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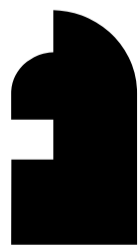
2nd Euare Annual Conference in Bologna

2 RelReS: Knowledge Creates Understanding

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fscire.it
fondazione per le scienze
religiose Giovanni XXIII

Alberto Melloni

In the transition to the digital age the Fondazione needed an acronym, a logo, and a website: and here is the communications disaster. The choice was made with a hint of clumsy coquetry: it sought to associate the ϕ of the functions that correlate two sets and *scire*, the Latin verb translating “to know”. But then the original ef-scire became... an unpronounceable acronym.

Not an inert or unknown acronym, though. Today's *scire* "inhabits" not only the first rooms of the Ospedale dei Poveri vergognosi of Porta San Vi-

The activity of fscire therefore enjoys a prudent and constant growth that has seen its library specialisations grow (not only the one based in Bologna and dedicated to Giuseppe Dossetti, but also the one in Palermo, dedicated to Giorgio La Pira), a PhD programme, a college, a series of research initiatives, international series of publications, books, magazines, and projects in which it fills the role either of host (UNESCO Chair on Religious Pluralism and Peace), or hub (ReIReS.eu, Resilience), or has the status of founder (like the European Academy of Religion). All without abandoning an underlying postulate.

And namely that historical research, for its connaturality with the Abrahamic revelations, provides a knowledge which by this intrinsicality to its object is able to produce its renewal: not if or when it becomes militant and demonstrative, but when it is rigorous and critically aware.

This quality is found and honed on the grindstone of a very large library (the Biblioteca Dosssetti is one of the largest in the world for the specific field of the history of Christianity, while the Biblioteca La Pira aims to become the same for the history and doctrines of Islam): a library that corre-

As of today, the commitment to research hidden behind fscire's over-consonanted acronym can also boast a magazine – not an act of vanity, but rather, the material realisation of exactly the opposite.

We do not belong to that quota of research activities justifiably “granted” by the public authorities: each time, on a case-by-case basis, project by project, research grant by research grant, we seek out and find the money needed through competition, persuasion, and negotiation. To buy books and magazine subscriptions, to pay for scholarships, to publish our research, and to keep things in order we have to say what we will do and what we have done, and why, and how. And this openly and loyally, with the humility of those who know that they have no right to demand, but hope that their passion for knowledge is persuasive and convincing (also with regard to an unfortunate acronym, if necessary).

EUROPEAN ACADEMY OF RELIGION

4th–7th March. Four days of meetings, conferences and lectures in Bologna

Francesca Cadeddu

The European Academy of Religion (EuARE) is a research initiative which offers an exchange platform to the variety of academic institutions, journals, publishers, media and scholars in Europe and the surrounding regions.

For decades, the religious leaders of communities that have long despised one another have been striving to create a dialogue and express sincere feelings of fraternity. Yet we cannot shake off the sensation that this emotionally involving effort is not enough to put a halt to the new terrorist groups that engage in bloody idolatry and murder in the name of God.

Thus, fear and decision-making move closer to one another. We run the risk that fear itself of making decisions will destroy the fabric of rights and knowledge that peaceful awareness and understanding has painstakingly built with fits and starts. Knowledge is what keeps fear apart from decisions. Knowledge is an inexhaustible resource that unites a vast world of scholars on both sides of the Mediterranean, the slender, invisible curtain between East and West. It is such knowledge that must be brought into the light.

To this end, in 2016 the Fondazione per le scienze religiose Giovanni XXIII, together with the high patronage of the European Parliament and the Parliamentary Assembly of the Mediterranean, has invited to Bologna academics, associations, departments, research centres, journals and media networks from all over Europe, the Mediterranean, the Middle East and Russia to launch the European Academy of Religion, aiming at creating a platform that allows thousands of scholars to meet one another and raise the voices of research.

