Theatre

Jessica Frazier

21.15 – Pub

Saturday 6th September

8.00 – Breakfast and departure

BSPR 2025 Short paper abstracts

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