

LONERGAN STUDIES NEWSLETTER

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Publications

Dias, Darren. "Lonergan and Freire: An Initial Conversion." *Rethinking Freire and Illich: Historical, Philosophical, and Theological Perspectives*. eds. Rosa Bruno-Jofré, Michael Attridge, and Jon Igelmo Zaldívar. Toronto, ON: The University of Toronto Press, 2023. 87-103.

Downie, Andrew. "The Trinitarian Theology of Bernard Lonergan: An Example of the Reception of Vatican I in 20th-Century Theology." *Vatican I, Infallible or Neglectable?: Historical and Theological Approaches to the Event and Reception of the First Vatican Council*, eds. Dries Bosschaert, Peter De Mey, and Simon Beentjes. *Bibliothèque de la Revue d'histoire ecclésiastique*, vol. 113. Brepolis, 2023. ISBN : 978-2-503-60171-7.

Finamore, Rosanna, Paolo Gherri, and Pierpaolo Triani eds. *Sul Método Transcendentale: l'Apporto di B. Lonergan alle sfide contemporanee*. Rome: Città Nuova, 2023.

Healy, Caitlin, MSN, RN. "Self-Appropriation in Nurse Engagement: Facilitating the Development of Expert Nurses Using Benner and Lonergan." *Nursing Philosophy*, 25/3 (June 2024). <https://doi.org/10.1111/nup.12480>.

Expert nurses, as described by the work of Patricia Benner, are at the peak of clinical nursing practice and vitally important in ensuring the best possible patient care and clinical outcomes. The development of Benner's theory and its relationship with the Dreyfus model of skill acquisition provides context for understanding the progression necessary for expert development. Contemporary healthcare challenges present implications to the development of advancing levels of nursing practice. *Engagement* has been identified as critical to achieving expert practice. I propose the incorporation of the philosophical framework of self-appropriation from Benard Lonergan as a strategy to develop internal engagement in nurses to facilitate expert practice. I outline the synergy between Benner's theory and the work of Lonergan, which provide overlap and opportunity to overcome barriers to developing expert nursing practice. In the challenging climate of healthcare, there is an obligation to promote engagement and facilitate expert nurse development, necessary for patient outcomes as well as clinical role models, preceptors, and leaders to guide future nurses.

Heaps, Jonathan R. *The Ambiguity of Being: Bernard Lonergan and the Problems of the Supernatural*. Washington D.C., The Catholic University of America Press, 2023.

The debate in Catholic theology over the relationship between the natural and the supernatural has only occasionally engaged with Bernard Lonergan's philosophical and theological contributions on the topic. *The Ambiguity of Being* argues that more detailed engagement with Lonergan's work implies an oversight in both the 20th- and 21st-century debates. *Ambiguity* argues the controversy has failed to notice how the problem of the natural and the supernatural is, in fact, two problems. *Ambiguity* takes both problems in their widest sense to be about action-both divine and human.

Hemmers, Ryan. *The Death and Life of Speculative Theology: A Lonergan Idea*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books/Fortress Academic, 2023.

Drawing on the thought of Bernard Lonergan, *The Death and Life of Speculative Theology* narrates the rise and fall of speculative theology, retrieves and transposes its central achievements, and shows how it might be renewed as a modern science for a modern culture.

Kanaris, Jim. *Toward a Philosophy of Religious Studies: Enestatic Explorations*. Albany, NY: State University of New York Press, 2023.

In this important work, Jim Kanaris provides a unique approach to the study of religion, aiming to alleviate the methodological and ideological barriers that divide philosophers, theologians, and social scientists. This is a "philosophy of religion" for a wider audience than that designation usually circumscribes, and, for that reason, Kanaris opts for the broader "philosophy of religious studies." He hybridizes insights principally from the works of Bernard Lonergan and Martin Heidegger but also those of Jacques Derrida, Charles Winquist, and Tyler Roberts, among others. Kanaris combines this with a distinctive hermeneutical approach that gives rise to what he calls "enestatic" philosophy, one that manages the irreducible complexity of one's individuality, a singularity, in the negotiation of one's objects of concern. *Toward a Philosophy of Religious Studies* is unlike any other book in religious studies. It provides a unique way to surface personal involvement in the study of religion without compromising scholarly objectivity and philosophical integrity.

