

Newsletter 2
International Institute for Method in Theology
September 2019
Edited by Robert M. Doran, S.J.

Our second Newsletter will be a bit shorter than the first! It contains an update from each of our groups. We start with the Critical-realist Hermeneutics group, which sponsored an excellent colloquium at Marquette University at the end of March.

Critical-realist Hermeneutics

Joseph Gordon, leader of the group, writes the following:

The newest team member is Adam Plescia, aplescia@cks.edu (Ph.D., Biblical Studies, The Catholic University of America, 2011). Adam is currently an Assistant Professor of Sacred Scripture at Christ the King Seminary in East Aurora, NY. His dissertation research converges at the intersection of two artistic mediums: the written word in poetry, and the pictorial image in visual art. His work comparing Old Testament texts (he wrote on the Psalms) to the art of the ancient Near East was initiated by the Swiss scholar Othmar Keel, continues among the “Fribourg School,” and has been called in more recent publications “iconographic exegesis.” His own contribution to this area of study combines iconographic research with literary approaches to the Old Testament, specifically theories of biblical Hebrew poetry informed by advances in modern linguistics.

The Critical-realist Hermeneutics group sponsored a very successful Marquette colloquium March 28-29. To recap that event: Chris McMahon, Stefania de Vito, and Steve Cone gave stimulating papers, and Jonathan Bernier, Jeremy Blackwood (of the systematics group), and Ligita Ryliskyte offered helpful responses. The titles of the papers are “The Spiritual Journey as Critical Enterprise: Reading the Gospel with Bernard Lonergan and Sandra Schneiders” (McMahon), “The Truth of Scripture, Pragmalinguistics, and the Functional Specialty of Communications” (de Vito), and “David Burrell, Analogy, and Scriptural Interpretation” (Cone). Those respective works will become book chapters in a volume that we hope to publish with Marquette University Press to be entitled *Critical Realism and Christian Scripture*. Adam Bean, Jordan Ryan, and Ferenc Patsch (Ferenc and Stefania came all the way from Rome!) were also able to attend the colloquium. We missed Ryan Hemmer, Anne Carpenter, Michael Cover, and the newest member of the team, Adam Plescia.

In terms of individual updates:

Joe Gordon's book, *Divine Scripture in Human Understanding: A Systematic Theology of the Christian Bible* (University of Notre Dame Press) was released officially March 15th, 2019. He gave talks on the book at the 2019 International Conference for Collaborative Philosophy, Theology, and Ministry (ICCPTM) at Christ the King Seminary in East Aurora, New York, in February and at the Boston College School of Theology and Ministry, April 26th (with responses by Brian Dunkle, S.J., Assistant Professor of Historical Theology at the STM, and David Jorgensen, Assistant Research Professor of New Testament). He also gave a talk on theological exegesis at the Lonergan Fellows meeting at Boston College in February.

Adam Bean has accepted an offer to be Visiting Assistant Professor of Biblical Studies at Emmanuel Christian Seminary.

Ryan Hemmer has accepted an offer to be Academic Marketing Specialist at Fortress Press.

On March 14-15 Adam Plescia attended the Eastern Great Lakes Biblical Society Meeting where he was on a panel reviewing L. Daniel Hawk's book *The Violence of the Biblical God* (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2019). The proceedings of the panel will be published in *Conversations with the Biblical World*. He also gave a version of that talk, entitled "Divine Violence: The Reception History of Holy War Texts in Early Christian Exegesis," at the 2019 ICCPTM conference.

Jordan Ryan gave a talk, "Collingwood's *Idea of History* in Lonerganian Philosophy of History and Its Relevance for the Historical Interpretation of the New Testament" at the Lonergan Research Institute March 15, 2019. That talk will serve as the foundation for a chapter in the proposed Marquette University Press volume featuring the work of the group. Jordan is moving from the University of Dubuque to Wheaton College, where he will be Assistant Professor of New Testament. He also had an essay published, "The Ideology of Restoration and the Archaeology of Galilee: The Hasmonean Transformation of Galilee as Context for Jesus and the Gospels," in *Criswell Theological Review*.

Ligita Ryliskyte gave a paper entitled "Conversion without Aversion? Vertical Freedom and Repentance," at the West Coast Methods Institute at Loyola Marymount in Los Angeles April 25-27. She will also be giving a presentation at

the Catholic Theological Society of America meeting on Augustine's soteriological notion of “justice over power” in *De Trinitate*.

Stefania de Vito will give a paper at the International Society of Biblical Literature meeting in Rome July 1-5, 2019, entitled “Reading Romans Today.” She also recently had an essay published, “Prospettive bibliche della teologia della tenerezza” (Biblical Perspectives in the Theology of Tenderness) in M. Musilino, ed., *La virtù della tenerezza. Il “vangelo” di Papa Francesco* (The Virtue of the Tenderness. The “gospel” of Pope Francis).

Anne Carpenter has been granted tenure at St. Mary’s College, Moraga, CA.

Ferenc Patsch gave a talk in March at the Lonergan Club of the Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome, “On Realist Hermeneutics in Bernard Lonergan.”

Jeremy Blackwood and Eric Vanden Eykel will collaborate on a piece on Lonergan’s use of Romans 5.5 for the collection to be published by Marquette University Press. Adam Bean will also write a piece on the creedal statements/rules of faith in the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament.

Other commitments for this volume include Ferenc Patsch’s paper on Lonergan’s realist hermeneutics, a paper by Anne Carpenter on Charles Peguy’s exegesis of Revelation, a paper by Ligita Ryliskite on the functional specialty of dialectic and Scripture, and a paper by Jonathan Bernier on “The Social Values of the Judges.” In addition to those, I (Joseph Gordon) will write an introductory chapter on critical-realist exegesis and contemporary issues.

Economics for Humane Globalization

Joseph Ogbonnaya writes:

I am happy to announce to the members of the International Institute for Method in Theology that we have welcomed two new members of the Economics for Humane Globalization section: Nicholas Santos and Syed Akhter. Nicholas joined in January and Syed joined April 11, 2019.

A Jesuit priest from Pune, India, Nicholas (Nicky) earned his MBA (’06) and Ph.D. (’09) from Marquette University. After his Ph.D. he spent three years at Santa Clara University, California, as a visiting scholar and post-doctoral fellow at the Markkula Center for Applied Ethics. Additionally, he was involved with the Center

for Science, Technology, and Society, serving as program chair for the Global Social Benefit Incubator Network workshop in October 2011 and then as a reviewer for the Global Social Benefit Fellowship in 2012. He was also involved with “Step Up Silicon Valley,” a Catholic Charities-initiated campaign to end poverty in Silicon Valley, serving as the chair of the incomes-issues group and then as the co-chair of the incubation committee. He has academic degrees in business, philosophy, and theology, and practical experience in for-profit and non-profit organizations.

Dr. Syed H. Akhter, professor emeritus at Marquette University, is a former chair of the Department of Marketing at Marquette. He is a Fulbright scholar, and his research interests include international market entry strategies, globalization, e-commerce, and consumer psychology. He has published extensively in leading international business and marketing journals such as *Journal of International Business Studies*, *International Marketing Review*, *European Journal of Marketing*, *International Trade Journal*, *Business Horizons*, and *Journal of Advertising*. He has published two books, *Global Marketing* and *Strategic Marketing*, and guest-edited special issues of the *Journal of Direct Marketing* on international direct marketing and a special issue of the *Journal of Interactive Marketing* on international interactive marketing.

We teamed up with the Integral Ecology group to publish an edited volume titled “*Everything Is Interconnected*”: *Towards a Globalization with a Human Face and an Integral Ecology*. This volume is to be released by Marquette University Press, in September 2019, as the first volume in a series published by the International Institute for Method in Theology. (See more below, in the report from the Ecological Culture group.)

We also aim at expanding membership of the group and we hope by 2021 to contribute to the ongoing discussion of globalization, including but not limited to issues of global value chain as well as international migration politics and culture.

Recent books by members of the group: (1) Cyril Orji published *A Science-Theology Rapprochement: Pannenberg, Pierce and Lonergan in Conversation* (Cambridge Scholars Publishers, 2018); (2) John Dadosky published *Image to Insight: The Art of William Hart McNichols* (University of Mexico Press, 2018).

