

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

## Wednesday, March 19, 2014, 7:00pm

## "Participation and the Modern Scientific Worldview"



**Ryan Mullins** is a philosopher and post-doctoral scholar currently in residence at the Center for the Philosophy of Religion at the University of Notre Dame. He specializes in philosophy of religion, philosophical theology, systematic theology, metaphysics, and philosophy of time. He is the author of numerous articles and other contributions in scholarly journals including *The Heythrop Journal*, *The Journal of Analytic Theology*, the *Journal of Reformed Theology*, and *Ars Disputandi*. His most recent work is *In Search of a Timeless God*, currently under review with Oxford University Press. Among the prizes and awards he has won is the Samuel Rutherford Thesis Prize in Divinity.



**Jacob Sherman** is assistant professor and core faculty in Philosophy and Religion at the California Institute of Integral Studies (CIIS) and the co-director of the Chaudhuri Center for Contemplative Practice, Interreligious Dialogue, and Social Justice at CIIS. He received his Ph.D. in philosophical theology from the University of Cambridge and he holds masters' degrees in interdisciplinary studies and philosophy and religion from Regent College and CIIS, respectively. Before joining CIIS as a faculty member, Jacob was previously visiting lecturer in philosophy of religion at King's College London. In addition, he worked for two years under Joseph C. Montville and Dulce Murphy as the coordinator of the Esalen Center for Theory and Research project on Global Fundamentalism. He is the editor, with Jorge Ferrer, of "The Participatory Turn: Spirituality, Mysticism, Religious Studies" and his writings have appeared in journals such as *Religious Studies*, *Modern Theology*, and *The Heythrop Journal*. He is

currently completing his next book, Partakers of the Divine: Contemplation and the Practice of Philosophy.



Charles Taliaferro is Professor of Philosophy and Chairperson of the Department of Philosophy at St. Olaf's College. His research and teaching interests include philosophical theology, environmental ethics, and aesthetics. He is the author of *The Golden Cord: A Short Book on Eternity* (2012), recognized as a Choice Outstanding academic book of the year, in addition to authoring, editing, or co-authoring more than twenty other books. He has served as a visiting scholar at the University of Oxford, Princeton University, Columbia University, and New York University. His research has been funded by the John Templeton Foundation, the National Endowment for the Humanities, the National Science Foundation, and the Pew Foundation. He has delivered major talks at numerous universities and colleges, including the University of Oxford, the University of Cambridge, St. Andrews University, the University of Glasgow, Yale University, Princeton University, the University of Chicago, and the University of Bejing. He has served on national committees of the American

Philosophical Association and the editorial boards of journals such as *American Philosophical Quarterly*, and *Religious Studies*.



**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.