



university of
 groningen

faculty of philosophy

Annual Meeting of the Society for Phenomenological Philosophy

Phenomenology, Religion and Violence

1 and 2 February 2018
University of Groningen
<https://fenomenologie.wordpress.com>

Key note by Dr. Michael Staudigl, University of Vienna
“On making transcendence together.
Toward a phenomenology of religious violence”

In this talk I will argue that phenomenology offers us a viable framework to productively think through the relation between religion and violence. I hypothesize that this correlation needs to be reconsidered in a threefold perspective (*religio triplex*) in order to avoid our all too well known reductionist conceptions of "religious violence." With this desideratum in mind, I argue for distinguishing between a) the originary violence of revelation, "absolute affection," shaking transcendence (*mysterium tremendum et fascinans*), etc.; b) the violent implications of concrete socio-topologies of the sacred and the profane; and c) the violent potentials transmitted in the narrative semantics of religious traditions. In order to properly distinguish these three layers and to shed light on their complex dynamism and interplay, I will draw upon Schutz's theory of "multiple realities," Merleau-Ponty's "phenomenology of embodiment," and Ricoeur's "poietics of the possible God." In conclusion, this will lead me to conceptualize religion in terms of "making transcendence together"—a conceptualization that explicitly avows an intrinsic correlation of religion and violence but also stresses the perfect contingency of "religious violence."

Thursday, February 1, 20:00

Location: Faculty of Philosophy, University of Groningen,
Oude Boteringstraat 52, room Omega

Day 2 of the programme:

Friday, February 2

Location: Van Swinderenhuys, Groningen
Oude Boteringestraat 19, Club Lounge

- 9.30 Opening
- 9.40 Ruud Welten, Erasmus University Amsterdam / Tilburg University
 – *In the Beginning was Violence*
- 10.20 Eddo Evink, Open University / University of Groningen
 – *Transcendental Violence in Levinas and Derrida*
- 11.00 Coffee break
- 11.15 Book presentation:
 – *Fenomenologie als houding*
- 11.25 Charlotte Knowles, University of Groningen
 – *A Phenomenological Account of Complicity*
- 12.05 Ruth Rebecca Tietjen, University of Tübingen
 – *Religious Zeal*
- 12.45 Lunch break
- 14.15 Roel Veraart, Vincent Blok, Wageningen University
 – *Enjoying Life Within a Bio-Based Economy?*
- 14.55 Lucien von Schomberg, Vincent Blok, Wageningen University
 – *Innovation and the Character of Our Age*
- 15.35 Coffee break
- 15.55 Helena de Preester, Ghent University / School of Arts, Hogeschool Gent
 – *Tertiaire Retenties in het Huidige Technologische Tijdvak en de Consumptie van de Eigen Subjectiviteit*
- 16.35 Nikolaas Deketelaere, Balliol College, University of Oxford
 – *Zwijgen en Handelen: Kierkegaard als Fenomenoloog van de Religieuze Verschrikking*
- 17.15 End of conference

Conference fee: € 25,00; for students € 10,00

All participants will receive a copy of the presented book