Ecological Culture/Integral Ecology

Group leader Lucas Briola writes:

We've welcomed a few new members to the group:

(1) Eugene Schlesinger (eschlesinger@scu.edu), Santa Clara University. Gene writes:

'I am Lecturer in the Department of Religious Studies at Santa Clara University, where I teach in both the undergraduate program and the Graduate Program in Pastoral Ministries. My graduate level teaching is focused on pastoral liturgy and sacramental theology, while I teach more broadly at the undergraduate level. I earned my Ph.D. in systematic theology from Marquette University, where I wrote under the direction of Susan Wood. My research tends to focus on the intersection of ecclesiology and sacramental theology, and particularly on the missional dimensions of the church's liturgy (most fully articulated in my book, *Missa Est! A Missional Liturgical Ecclesiology* [Fortress Press, 2017], but also in my forthcoming *Sacrificing the Church: Mass, Mission, and Ecumenism* [Lexington/Fortress Academic]). This interest in mission leads to a strong secondary interest in trinitarian theology, and especially the relation between the processions and missions of the Son and Holy Spirit.

'As one untimely born, I have slowly and with some measure of resistance entered the Lonerganian fold, but he has become an increasingly important interlocutor for me, especially his account of the trinitarian missions and his distinction between doctrine and speculative theology.

'I have published two articles on ecological themes: "Fire in the Water: Baptismal Aptness and Ecology in the Petrine Epistles," *Journal of Theological Interpretation* 7:2 (2013); and "A Trinitarian Basis for a 'Theological Ecology' in Light of *Laudato Si'*," *Theological Studies* 79:2 (2018). Given the pressing nature of the ecological crisis and its importance to Francis's papacy, I look forward to developing this area of my research more fully.'

(2) Paul Robin (robinp@bc.edu), currently at Boston College. Paul writes:

'I am French, a scientist and retired. I am 72. As a scientist, I apologize for my dominant agnostic way of thinking, but I am a schizophrenic Catholic. As retired, I come with a background in experimental and historical sciences but a large ignorance in theological and philosophical sciences. The development of

my scientific career was very influenced by reading Newman's works, trying to solve my schizophrenia. I am a member of the French Association of Newman Friends for 15 years and of the Newman Association of America for 5 years. It was in that context that I met Richard Liddy, who suggested several times that I investigate Lonergan's works. For personal reasons I was not free to do more till the end of 2017 but last March I visited Richard at Seton Hall University. Again he encouraged me, suggesting I must stay in BC at the Lonergan Center to learn more. Being free to move, I was welcomed by Patrick Byrne as a visiting scholar.

'I confess I am a new-born in your world, but I have some experience in my field of expertise: agriculture, ecology and history. I have also fifty years of experience in working in a strongly agnostic scientific environment. As a civil servant in a French public institution I have a long practical experience of strict secularism. That means a lot in terms of living a Christian faith in God and, to be provocative but realistic, learning from agnostic faith in man.

'My three main concerns are about Christian-agnostic dialogue, science-faith practice, and Good News translation-incarnation.'

(3) Jean Bertin St. Louis (bertiny81@yahoo.fr), Regis College, Toronto. He writes:

'Fr. Jean Bertin St. Louis, S.J. (Canadian Province), 38, was born and raised in Port-Au-Prince, Haiti. His vocation started as a teenager studying with the Salesian priests at a classical and technical school, l'École Nationale des Arts et Métiers (ENAM). There Fr. St. Louis studied Automobile Mechanics and was inspired by the loving care that the principal of this high school provided to the students regardless of their provenance. After completing High School at College René Descartes three years later, he entered the Congregation of the Mission, a religious community founded by Saint Vincent de Paul, while studying philosophy for three years at the Salesians' Institut de Philosophie de Saint Francois de Sales. Working at a Vincentian Parish, Notre Dame de la Médaille Miraculeuse, Fr. St. Louis met Jesuits (priests and novices) during some interreligious activities and discerned his call to the Society of Jesus. As a candidate, he lived for a year with the Jesuit community in Canapé-vert (P-Au-P) teaching French and Math and, once accepted, he spent time as a novice working with the poor particularly in the Northwestern area of Haiti. Missioned to Bogotá, Colombia, he earned a Licentiate in philosophy from the Jesuits' Pontificia Universidad Javeriana while working with displaced victims of violence in Soacha during weekends. Although Fr. St. Louis had taken

