“Evolution and Transcendence: 
Philosophical, Scientific, and Religious Perspectives”

2018 Meeting of the Institute for American Religious and Philosophical Thought

Catholic Academy of Berlin, June 18-21, 2018
Program directors: Christian Polke, Nathaniel Barrett, and Stephan Steiner

Monday, June 18th

7 pm  *Intellectual Autobiography*  
(Audi AB)

Michael Raposa

8 pm  Reception

Tuesday, June 19th

Plenary Lectures – Transcendence

9 – 11:30 am

Robert C. Neville

_Evolving Transcendence and the Engagement of Reality_

10.00 – 10.30 am

_Coffee break_

Saskia Wendel

_Self-Awareness and Self-Transcendence: The Origin of Religion and the Conduct of Life_

11:30–1:30 pm Lunch

Concurrent Sessions – Transcendence

1:30 pm – 3:30 pm

**Section A: Transcendence, Human Imagination, Ineffability**

Tyler Tritten, “Ineffability and Cataphatasm or Absolute Transcendence and _Peritrope_ in Damascius”
Lisa Landoe Hedrick, “Whitehead and the Metaphysics of Yearning”

Andrew Irvine, “Arguing God’s Existence as Exercise in Transcendence”

**Section B: Robert Bellah and the Evolution of Religion**

Danna Hargett, “Religion’s Evolutionary Protection: Defining the upper bounds of biocultural evolution and the blunted impact of the Second Axial Age”


**Section C: Hegel, Idealism, and Transcendence**

Till Nessmann, “Hegel and the structural relation of material and ideal as the basis of transcendence”

Annette Langer-Pitschmann, “Constructing the Concept of Transcendence: Evolution and Transcendence in G. Kaufman’s Pragmatist Theology”

James McLachlan, “Hegelian Evolutions in America: August Willich, The St. Louis Hegelians, and George Holmes Howison”

3:30-4 pm  
*Coffee break*

4 – 6 pm Concurrent sessions

**Section A: Social Evolution of the Person, Community, and Ethics**

Oren Bader, “First there was a group: The priority of the group level in human evolution”

Robert Smid, “The Transcendence of Community: Emergence Theory, Language, and the Locus of Thought”

Don Viney, “Ethics, Evolution, and Dual Transcendence”

**Section B: Michael Tomasello and Naturalizing Morality**

Gary Slater, “Ethics without Bodies: The implications of mind uploading for human moral evolution”


Veenus J. Karamullil, “Transcendence at the Horizon of the Sciences of Man: A Test Case from the Natural History of Morality”
**Section C:** *The Vocation and Home of Philosophy: The Transcendence of the Philosopher’s Work and Place in an Uncertain Future*

Randy Auxier, “Philosophy as the New Science: What the Public University Might Have Been”

Laura Mueller, “Education, Philosophy, and Morality: Virtue Philosophy in Kant”

Eli Kramer, “Farewell to the University: Transcending Professional Philosophy”

6.00 pm  
**Dinner**

7.30 pm  
**Evening Lecture**

Hans Joas  
*(Audi AB)*

*Transcendence as Reflexive Sacredness: The Axial Age as Turning-Point in the History of Religion*

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**Wednesday 20 June 2018**

**Plenary Lectures – Evolution**

9 – 11:30 am  
Volkhard Krech

*Theory and Empirical Analysis of Religious Evolution. Preliminary Considerations on a Research Program*

10:00-10:30 am  
**Coffee break**

Georg Toepfer

*Universal Connectedness and Human Uniqueness: Two Modes of Transcendence in Evolution*

11.30-1.30 pm **Lunch and Annual IARPT Board of Directors Meeting**

**Concurrent Sessions – Evolution**

1:30 pm – 3:30 pm  
**Section A:** *Nietzsche and the Tradition of Philosophical Anthropology*
Christian P. Stritzelberger, “Cracks in reality: How evolutionary anthropology can explain the necessary interrelation of immanence and transcendence”

Gabriele Aleandri, “Transcendence, secularization, and state of nature: An anthropogenic perspective”

Nikolaos Loukidelis, The Concept of Immanent Transcendence

Section B: Process Philosophy, Evolution, and Transcendence

Leslie A. Muray, “The Way We Tell Our Stories”

Roland Cazalis, “Feeling, Believing, Transforming: A Human Landscape of Transcendence”

Marjorie Suchocki, “Evolution and Three Modes of Transcendence”

Section C: F. LeRon Shults and the Evolution of Transcendence & Religion

F. LeRon Shults, “The Birth of Transcendence: A Computational Model”

Brandon Daniel-Hughes, “Transcending Inherited Signs of Transcendence: Religious Narratives after the Birth of God”


3:30-7:30 Free time for sightseeing (boat trip/museum/etc.) and dinner

7:30 pm Evening Lecture

Henrike Moll (University of Southern California) (Audi AB)

Human-Unique Forms of Social Learning: The Case of Teaching

Thursday, 21. June 2018

Plenary Lectures – Challenging Religious Naturalism

9 – 11:30 am

Nancy Frankenberry

A Common Faith Today? American Religious Naturalism Since Dewey

10.00-10:30 am

Coffee break
Gesche Linde

A Religion of Science: Charles Peirce on Evolution, Metaphysics, and Theism

11:30-1:30 PM Lunch

Concurrent Sessions – Challenging Religious Naturalism

1:30 am – 3:30 pm

Section A: Charles S. Peirce and Semiotic Evolution

Rory Misiewicz, “Regressive Progression: How Peirce’s Triadic Account of Evolution Can Inform Cultural Narratives”

David Rohr, “Biosemiosis and the Synechistic Emergence of Mind from Matter”

Walter Gulick, “Understanding Understanding”

Section B: Naturalism, Transcendence and Life in the Antropocene

Nicholas Aaron Friesner, “Perfectionist philosophy contra environmental philosophy: rectifying transcendence”

Thurman Todd Willison, “Personalism beyond Anthropocentrism”

William David Hart, “Atheism, Humanism, and Naturalism as nested relations”

3:30-6:00 Free time for sightseeing (boat trip, museums, etc.)

6.00-7.00 pm Business meeting

7.00 pm Conference Dinner: Schnitzelei Mitte
Chausseestrasse 8
10115 Berlin