



Memory, culture and religion

Postsecular vistas. 2nd conference on social sciences and theology

Warsaw, ul. Foksal 11, May 15th, 2013

CALL FOR PAPERS

Modernity has gradually replaced religion and theology. Science, the faithful disciple of modernity, has only strengthened this tendency. If we want theology and science to meet again, or maybe, to meet for the first time, we need to go beyond the dogmas of modernity. It is precisely in this spirit that we would like to search for a meeting ground between these two disciplines.

In classic texts on memory – these by Maurice Halbwachs as well Stefan Czarnowski, and - more recently - Jan Assmann (*Das Kulturelle Gedächtnis*) and Danièle Hervieu-Léger (*La religion pour mémoire*) - religion plays a crucial role. Yet, in mainstream memory studies religion seems to be left out of focus. Accordingly, modern self-interpretations of sociology of memory become more and more secular. On the other hand, theology does not seem to see the relevance of its analyses of tradition for understanding society, nor even for social sciences themselves. As a result, the study of memory becomes more and more detached from interests in religion, which defined its foundational works and was developed by most eminent theologians of our time, such as John H. Newman, Yves Congar or Joseph Ratzinger.

Special guests:

Prof. **Kieran Flanagan**, University of Bristol: “**Religious Ruins: A Sociology of Reproach**”. Author of: *Sociology in Theology: Reflexivity and Belief* (2007), *Seen and Unseen: Visual Culture, Sociology and Theology* (2004), *The Enchantment of Sociology: A Study of Theology and Culture* (1996), *Sociology and Liturgy: Re-presentations of the Holy* (1991).

Prof. **Wolfgang Palaver**, University of Innsbruck: “**The Death of all Cultures. On subversive Nature of the Biblical Revelation**”: *René Girard's Mimetic Theory* (2013), *René Girard. Gewalt und Religion*. (2010), *Die mythischen Quellen des Politischen. Carl Schmitts Freund-Feind-Theorie* (1998).

Prof. **Keith Tester**, University of Hull: “**Memory in the Atomic Age**”. Author of *Panic* (2013), *Humanitarianism and Modern Culture* (2010), *Eric Rohmer: Film as Theology* (2008), *Conversations with Zygmunt Bauman* (2001; Polish translation: 2003), *Moral Culture* (1997).

Prof. **Siegfried Wiedenhofer**, University of Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität in Frankfurt am Main: “**Relations between theological and secular Concepts of Tradition in Modernity**”. Author and editor of: *Tradition and Tradition Theories: An International Discussion* (2004), *Das katholische Kirchenverständnis* (1992), *Politische Theologie* (1976).



Prof.

Possible themes include (but are not limited to):

- The place of religion in memory studies;
- Secularization of memory studies;
- Postsecular memory studies;
- The role of memory in sustaining culture;
- The role of religion in sustaining culture;
- Memory and contemporary culture;
- Covert theologies in memory studies;
- The impact of religion on memory;
- Holy texts, canons, rites, prayer and memory;
- Theological theories of memory, culture and tradition;
- The place of religion in private and family memory;
- Memory conflicts and religion;
- Theology as a social science.

Languages of the conference: English (preferred) and Polish (possible)

Deadlines:

Registration fee: 60 Euro (the fee covers dinner and coffee breaks)

Deadline for submitting the abstracts: **1st April 2013** (Lukasz Ofiara: lofiara@centrumjp2.pl)

Notification of paper acceptance: **7th April 2013**

Deadline for registration: **15th April 2013**

Deadline for sending the papers to be circulated among participants: **30th April 2013**

The Organizing Committee: Michał Łuczewski, PhD (Centre for Thought of John Paul II; University of Warsaw), Małgorzata Głowacka-Grajper, PhD (University of Warsaw), Stanisław Burdziej, PhD (University of Warmia and Mazury, Olsztyn), Łukasz Ofiara (The Centre for Thought of John Paul II, Warsaw), Robert Pawlik, PhD (Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw).