

RSA Annual Meeting Calls for Papers Submission

Session Title *

A "Speculative Utopia": The Reception of the Pseudo-Dionysius in the Early Modern Age

Type *

Paper Panel

Session Abstract (Max. 300 words) *

Michel de Certeau (1986) describes the influence of the Pseudo-Dionysian corpus in Western Christianity as a speculative "haunting," with a strong utopian element that fostered personal and ecclesiastical reforms throughout its extensive reception history. Following Toussaint, Trottmann 2014 Edwards, Pallis, Steiris 2022, this panel aims to investigate the critical early modern phase of this reception, where philological doubts regarding the apostolic origin of the author coexisted with a fruitful engagement with its negative theology, mystical language, and hierarchical system.

Presentations may address, but are not limited to, these topics:

1. Anti-Lutheran Controversy: Reviving scholarly discussions (Fraenkel 1978; Smolinsky 1983; Bagchi 1991) on the crucial role of Pseudo-Dionysius in the anti-Lutheran controversy of the early 1520s and 1530s.
2. Mystical Ascent and Ecclesiastical Hierarchy: Investigating the early modern reception of the complex relationship between the mystical ascent described in the "Mystical Theology" and the "Ecclesiastical Hierarchy".
3. Dionysian Corpus in France: Examining the reception of the Dionysian corpus in France, its role in shaping mystical language, and its intersection with the mythmaking of the French monarchy (see Le Gall 2007).
4. Influence of the "Long Middle Ages": Exploring how Renaissance writers and theologians were profoundly influenced by medieval authors and their reception of the corpus.
5. Theology of Glory and Theological-Political Repercussions: Analyzing the theoretical framing of the theology of glory in the Dionysian system and its theological-political repercussions in its early modern receptions.
6. Diachronic Interpretative Papers: Welcoming diachronic, interpretative papers that explore, for instance, two of the most fertile recent interpretations and critiques of the Dionysian corpus by Jacques Derrida and Jean-Luc Marion.

This panel seeks to deepen the understanding of the early modern reception of Pseudo-Dionysius, highlighting its enduring impact on theological and philosophical thought.

Primary Field *

Religion

Additional Fields

History

Organizer *

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Co-Organizers

Sponsor (if applicable)

Proposal Deadline *

July 30, 2024

Notification Date *

August 3, 2024

Comments