Spanish and English classes in high school, his time in Colombia helped him become fluent in Spanish. Missioned back to Haiti, he worked as a regent for two years for Jesuit Migrant Service in Fonds-Parisien at the border with the Dominican Republic (Malpasse-Jimaní), coordinating projects on migration and human rights. On weekends, he taught Spanish to candidates discerning a vocation to the Jesuits and accompanied the members of the Christian Life Community. Next, Fr. St. Louis traveled to Toronto, where he studied English and became fluent. He earned a Master of Divinity degree from Regis College at the University of Toronto and worked as a deacon at a Dominican parish, Paroisse du Sacré-Cœur. He will spend some time of the summer back home in Haiti, attending the Jesuit annual retreat, helping with spiritual direction and retreats at the Jesuit spiritual center, Centre de Spiritualité Manrèse. He is interested in the relation between Theology and Eco-Spirituality. He is currently in a joint Program for the Master of Theology (ThM) & Licentiate in Sacred Theology (STL) at Regis College of the UofT. He is writing his thesis project on the intersection of *Laudato Si'* (Pope Francis) and the vision of a cosmology of cosmogenesis (Thomas Berry). Fr. St. Louis will dedicate some summer time to working on his ThM/STL thesis during the slowdown season at the UofT. His research now aims to explore some major themes of ethical significance in Pope Francis's social encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, while suggesting some ways in which the papal encyclical's categories of dialogue and conversion can continue to be *key-elements* or *responses* to the ever-increasing ecological degradation/crisis at both the human (and social) AND the environmental levels.'

Final preparations are underway for the publication of "*Everything Is Interconnected*": *Towards a Globalization with a Human Face and an Integral Ecology*, the product of a joint collaboration of our group and the economics/globalization team of the Institute (eds. Joseph Ogbonnaya and Lucas Briola). Marquette University Press is set to publish the essays this upcoming Fall.

Contributions from the ecology group include:

- Gerard Whelan, S.J., "Communitarian Solutions to the Ecological Crisis: Michael Northcott, Bernard Lonergan, and Robert Doran in Dialogue"
- Lucas Briola, "Hearing and Answering the One Cry of Earth and Poor: An Integral Ecology, Eucharistic Healing, and the Scale of Values"
- Thomas Hughson, S.J., "Interpreting *Laudato Si'*: What Does It Mean to Be Human?"
- Benjamin Hohman, "The Glory to be Revealed: Grace and Emergence in an Ecological Eschatology"

- Cristina Vanin, “Ecological Conversion, Healing, and the Integral Ecology of Laudato Si’”
- Jame Schaefer, “Educating for Ecological Responsibility: Bernard Lonergan, Pope Francis, and a Local Case Study Prompted by a Global Reality”
- Edward Dunar, “Cities as Learning Ecosystems: Lonergan’s Emergent Probability in Urban Spaces”
- Thomas C. McAuley, “Water Ethics Under Development: Help from Lonergan’s Method”

The group is also currently planning the Spring, 2020, meeting of the Institute at Marquette University. The theme will be “Laudato Si’: Promise and Possibility.” As we commemorate the fifth anniversary of Laudato si’, we hope to investigate how Bernard Lonergan’s thought can aid an ongoing critical reception of the encyclical. Panels will discuss, for instance, the promise of Lonergan’s thought for incorporating an evolutionary perspective in our theological horizons as well as how Lonergan’s thought might help us implement some of the concrete proposals of Laudato Si’ (e.g. water ethics, urban development, etc.). Stay tuned for more information!