The founding event (5th December 2016) saw the participation of more than 500 participants, along with 25 universities that agreed to act as mentors of the Academy with the Universities of Bologna, Oxford and Paris, which have been active supporters of the initia-

tive from the outset. The event launching the Academy was opened by the keynote speeches of Commissioner Carlos Moedas and other distinguished academics, diplomats and representatives of OSCE/ODIHR, UNESCO, and the World Economic Forum. The day was an opportunity for everyone to meet, define a statute for the Academy, organise the first annual meeting, submit proposals and ideas for the research platform, foster mutual understanding and encourage dialogue.

EuARE conferences usually receive the High Patronage of the European Parliament, the Patronage of the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research as well as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. They have all continued to work with EuARE in the past two years, the common aim being to strengthen the relationship as EuARE grows and develops its activities.

The enthusiasm for EuARE was shared by its associates from the very outset and channelled towards the organization of a second meeting in 2017, with the primary objective of testing EuARE’s capacity to be an inclusive platform for exchange and cooperation and of approving the Academy Statutes. Therefore, the Ex Nihilo Zero Conference conference programme was structured in order to allow the affiliated institutions to present studies and ongoing activities. It took place under the auspices of the G7 Italian Presidency and was organised in collaboration with the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research. During the four working days, EuARE hosted 133 panels, with a total of 568 interventions and 950 participants.



The same success characterised the First Annual Conference, held in the first week of March 2018: about a thousand participants expressed a variety of disciplinary, methodological and geographical approaches. The heterogeneity of topics is precisely the distinctive mark of EuARE: it supports the creation and dissemination of disciplinary and interdisciplinary knowledge in order to contribute to the construction of society and formation of culture.

On 4th–7th March 2019, EuARE will host its Second Annual Conference: more than 790 speakers will contribute to about 240 panels, for a total number of 370 work sessions. While there is no general theme guiding the whole conference, the four keynote lectures will focus on the topic “Empowering the Individual, Nurturing the Community” (further information in the box below). For the third consecutive year, fscire will be the organising institution, benefiting from the Patronage of the University and Municipality of Bologna, and the strong support of the Italian Ministry for Education, University and Research, the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, the Fondazione Cariplo and the Fondazione Carisbo.

EuARE is willing to give a common voice to all the disciplines holding an academic status in universities or research centers that have their own distinctive and specific epistemological traditions. This is the reason why EuARE promotes academic and interdisciplinary exchange, mutual respect among individuals and communities of diverse religion or belief and provide a true, open space to those who work in the production and/or dissemination of knowledge in and of the religious field.

EuARE chose to be as inclusive as possible and connected to the world outside academia in order to create understanding in the public domain concerning developments which contain religious aspects or motivations.

EuARE aims to encourage stakeholders in Europe to address the post-secular resurgence of the role of religion in the public sphere and to contribute to the construction of society and the formation of culture.

Opening Ceremony EuARE 2018.
Stabat Mater Lecture Hall, Archiginnasio Palace
Photo: fscire

B I O



CRAIG CALHOUN is Professor of Social Sciences at Arizona State University. His work focusses on strengthening the capacity of the social sciences by working together with the natural sciences and humanities. He is the author or co-author of eight books and more than 100 articles, among which the best known are *Neither Gods Nor Emperors: Students and the Struggle for Democracy in China and Nations Matter: Citizenship, Solidarity, and the Cosmopolitan Dream*. His work has been translated into 21 languages.

Lecture: The Tensions and/or Accommodations between Religious Freedom and Secular Public Spheres (t.b.c.)



MAUREEN JUNKER-KENNY is Professor of Theology and a Fellow of Trinity College, Dublin. Her publications include *Religion and Public Reason: A Comparison of the Positions of J. Rawls, J. Habermas and P. Ricoeur* (De Gruyter, 2014); *Approaches to Theological Ethics. Sources, Traditions, Visions* (Bloomsbury, 2019); co-ed. (with K. Viertbauer), *European Journal of Philosophy of Religion*, Special Issue 2019, “Habermas on Religion”. Research interests: religion and public reason, J. Habermas, P. Ricoeur, F. Schleiermacher and theology in Modernity, biomedical ethics.