Ormerod, Neil. "A Hidden Ecological Dialectic: An Oversight in Insight." *Theological Studies*, 84/4 (December 2023): 613-33. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00405639231204939>.

While the writings of Robert Doran exhibit significant ecological awareness, the present paper argues that the corpus of Bernard Lonergan and Doran's own work have overlooked an ecological dialectic that arises naturally from Lonergan's approach. This article suggests there is an anthropocentric bias operating that prevents its recognition, which needs to be identified and overcome if we are to address our current ecological crises. To that end, this article identifies a double dialectic operating in the social order. The first dialectic, as identified by Lonergan and expanded by Doran, is that between intersubjectivity and practical intelligence; however, this dialectic is embedded in a second larger dialectic between the social order itself and the order of the nonhuman processes from which the social order itself emerges. The appreciation of this dialectic has been blocked by our neglect of cosmological meanings and values, as exemplified by the Indigenous peoples of our world.

Raymaker, John and Pierre W. Whalon. "*Attentive, Intelligent, Rational, and Responsible*": *Transforming Economics to Save the Planet*. Milwaukee, WI: Marquette University Press, 2023.

The philosophical theology and economic ideas of the Canadian Jesuit Bernard Lonergan (1904-84) form the superstructure of the book. Its genius lies in the authors' fusing the fruit of their scholarship with Lonergan's ideas without disturbing the flow of their argument. The two scholars detail carefully, but unapologetically, why they've had to draw from a theologian to correct the errors of economists. For, in Lonergan, they find a rich tapestry of economic ideas and "fresh original thinking" that can help resolve some contested issues in economics... The realities of contemporary global society cry for such a development and prompt us to ask: How does Lonergan's economics fit the new world global financial market? Does his economic theory adequately address how we can overcome the limitations of those social and economic engineers who are content with making the masses seem like raw materials of rich people's economic propaganda? "*Attentive, Intelligent, Rational, and Responsible*" : *Transforming Economics to Save the Planet* answers these questions and many more.

Scordino, Anthony J. "Method in Mimetic Theory: René Girard and Christian Theology." *Modern Theology*, 40/2 (April 2024): 321-46. <https://doi.org/10.1111/moth.12880>.

This article elucidates the persistently nebulous methodological and disciplinary status of René Girard's mimetic theory, particularly vis-à-vis Christian theology. Whether "Girardian theology" strikes one as tautologous or oxymoronic, the proliferation of Girardian theological scholarship warrants a sustained analysis of Girard's methodological self-understanding as it is both proclaimed

and performed. Opening with a brief *précis* of mimetic theory's chief tenets and contributions to anthropology, I proceed to review Girard's corpus according to his preferred designation—social scientist—by adducing and coordinating his sporadic, evolving, and occasionally conflicting methodological manifestos and their textual enactment. After proffering several reasons for Girard's uneasy relationship with the broader social-scientific community, I turn to theology to consider if there are any apt analogues to mimetic theory amongst Christian theology's many *ancillae* of ages past. While ultimately proposing four features demarcating mimetic theory as *sui generis* in this regard, I propose a heuristic characterization of its relationship to theology by utilizing the Aristotelian-Thomistic category of “subalternate science.” Following this effort to situate mimetic theory more precisely between disciplines and in relation to theology, I offer a broader heuristic classification of mimetic theory intended to resolve or at least mitigate various tensions raised in the preceding analysis. To do so, I propose a suitably paradoxical twofold typology of Girardian mimetic theory as both a revealed scientific anthropology and a postmodern deconstructive Christian apologetic (or apologia for Christianity). Although preoccupation with methodological reflection can be practically debilitating, I hope to demonstrate its fittingness, relevance, and productivity in the inimitable case of René Girard.

Shoppa, Clayton and William Zanardi. “Exercises in Lonergan’s Dialectic 2.” Austin: Greenbelt Press, 2023.

