



Notre Dame Institute for
ADVANCED STUDY

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

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“Participation and Literature”



Christian Moevs is Associate Professor of Italian here at the University of Notre Dame. He received his Ph.D. from Columbia University.

Professor Moevs’s interests include Dante, medieval Italian literature, lyric poetry and poetics, and the intersection between literature and philosophy (especially metaphysics and medieval philosophy). He is co-editor of the *Devers Series in Dante Studies*, and a fellow of the Medieval Institute. His *The Metaphysics of Dante’s Comedy* (Oxford UP and American Academy of Religion, 2005) won the Modern Language Association’s Marraro Prize for Italian Studies, and the American Association for Italian Studies Prize for the best book of 2005.

Moevs has received fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities and from Villa I Tatti, the Harvard University Center for Renaissance Studies in Florence. Moevs was awarded the first Junior Faculty Award for Excellence in Teaching by the Department of Romance Languages, a Kaneb Teaching Award, and the Sheedy Award for Excellence in Teaching in the College of Arts and Letters. He is currently working on a book on Dante and the medieval contemplative (mystical) tradition, for which he has won a second NEH Fellowship.



Vittorio Montemaggi, Spring 2013 NDIAS Fellow, is Assistant Professor of Religion and Literature in the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures at the University of Notre Dame. He is also Concurrent Assistant Professor in the Department of Theology. His interests include the relationship between literary and theological reflection, the relationship between language, truth and love, and the interconnections between the question of the relationship between theism and atheism and that of the relationship between tragedy and comedy. His research to date has focused primarily on the works of Dante and Primo Levi, while his comparative interests also entail exploration of the works Augustine, Gregory the Great, Aquinas, Shakespeare, Dostoevsky and Roberto Benigni.

Professor Montemaggi is co-editor of *Dante’s Commedia: Theology as Poetry* (2010), and the author of ten essays on Dante’s *Commedia* and on the relationship between Dante’s *Commedia* and the works of Primo Levi and Roberto Benigni. He is also the former recipient of a Junior Research Fellowship at Churchill College, Cambridge. Currently a member of the advisory board of *Leeds Studies in Dante* and a member of the Council of the Dante Society of America, Professor Montemaggi is also currently a Senior Member of Robinson College at Cambridge University and a Faculty Fellow of the Nanovic Institute for European 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 ‘Revising 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.