Our members continue to stay busy in their own work. Here are a few highlights:

- Lucas Briola recently defended his dissertation entitled “Integral Ecology, Eucharist, and the Scale of Values: A Contribution of Bernard Lonergan” (director: William Loewe). He is in the process of submitting a revised manuscript of the project for publication. In February, he presented “Praise Rather Than Solving Problems: Understanding the Doxological Turn of Laudato Si’ through Lonergan” at Christ the King Seminary (East Aurora, NY) as well as “Eucharistic Healing within Our Common Home: Insights from Bernard Lonergan for an Integral Ecology” at The Catholic University of America, both invited papers. In March, he gave a talk to the Honors Program at Saint Vincent College (Latrobe, PA) entitled “Laudato Si’!: Eucharist and Care, Ora et Labora in Our Common Home.” He recently published “The Integral Ecology of Laudato Si’ and a Seamless Garment: The Sartorial Usefulness of Lonergan and Doran’s Turn to Culture” for *The Lonergan Review*.
- Tom McAuley spoke to the Catholic Woman’s League (CWL) Diocesan Conference, as they decided to have a focus on water this year. The title of his presentation was: “Water and integral ecological spirituality: What can we do?” Later this month, he will co-moderate and present in a panel on ethics in water management\governance and choices for the joint 10th annual Canadian Water Summit and Canadian Water Resources Association meetings (Collingwood, ON).

- Cristina Vanin gave presentations on Laudato Si' to various parish communities and to a Catholic educators conference. Soon she will present on Laudato Si' to a group of teachers and later in May to members of the Catholic Women's League.
- Gerard Whelan, S.J. has a book reaching the bookshelves this month, published by Paulist Press: *A Discerning Church: Pope Francis, Lonergan, and a Theological Method for the Future*. It is already being advertised on Amazon, and has a Foreword written by Bob Doran. Gerry has been working recently on psychic conversion and the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius. He recently published "Robert Doran and the Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius: A Dialogue with Joseph Maréchal on the Meaning of the Application of the Senses" in an e-journal published out of the Gregorian University, *Ignaziana: Revista di ricerca teologica*, <https://www.ignaziana.org/26-2018.pdf>. Gerry will have another article coming out soon in the same journal: "Contemplazione nell'azione in Ignazio, Coreth, e Lonergan." Gerry can provide a English version for anybody interested. He can see this interest merging with one in ecological conversion.
- Jame Schaefer continues to explore Lonergan's imperatives pertaining to comprehensively informed ecological responsibility. These efforts include (1) participating recently in interreligious dialogue on the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in Vatican City by invitation of the Dicastery on Promoting Integral Human Development and the Pontifical Council on Interreligious Dialogue, (2) planning to contribute next month to a workshop on the Abrahamic Traditions and Environmental Change, held in Rhodes, Greece, by invitation of the University of Connecticut's Office of Global Affairs, Al Akhawayn University (Ifrane, Morocco), and Yale University's Forum on Religion and Ecology, and (3) completing plans for moderating a plenary discussion of prominent Malaysian Indigenous, Muslim, Christian, and Buddhist leaders on why and how their faith communities share the goals of the Society for Conservation Biology; this will take place at the International Congress for Conservation Biology to be held in Kuala Lumpur in July. Jame continues to serve as the Handling Editor of manuscripts submitted to *Conservation Biology* that include religious, ethics, and/or values concerns.

Philosophy

Brian Bajzek reports that Ryan Duns (ryan.duns@marquette.edu) has joined the philosophy group. Ryan writes:

‘Ryan Duns, SJ, is an assistant professor of theology at Marquette University. Ryan earned a PhD in Systematic Theology at Boston College where he wrote a dissertation entitled “Spiritual Exercises for a Secular Age: William Desmond’s Theological Achievement.” In addition to his interest in William

Desmond's metaphysics, he is interested in the work of Charles Taylor, René Girard, and Karl Rahner.'

Brian and Eric Mabry have secured an initial \$10,000 in seed money for next year's conference (at Christ the King Seminary, Buffalo) for Collaborative Philosophy, Theology, and Ministry. The conference has become something of a *de facto* workshop for Institute members. The Philosophy group will also sponsor the Marquette colloquium in the spring of 2021. Several members of the team have begun to discuss the colloquium. More news soon from the philosophy group.