This is the second volume in a co-authored series on Lonergan’s Dialectic. It is both a handbook introducing new readers to his methodological innovation of functional specialization and an application of a portion of it to questions about his theories of development, history, and a future science of interpretation. The two authors have taken to heart Lonergan’s criticism of his early philosophy teachers: “without method they were going nowhere.” However, since the eight functional specialties form a complex procedure, this book series represents a practical compromise. We have narrowed our various “exercises” to the fourth specialty, Dialectic, and, even then, have focused primarily on its last three steps. We anticipate a time when scholars doing functional specialization will be more numerous, but we also recognize that many persons will demand evidence that the procedure is worth trying. This book series is our attempt to supply some evidence of its worth, all the while hoping future efforts by many others will produce more developed examples of this new practice.

Dissertations

Francis, Andrea I. S. *Spirit Encounter in Catherine of Siena's Pneumatology: A Paradigm for Spirit Baptism*. PhD Thesis. Regent University, 2024.

In espousing a self-understanding that is more reflective of Pentecostal spirituality, several Pentecostal scholars have looked to medieval Christian mysticism as a way of anchoring Pentecostal experience, particularly Spirit baptism, within the wider church tradition. Those scholars also highlight the need for a theological method that goes beyond intellectual and rational approaches and is more aligned with Pentecostal spirituality. This study builds on the writings of these Pentecostal scholars, focusing on the theology of Catherine of Siena and her understanding of Holy Spirit encounter and its subsequent impacts on the believer's life. It addresses how Spirit encounter functions in Catherine’s theology and what Pentecostals and Charismatics can learn from Catherine about the purpose and effects of Spirit baptism. This study then examines the biblical texts Catherine used to support her pneumatology. It contextualizes her understanding through the lens of Lonergan’s Functional Framework that explores the cognitive, effective, constitutive, and communicative aspects of her teaching on Spirit encounter. It concludes that Spirit baptism has affinities with Spirit encounter in Catherine of Siena’s pneumatology and, therefore, Spirit baptism is an experience inherent in the Christian tradition. While both posit experiences of the Spirit that are transformational and propel the believer into the mission of God, Catherine’s understanding

expands classical Pentecostal understanding of the impacts by highlighting the lifelong effects, including the transformation of the affections and the penitential practices that facilitated the encounter. It involved a pneumatic becoming and a pneumatic knowing. Additionally, Catherine's understanding emphasized encounter as a Trinitarian experience as the Father and Son always accompanied the Spirit. It revealed the believer's authentic identity and resulted in lifelong soteriological impact. This study also concludes that applying Lonergan's Framework to Catherine's pneumatology discloses a template for a theological method more aligned with Pentecostal spirituality.

Pappas, Jack Louis. *Through Phenomenology to Theology: Karl Rahner, Hans Urs von Balthasar and the French Theological Turn*. PhD Thesis. Fordham University, 2024.

This dissertation contributes to the interdisciplinary conversation between phenomenology and theology by tracing how the basic contours of recent French phenomenology's so-called "theological turn" reflect the legacy of the debates between the twentieth-century Catholic theologians, Karl Rahner and Hans Urs von Balthasar. By situating the divergent approaches of Balthasar and Rahner in conversation with recent French phenomenology, it recontextualizes their respective differences in light of their shared endeavor to articulate a phenomenologically calibrated theological response to the criticisms of ontotheology levelled by Immanuel Kant and Martin Heidegger. In so doing, this dissertation questions the limits of recent phenomenology's preference for Balthasar's approach (as represented by Jean-Luc Marion and Jean-Yves Lacoste) and outlines the possibility for an alternative "Rahnerian" integration of phenomenology and theology akin to the approach of Emmanuel Falque. The argument of this dissertation unfolds in three components: First, it places the approaches of Rahner and Balthasar on more equal footing by interrogating their differences relative to their reception of phenomenology and reading them each as phenomenologists in their own right. By showing how Rahner and Balthasar sought to critically appropriate phenomenology, it demonstrates how their diverging phenomenological and theological orientations are underpinned by fundamental differences concerning the relationship between the finite subject and revelation, the tension between created nature and supernatural grace, and the character of the ultimate union between God and humanity revealed in Christ. Second, this dissertation argues that Balthasar and his phenomenological heirs retain an uncritical dependence on Heidegger's philosophy and its partly elided neo-scholastic assumptions. To this end, it advances the claim that Balthasar's approach presupposes a certain "extrinsicist" posture toward the possibility of revelation that prioritizes the divine alterity over-and-against the dynamism of the finite subject. Third and finally, this dissertation provides a constructive reading of Rahner as a carnal phenomenologist and a corresponding critique of Balthasar's approach. This reading of Rahner foregrounds his emphasis on embodied perception as a rejoinder to Heidegger's philosophy by demonstrating that God is ultimately bestowed in continuity with ordinary experience, corporeality and the self-exceeding openness of the flesh.