Lecture: Conceptions of Self and Community in Social Ethics: What place for Religion?



SOPHIE NORDMANN teaches Jewish thought and philosophy at the École Pratique des Hautes Études in Paris (PSL Research University). Her research focusses particularly on German Jewish philosophers (H. Cohen, F. Rosenzweig, G. Scholem) in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries and on the relation between Jewish thought and philosophy in contemporary French thinking (Ecole juive de Paris, A. Neher, E. Levinas). Her most recent book is *Levinas et la philosophie judéo-allemande* (Vrin, 2017).

Lecture: Individuals and Communities: What Did Contemporary Jewish Thought Bring to Political Theory?



TIM WINTER is University Lecturer in Islamic Studies in the Faculty of Divinity, University of Cambridge, and Dean of the Cambridge Muslim College. His books include the *Cambridge Companion to Classical Islamic Theology*, and (as Abdal Hakim Murad), *Commentary on the Eleventh Contentions and Bombing without Moonlight: the Origins of Suicidal Terrorism*.

Lecture: In Search of a Modern Sharia Discourse of Pluralism

A G E N D A

Monday 4th March, 10:15-12:00

Aemilia Hotel, Sala Canossa 1
Via Zaccherini Alvisi, 16

ROUNDTABLE

“Fostering the Public Understanding of Religion in Europe” will address the ways of communicating in public about religion in Europe from different national and religious perspectives.

Monday 4th March, 14:30-18:45

Aemilia Hotel, Sala Canossa 1
Via Zaccherini Alvisi, 16

EUROPEAN FUNDED PROJECTS

The panel is open to projects funded by the European Commission or with a strong European breadth and dimension.

Tuesday 5th March 8:30-10:30 / 14:30-18:45; Wednesday 6th March, 8:30-10:30

Fondazione per le scienze religiose, Sala Arancio
Via San Vitale, 114

EUROPEAN NETWORK OF BUDDHIST CHRISTIAN STUDIES (ENBCS)

ENBCS hosts four panels on topics such as interreligious learning, the concept of Zen, meditation as an identity maker and the nature of Buddha.

Wednesday 6th March, 8:30-18:45

Fondazione per le scienze religiose, Sala Lettura
Via San Vitale, 114

ACADÉMIE INTERNATIONALE DES SCIENCES RELIGIEUSES (AISR)

AISR will host a day of papers and debates on the future of Ecumenism, aiming to answer the question: “What places can Christian unity occupy in Western societies to counter their secularisation and “liquidity”?

REIRES: KNOWLEDGE CREATES UNDERSTANDING

The First ReIReS Workshop in Mainz,
23rd-28th September 2018

Gianmarco Braghi



Photo: Gianmarco Braghi

The Research Infrastructure on Religious Studies, coordinated by fscire, intends to bring results both within and outside academia. The final objective of ReIReS is to have an impact on sectors such as education, public services and the advancement of knowledge and technology.

ReIReS is a community of scholars and institutions from 7 European countries in its early stages and is funded by Horizon 2020, the biggest EU Research and Innovation programme.

Its initial meeting took place on 7th-8th March 2018, in fscire's premises in Bologna. Fscire is the coordinator of the project for its twelve partners: Sofiiski Universitet Sveti Kliment Ohridski (Bulgaria); Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (Belgium); Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (Italy); Universität Hamburg (Germany); Uniwersytet Warszawski (Poland); Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz (Germany); École Pratique des Hautes Études (France); Leibniz-Institut für Europäische Geschichte (Germany); Brepols Publishers NV (Belgium); Stichting Refo500 (Netherlands); Theologische Universiteit Apeldoorn (Netherlands).

