



Notre Dame Institute for
ADVANCED STUDY

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

Tuesday, March 18, 2014, 5:30pm

“Historical Background of Participation in the Divine”



Brad S. Gregory, Director of the Notre Dame Institute for Advanced Study, is Professor of History and Dorothy G. Griffin Collegiate Chair at the University of Notre Dame, where he has taught since 2003. From 1996-2003 he taught at Stanford University, where he received early tenure in 2001. He specializes in the history of Christianity in Europe during the Reformation era and on the long-term influence of the Reformation era on the modern world. Before teaching at Stanford, he earned his Ph.D. in history at Princeton University (1996) and was a Junior Fellow in the Harvard Society of Fellows (1994-96). He also has two degrees in philosophy from the Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium (1984, 1987) as well as an M.A. in history from the University of Arizona (1989).

Gregory's first book, *Salvation at Stake: Christian Martyrdom in Early Modern Europe* (Harvard, 1999), received six book awards. He has also edited *The Forgotten Writings of the Mennonite Martyrs* (Brill, 2002) and co-edited *Seeing Things Their Way: Intellectual History and the Return of Religion* (Notre Dame, 2009). Gregory's most recent book is a wide-ranging reinterpretation of the making of the modern Western world entitled *The Unintended Reformation: How a Religious Revolution Secularized Society* (Belknap, 2012). In addition to a short book on why history matters and another about the relationships among different sorts of knowledge, he is currently working on a history of conceptions of human nature from the Middle Ages to the present, the tentative title of which is “Embodied Souls and Their Rivals.”

Professor Gregory was the recipient of two teaching awards at Stanford and has received three more at Notre Dame. In 2005, he was awarded the first annual Hiett Prize in the Humanities from the Dallas Institute of Humanities and Culture, a \$50,000 award given to the outstanding mid-career humanities scholar in the United States.



Mark Noll is the Francis A. McAnaney Professor of History at the University of Notre Dame. His books and most of his courses treat subjects related to the history of Christianity in the United States, Canada, and the modern world. His books include *America's God: From Jonathan Edwards to Abraham Lincoln* (2002), *The Civil War as a Theological Crisis* (2006), *God and Race in American Politics: A Short History* (2008), *The New Shape of World Christianity: How American Experience Reflects Global Faith* (2009), *Jesus Christ and the Life of the Mind* (2011), *Protestantism: A Very Short Introduction* (2011), and as co-author, *Clouds of Witnesses: Christian Voices from Africa and Asia* (2011).

He is a fellow the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and serves as an advisory editor for *Books and Culture: A Christian Review*. In November 2006 he received the National Humanities Medal. In 2004-05 he served as the Maguire Fellow in American History and Ethics at the Library of Congress; he has been the recipient of three year-long fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities.



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.