van Beek, Nicholas. *Trace of Blood: Sainte-Marie Among the Hurons After the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada*. PhD Thesis. Trent University, 2024.

This thesis critically engages with the historic site Sainte-Marie among the Hurons. The most visited historic site in Ontario anchors a vivid and pervasive story of early Canada while archaeological excavations and reconstruction have a history of their own. It is intertwined with the Martyrs' Shrine and regional sites of significance and pilgrimage in the Catholic world where veneration as saints of Jesuits collectively known as the Canadian Martyrs takes place. Through a panoramic perspective and participant-observer experiences within the sites, in present-day Wendake, Québec, and at a Jesuit mission in Chiapas, Mexico, dimensions of landscape, temporality, materiality, and identity are explored. Development of this history and place in relationship to Indigenous peoples, the Catholic Church, and the Canadian public are examined

with consideration for findings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, advancement in archaeological knowledge, and ongoing tensions in the practice of archaeology in Ontario.

Reviews

Palfrey, Barnabas and Andrea S. Telser eds. *Beyond the Analogical Imagination: The Theological and Cultural Vision of David Tracy*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2023.

Roger Haight. *Theological Studies*, 85/1 (March 2024): 342-44.

Briola, Lucas. *The Eucharistic Vision of Laudato Si': Praise, Conversion, and Integral Ecology*. Washington D.C.: The Catholic University of America Press, 2023.

Kristi M. Haas. *Theological Studies*, 85/1 (March 2024): 203-04.

Hemmer, Ryan. *The Death and Life of Speculative Theology: A Lonergan Idea*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books/Fortress Academic, 2023.

John Dadosky. *Theological Studies*, 85/1 (March 2024): 339-40.

Schlesinger, Eugene R. *Salvation in Henri de Lubac: Divine Grace, Human Nature, and the Mystery of the Cross*. Notre Dame ID: University of Notre Dame Press, 2023.

Thomas P. Rausch SJ. *Theological Studies*, 84/4 (December 2023): 736-37.

Noteworthy Publications

Baker, Anthony D. "Videtur Quod: On Method in Theology." *The Heythrop Journal*, 64/6 (October 2023): 778-95. <https://doi.org/10.1111/heyj.14258>.

Theological language has always faced a fundamental dilemma: it seeks to put the divine reality into limited human language. While this dilemma can obfuscate our theological pathways, it can also generate a new awareness of the task and possibilities of the discipline. New testimonials, or uniquely accented human experiential utterances, have emerged in theological discourse in the past decades, greatly increasing our vision of the expansiveness of theology. The tools for integration into systematic or discursive development are still, however, lacking. This article suggests that an extension of the innovative methodology of Thomas Aquinas, beginning and ending with 'what seems' to be the case, putting testimony into discursive forms, and testing for a fittingness with the mysterious and excessive mystery of the divine reality, offers a promising path for discerning common and trustworthy theological language.

Strand, Vincent L. "Rahner and Scheeben on Grace: Reexamining a Forgotten Resemblance." *Theological Studies*, 85/1 (March 2024): 34-55. <https://doi.org/10.117/00405639231221785>.

This article demonstrates the overlooked similarity between Scheeben's and Rahner's accounts of God's self-communication to the human person through uncreated grace. It then argues that though Scheeben's conception of God's universal offer of grace evinces similarities with Rahner's "supernatural existential," Scheeben differs from Rahner by emphasizing the distinction between nature and grace. This study can help theologians to better situate Scheeben's theology amid its current renaissance and to reappropriate Rahner's basic insight about divine self-communication.

Upcoming Events

78th Annual Convention of The Catholic Theological Society of America (CTSA). Baltimore, MD, June 13 - 16, 2024.