Religion plays a fundamental role in contemporary European society. The twelve partners' aims are to share academic knowledge

in order to stimulate pacific coexistence, avoiding religious illiteracy, and to spread knowledge, innovation and mutual understanding in an increasingly interreligious society. ReIReS' objective is to offer virtual and transnational access to the most significant tools and texts of religious studies.

The three key values of ReIReS are innovation (new data, new tools and a new generation of scholars), respect (for all religions and for the past), and the enhancement of knowledge (through digital access to data and international cooperation).

The first ReIReS workshop, *Use and Study of Special Documents*, was held in Mainz between 23rd and 28th September 2018 and was organised by Prof. Claus Arnold and Alexandra Nusser, both from the Johannes-Gutenberg-Universität Mainz. Thirteen scholars and librarians from the consortium's institutions had the occasion to become acquainted with the wide range of religious sources held in various institutions in Mainz, such as the Martinus-Bibliothek (the library of the Archdiocese of Mainz), the Gesangbucharchiv and the Jüdische Bibliothek of the Johannes-Gutenberg-Universität, and the Wissen-

schaftliche Stadtbibliothek. This workshop was based on the consultation and study of original sources and engendered fruitful discussions among participants. A second workshop, *Management of Special Collections for Research Purposes*, was held in Warsaw between 22nd and 26th October 2018, organised by Dr Michał Choptiany and Alicja Bielak (University of Warsaw), and attended by sixteen participants. Scholars and librarians affiliated with the Special Collections Department of the Library of the University of Warsaw, the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw and the National Library of Poland shared their knowledge of the wealth of primary sources held in Poland. A third workshop on digital humanities, *FAIR Data Use*, was organised by the Leibniz-Institut für Europäische Geschichte (Mainz) and Brepols Publishers and held in Mainz between 26th and 30th November 2018.

The upcoming workshop on digital humanities will be hosted by the Leibniz-Institut in Mainz between 21st and 23rd January 2019, while the following workshop on the management of primary sources will take place in Paris, at the École Pratique des Hautes Études, from 17th to 22nd February 2019.

FLASH

**Wednesday 6th-Thursday 7th
March, 8:30-18:45**

Location to be announced

MOOT COURT COMPETITION

Teams from within and outside Europe will argue a case on religion and business before either – or both – the European Court of Human Rights and the Supreme Court of the United States.

**Monday 4th-Wednesday 6th
March, 8:30-18:45**

Teatro San Leonardo – Via San Vitale, 63

Wednesday 6th, 14:30-18:45

Ateliersi – Via San Vitale, 69

ISLAMIC STUDIES AT EUARE

#EuARE2109 hosts several panels on the academic study of Islam in Europe, the relationship between Islam and pluralism and the Philosophy of Education in Islam, but also on topics connected to gender studies, law, theology and philosophy.

**Monday 4th-Tuesday 5th,
14:30-18:45 / Wednesday 6th
March, 16:45-18:45**

Fondazione per le scienze religiose,
Sala Arancio, Via San Vitale, 114

EUROPEAN SOCIETY FOR THE PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION (ESPR)

ESPR will organise a panel on the Modern Philosophy of Religion that seeks to bring together people from different backgrounds in order to provide room for a joint reflection on the topics, methods and concepts of today's Philosophy of Religion.

GIUSEPPE ALBERIGO AWARD SECOND EDITION

The award consists in a sum of € 30,000, which will reward male and female scholars engaged in a field of religious science, whether historical, exegetical, theological or other, without any form of limitation concerning the type of study. The sole requirement is that recipients must have achieved scientific excellence in their field of research.

Submission deadline: 30th June 2019

Info and announcement: segreteria@fscire.it.