Systematic Theology

The systematic theology group is planning a volume in systematics that will be the fruit of a 2022 conference. There will be two conferences that year devoted to systematics: the Marquette spring colloquium and a far larger international interdisciplinary conference to be held in Toronto in late spring or early summer 2022. Again, more news to come from this group.

The newest member of the systematic theology group is Roshan Kiro, S.J., Manresa Jesuit Novitiate, Kalimpong, W.B., India.

Roshan Kiro, S. J. was born in Rengarih, Thethaitangar, India. He joined Manresa Jesuit Novitiate, Kalimpong in 2005 for Darjeeling Jesuit Province. He earned a Bachelor of Science (Zoology) (2011) from the Gujarat University. He received a Bachelor of Philosophy from Jnana-Deepa Vidyapeeth (Pontifical Institute of Philosophy and Religion), Pune (2013). After his Philosophical studies, he taught value education for a year at St. Joseph's School, North Point, Darjeeling.

Roshan studied at Regis College at the University of Toronto from 2014-2019, where he earned a Master of Divinity degree (2017). He was ordained to the priesthood on 28 December 2017 in Darjeeling. He is finishing his Master of Theology (Th.M.) degree under the supervision of Darren Dias and the Licentiate in Sacred Theology from Regis College and the University of Toronto. His Master thesis is about "The Life and Mission of Constant Lievens, SJ: Justice and Emancipation of the Adivasis of Chotanagpur." He might focus his PhD in Contextual Missiology

Administrative Team (Bob Doran and Greg Lauzon)

The second volume of **Bob Doran**'s work *The Trinity in History: A Theology of the Divine Missions* was published in April by University of Toronto Press. The specific title of volume 2 is *Missions, Relations, and Persons*. Bob has also published in *METHOD: Journal of Lonergan Studies* the first two installments of a

reconstruction of Lonergan's course on grace at the Jesuit Seminary in Toronto in 1947-48. He is relying on the notes taken for the course by Frederick Crowe and William Stewart. The course is particularly interesting in that it shows Lonergan correcting himself on the relation between uncreated and created grace. Lonergan and Karl Rahner, at roughly the same time, pinpointed what they considered a major mistake in traditional Scholastic theology of grace regarding this relation, but they come up with quite different solutions to the problem. This course marks also the earliest record we have found of some of Lonergan's reflections regarding Henri de Lubac's *Surnaturel*. The latter reflections will appear in the third installment of the reconstruction.

Bob and John Dadosky have completed the editorial work on volume 25 of Collected Works of Bernard Lonergan: *Early Papers on History*. The publication of this work later in 2019 will complete the series that Bob began working on with Fred Crowe in the mid-1980s.

Bob continues to work with Greg Lauzon on cataloguing the papers of Fred Crowe. It is an immense job, since Fred left behind a great deal of material.

Bob continues in the Emmett Doerr Chair in Catholic Systematic Theology at Marquette University, where he teaches doctoral seminars and an undergraduate course entitled *Theology, Philosophy, and Science*. The text for the latter course is *The Lonergan Reader*. Most students understand practically nothing in that book at the beginning and end with a basic self-appropriation of the cognitional, moral, and religious subject that they are. It's fun to watch the light go on!

Greg Lauzon of the Marquette Lonergan Project is currently producing a documentary on Bernard Lonergan. For the past year he has been conducting and filming interviews with people who knew Lonergan. There is still much work to be done in terms of acquiring funds to complete the project and finding qualified people to assist with production. However, several hours of very good interview material about Lonergan have been collected.

A forgotten series of tapes of a course on Method in Theology that Lonergan taught at Harvard in the fall of 1971 has been discovered. Greg is currently transcribing the recordings of these tapes. This course was the latest version to be presented publicly before the book was published. It may have been recorded surreptitiously, as tape recorders were generally not permitted during lectures prior to the publication of Method in Theology.

Greg has also been busy at the Lonergan Research Institute cataloging the vast collection of papers left behind by Fred Crowe. He is painstakingly combing through many boxes of materials. Many valuable documents have already been discovered.