

Beierwaltes Seminars on Origen and Christian Platonism



The Beierwaltes Seminars on Christian Platonism, hosted by the Cambridge Centre twice a year, revolve around key concepts of Platonism and their transformation in Christian philosophy from the Alexandrians Clement and Origen to the present day. After reading and discussing excerpts from the work of the eminent German scholar Werner Beierwaltes (translated into English for the first time), both PhD students and postdocs give papers on their current research on Origen and Christian Platonism. Everyone interested in and working on Platonism is cordially invited to take part.

Please contact

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V. Henology or Ontology? Models of the Absolute from Antiquity to Modern Idealism (6th July, 9–19)

The One, the principle of all being and thought and as such, famously, “beyond” both “in rank and power”, cannot be the object of discursive thought and hence defies all attempt at conceptual definition. However, the soul can become one with it in rare insights described with great imaginative vigour in Plato and Plotinus as well as their many pagan and Christian heirs in antiquity, the Medieval period and the early modern and modern age. Starting with the account provided in Beierwaltes’ classic *Denken des Einen* of 1985, the fifth seminar will trace the history of Platonic mysticism from its beginning to the modern day.

Guest Speaker: JEAN-LOUIS VIEILLARD-BARON (*Poitiers University*)

Please send titles and abstracts by **15th June 2019**.

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VI. The True Self – Concepts of Divine and Human Subjectivity (19th October, 9–19)

As is testified by the Delphic imperative in Plato’s own *First Alcibiades*, the required first reading in the late antique *cursus Platonicus*, Platonism is a philosophy of subjectivity. It charts both the soul’s procession from and return to God as it re-discovers its original intellectual nature in discursive reasoning and intuitive vision. The Platonic notion of the soul as an image of God exerted seminal influence upon early Christianity and medieval and early modern concepts of the finite mind. Likewise, German Idealism throughout bears the imprint of Plato’s rational psychology. It continues to be a source of insight in modern conceptions of conscious life and subjectivity. Based on Beierwaltes’ analyses of Plotinus’ notion of the self in *Selbsterkenntnis und Erfahrung der Einheit* of 1991 and *Das wahre Selbst* of 2001, the sixth seminar will explore concepts of human and divine selfhood in the Platonic tradition.

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Guest Speaker: PAULIINA REMES (*Uppsala University*)

Please send titles and abstracts by **15th September 2019**.