Grand Imam of al-Azhar Ahmad Al-Tayyeb.
Unesco Chair, Bologna 15th October 2018

BAGHDAD 509. THE FIRST CRITICAL EDITION

Father Isaac Timrs, a priest of the Assyrian Church of the East, and Ephrem About Ishac, who teaches liturgy at Salzburg University, are working on the composition of the Syriac text, comparing it to the original manuscript, Baghdad 509. The manuscript that testifies to the tradition of the Syriac Church has survived the Iraq War and the COGD series will now publish the first true critical edition of the entire Synodicon.



UNESCO CHAIR: BOLOGNA PROMOTES RELIGIOUS PLURALISM

The UNESCO Chair on Religious Pluralism and Peace is the first UNESCO Chair assigned to the city of Bologna. The Chair has been assigned to the University of Bologna and is held by fscire. The Fondazione has constantly contributed to the indispensable dialogue among cultures and confessions through the formation of young researchers by means of its library and archives, research and dissemination activities, anchored in the belief that peace for future generations can be constructed through historical research and a true comparison.

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ALPHABETS OF THE USED SOURCES

4195

PAGES PUBLISHED

11 VOLUMES

3

INTERNATIONAL JOURNALS

4

FSCIRE SERIES

6.14

**TONS OF PAPER IN THE FSCIRE
ARCHIVE**

1,000,000

**OF VOLUMES IN THE G. DOSSETTI
LIBRARY IN BOLOGNA AND IN
G. LA PIRA LIBRARY IN PALERMO**

5,607 NEW ACQUISITIONS

6,223 RUNNING METRES OF SHELVING

MICHAEL KENNA DONATES TO FSCIRE HIS CONFESSIONALI OF REGGIO EMILIA

Confessionali is a departure from the landscape work for which Michael Kenna has become known and is the culmination of over 10 years’ work, travelling around Reggio Emilia in order to document hundreds of Catholic confessional booths.



M. Kenna, Confessionali, Reggio Emilia 2017
Photo: Fabio Nardelli

Confession is one of seven sacraments in the Roman Catholic religion. As a boy, growing up in a Catholic family in Widnes, England, I would go into a dark confessional box in my local church of St Bede’s every week to confess my sins to a priest. An exact definition of sin would take up this whole introduction, but basically, in the Catholic religion, a sin is any deliberate action, or even thought, that goes against God’s wishes. The opening words of the confessional ritual never varied – «Bless me, Father, for I have sinned. It has been one week since my last confession» –, sometimes it would be two or three weeks, but my parents tried hard to make sure it was never a whole month! After listing whatever sins I could remember, or invent, I would receive a penance from the priest – usually a series of prayers: Hail Marys or Our Fathers. Then I would be granted forgiveness or

absolution. I would feel greatly relieved leaving the church – I was never sure if it was because I was forgiven or because I didn’t have to go through the ritual again for at least another week.

The concept of being a sinner and seeking pardon is a fundamental aspect of Catholicism. The first sacrament, Baptism, given to infants, removes the stain of Original Sin. The last sacrament, known as The Last Rites or Extreme Unction, provides for the forgiveness of sins. As an Altar Boy (i.e. somebody who assists the priest during the sacramental rituals) for many years, I vividly remember learning and avidly reciting the Confiteor in Latin, long before I had any idea what it meant.

«Confiteor Deo omnipotenti, beatae Mariae semper Virgini beato Michaeli Archangelo, beato Joanni Baptistae, sanctis Apostolis

Petro et Paulo, omnibus Sanctis, et tibi Pater: quia peccavi nimis cogitatione, verbo et opere: mea culpa, mea culpa, mea maxima culpa. Ideo precor beatam Mariam semper Virginem, beatum Michaelem Archangelum, beatum Ioannem Baptistam, sanctos Apostolos Petrum et Paulum, omnes Sanctos, et te Pater, orare pro me ad Dominum Deum nostrum.»