Theme: "Social Salvation"

Session: Lonergan—Consultation

Administrative Team: Jennifer Sanders, Jeremy Blackwood, Erica Siu-Mui Lee

Convener: Jennifer Sanders

Moderator: Cecille Medina-Maldonado

Presentations:

Zane Chu (Saint Mary's College of California) "By a More Difficult Good': The Social and Practical Significance of the Law of the Cross."

David Budiash (*Review for Religious*) "Three Contemporary Challenges to the Ecclesial Good of Order."

Giadio De Biasio (Boston College) "Salvation of Man, Salvation of Cosmos: Soteriological Comparison between Bernard Lonergan and Elizabeth Johnson."

Theology in the City – Lonergan Day 2024

"Looking for a Home"

The overarching theme of the 'Theology in the City 2024 Edition' is "Looking for a Home". From September 23 to 27, 2024 five different groups will approach the theme from different angles and gradually zoom in from planet earth as our home to Canada, Montreal, and downtown as the home of thousands of people.

Coming from many different backgrounds, whether students or businesspeople, homeless people and older people, indigenous people, and tourists, they all try to make this beautiful city a temporary or permanent home for themselves and for others in many different ways.

On Monday the earth will be discussed by members of the Montreal Biblical Colloquium as God's creation by asking ourselves, whether the Bible is still relevant for today and what we can learn from Scripture in terms of ecology and peace. How can we keep our planet free of climate catastrophes, war, conflict and forced immigration?

On Tuesday the Lonergan Group will look at his philosophy of a lifelong learning, and how this can contribute to a better awareness and orientation towards the real and the good, how one can practice this on a daily basis and apply it to the many challenges of his world.

On Wednesday members of the St. Jax and St. Andrew & St. Paul Church communities will look at the challenges the digital world poses to all of us. Especially young people, who after years of Covid forced lockdown, loneliness and anxiety about the future, when looking for a home for themselves, often seem to turn to an increasingly virtual reality.

On Thursday members of the McGill Office of Religious and Spiritual Life and the Concordia's Multi-Faith and Spirituality Center will look at the challenges the interaction with people of different background, religious and political views poses to the daily life as a student in Montreal.

On central moments of Monday to Thursday all involved groups will contribute with a musical celebration of inclusiveness and hope and by inviting the many less fortunate, the lonely and the old and sick in this city to join a table of common meals, whereas on Friday a closing panel will conclude the week.

Dates: September 23-27, 2024

Locations: Concordia University, McGill University, MORSL, Theological Colleges, Newman Center, St. Jax, Church of St. Andrew & St. Paul.

Past Events

Insight Studies Roundtable: Facilitating an Entry into Interiority

Saturday, April 6, 2024

Co-Sponsored by **Insight Today** and the **Boston College Lonergan Institute**

A roundtable event which did not present a panel of experts but an open conversation prompted by reports of what has been and is being tried by individuals committed to the appropriation and communication of Lonergan's methodology. The focus of the presentation was on providing an entry into the world of interiority and the invitation to deliberate cooperation with the dynamics of personal development. Individual reports were followed up by dyadic and group discussion of what might be best practices in the realm of interiority.

The discussion began with a conversation among the panelists on the current situation and the importance of a renewed approach and focus on three questions: How well/to what extent have we been successful in mediating self-appropriation? How can we account for the success and failures? What can we do better/different?

Panel Members: Kenneth Melchin, Michael Stebbins, Richard Grallo, Roperto DeLaNoval, Jamie Price and Paul LaChance.

People

Dear Lonergan Studies Newsletter Readers,

Due to recent changes in the Lonergan Research Institute team and the general trends in Lonergan-based publications, the Lonergan Studies Newsletter will move from a quarterly to a biannual release schedule. The two editions of the Newsletter will be made available in both June and October. Please continue to send contributions to patrick.nolin@mail.utoronto.ca as they become ready, and they will be added to the upcoming edition. The Newsletter for the foreseeable future will be solely published in a digital format and can be found on the Lonergan Research Institute website. Upon publication of the Newsletter, an email will be sent to all those on our email list. If you would like to be added to our email list please contact me.

Thank you for your continued support,
Patrick Nolin