



Notre Dame Institute for
ADVANCED STUDY

Participation in God: Reassessing an Ancient Philosophical Idea and its Contemporary Relevance

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“Participation and its Contemporary Relevance: Metaphor or Metaphysics?”



Cyril O'Regan, is the Catherine F. Huisking Professor of Theology at the University of Notre Dame. Professor O'Regan specializes in systematic and historical theology, with specific interests in the intersection of continental philosophy and theology, religion and literature, mystical theology, and postmodern thought. He is the author of *The Heterodox Hegel* (1994), *Gnostic Return in Modernity* (2001), *Gnostic Apocalypse: Jacob Boehme's Haunted Narrative* (2002), and *Theology and the Spaces of Apocalyptic* (2009). The first volume of his two-volume work on Hans Urs von Balthasar, *The Anatomy of Misremembering: Balthasar and Hegel*, was recently published (2014). The second volume, which features Balthasar and Heidegger, has been accepted for publication and is scheduled to be released in 2015. He has published numerous articles on such topics as the nature of tradition, negative theology, postmodern theology, sources of Hegel's thought, and Hegel as a theological source. He is currently working on the

third and fourth volumes of his project addressing the Gnostic return, the former to focus on German idealism and the latter to focus on romanticism.



Vittorio Hösle, founding Director of the NDIAS (2008-2013), is the Paul Kimball Professor of Arts and Letters in the Department of German and Russian Languages and Literatures and Concurrent Professor of Philosophy and of Political Science at the University of Notre Dame. His scholarly interests include systematic philosophy (metaphysics, ethics, aesthetics, political theory) and history of philosophy (mainly ancient and modern). Professor Hösle is the author of more than 40 books, which have appeared in twenty languages, including *Objective Idealism, Ethics, and Politics* (1998), *Morals and Politics* (2004), *Woody Allen: An Essay on the Nature of the Comical* (2007), *The Philosophical Dialogue* (forthcoming), and more than 140 articles. He is editor of *Facets of Beauty* (forthcoming), and co-editor of *Darwinism and Philosophy* (2005) and *The Idea of a Catholic Institute for Advanced Study* (2010). His most widely published work (translated into fourteen languages) is *The Dead Philosopher's Café* (2000), an exchange of letters with a young girl that offers an imaginative introduction to the world of philosophy.



Douglas Hedley, Templeton Fellow at the NDIAS (2013-2014), is Reader in Hermeneutics and Metaphysics at the University of Cambridge in the Faculty of Divinity. He specializes in Neoplatonism, the Cambridge Platonists, aspects of Romantic and Idealistic thought, and Philosophy of Religion. While in residence at the NDIAS, his research focuses on “The Iconic Imagination.”

His monographs include *Sacrifice Imagined: Violence, Atonement and the Sacred* (2011), *Living Forms of the Imagination* (2008), and *Aids to Reflection and the Mirror of the Spirit: Coleridge, Philosophy and Religion* (2000). He has published articles in *The Journal of the History of Ideas*, *Religious Studies*, and *Faith and Philosophy*. He is co-editor of the series *Studies in Philosophical Theology* published by Peeters of Leuven.

He is the Principal Investigator of a UK Arts and Humanities Research Council Grant ‘Revisioning Cambridge Platonism’ (2013) and has been a Visiting Fellow at the Center for Advanced Studies at the Ludwig Maximilians University of Munich (2012). He gave the Teape lectures in India (2006) and was the Alan Richardson Fellow at Durham University in 2004. In 2002 he was Visiting Professor at the EPHE, Sorbonne, Paris. He currently serves as co-chair of the Platonism/Neoplatonism group at the American Academy of Religion.