When the Latin mass was finally translated into vernacular languages in the late sixties, my recitations became in English: «I confess to almighty God, to Blessed Mary ever Virgin, to Blessed Michael the Archangel, to Blessed John the Baptist, to the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul, to all the angels and Saints, and to you Father: that I have sinned exceedingly in thought, word and deed: through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault. Therefore I beseech the Blessed Mary ever Virgin, Blessed Michael the Archangel, Blessed John the Baptist, the Holy Apostles Peter and Paul, all the Saints, and you, Father, to pray for me to the Lord our God».

My early religious experiences in my home town and, later, in a Catholic seminary boarding school, greatly influenced the photographic work I have since pursued. As a growing boy, I spent hours in our local church praying and listening intrigued and absorbed by the light on the altar which symbolised that God was at home, hidden in the tabernacle in the form of the host, a wafer of bread, which had been consecrated during an earlier sacred mass. As a photographer, I have long been fascinated by memories and traces, stories that have unfolded over time, atmospheres that are left behind, remnants and remains. These images of confessional boxes in Reggio Emilia symbolise what I continue to search for – the invisible within the visible, the intangible contained in the tangible, the illusion of reality. If words, thoughts and emotions could be made visual, these containers of memories would reveal a multitude of densely-packed hidden secrets, confessed, exchanged and discarded in return for some prayers and the blessing and forgiveness of a priest.

© Michael Kenna

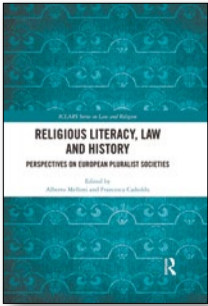
B I B L I O

Alberto Melloni,
Francesca Cadeddu (eds.)

**RELIGIOUS LITERACY,
LAW AND HISTORY**
**Perspectives on European
pluralist societies**

The book profiles some of the macro and micro factors that have impact on European religious literacy. It seeks to understand religious illiteracy and its effects through the framing of the historical, institutional, religious, social, juridical and educational conditions within which it arises. The book defines the basic concepts underpinning the question of religious illiteracy in Europe and highlights the roots of the phenomenon.

Routledge (ICLARS Series on Law and Religion), pp. 264 ISBN 978-11-38-30364-5

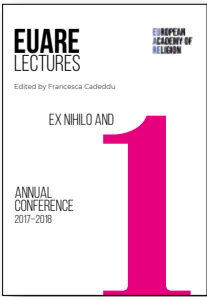


Francesca Cadeddu (ed.)

EUARE LECTURES
**Ex Nihilo and First Annual
Conference 2017-2018**

This volume is the first in a series whose aim is to keep track of the topics and changes which guide research, understanding and dissemination within the many disciplines involved in the study of religion in Europe. The volume collects some of the lectures delivered at the Ex Nihilo Zero Conference (2017) and the First Annual Conference (2018), while the following issues will be dedicated to one annual conference each. The heterogeneity of the topics is precisely the distinctive mark of EuAre, which supports the disciplinary and interdisciplinary creation and dissemination of knowledge.

Fscire (EuAre Lectures), pp. 236, ISBN 978-8896-118-07-8v



P. Foresta, F. Meloni (eds.)

**ARTS, PORTRAITS
AND REPRESENTATION
IN THE REFORMATION
ERA**
**Proceedings of the Fourth
Reformation Research
Consortium Conference**

This volume, which publishes some of the papers delivered at the Fourth Reformation Research Consortium Conference held in Bologna, May 15th–17th, 2014, is an attempt to examine the visual intelligibility of the European Reformation by a comparative, multiconfessional and multidisciplinary analysis of examples taken from both the Catholic and the Protestant world in the Early Modern and Modern Era, with particular reference to the figurative arts, but also to history and theology.

Vandenhoeck & Ruprecht (Refo500 Academic Studies) pp. ca. 400, with ca. 125 colored Figures.
ISBN 978-3-525-55249-0



THANK YOU

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Cover Illustration
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