

INTRODUCTION BY GERRIT GLAS

IN THIS ISSUE OF ASPECTS YOU CAN FIND MORE NEWS ABOUT **THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE THE FUTURE OF CREATION ORDER** ORGANIZED BY THE ASSOCIATION FOR REFORMATIONAL PHILOSOPHY AND VU UNIVERSITY AMSTERDAM AT **THE OCCASION OF THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY** OF THE ASSOCIATION (SEE ALSO WWW.CPC2011.ORG) FROM 16-19 AUGUST 2011.

If you have not already done so: fill in the registration form at the website and write these dates in your calendar. Members of the Association pay only 150 euro for the entire conference; non-members 250 euro. The conference will be held in the main building of VU University Amsterdam.

I would also like to remind you of the Vollenhoven symposium that will be held on Monday 15th of August in the afternoon and early evening.

Tuesday 16 August will be devoted to preconference seminars that deal specifically with current issues in the reformational philosophical tradition. The opening session for the main conference that will be held the next three days (17-19 August) will be on Tuesday evening, August 16. More information, including the extensive position paper, can be found at the website, www.cpc2011.org. If you experience any trouble in retrieving the right information, please do not hesitate to contact the organizers (info@cpc2011.org).

As the chairman of the scientific committee I must say that I am thrilled about this event and that I am looking forward very much to the exchange of ideas. The conference promises real

in-depth discussions between reformational philosophers and a wider circle of Christian thinkers on topics that have proven to be of crucial importance in many ways.

The preparations are well on their way. We received approximately 80 abstract submissions during the last months. These abstracts will be reviewed in the next weeks. As you will see, there is an impressive list of renowned plenary speakers and responders. I am sure you will be as anxious as I am to hear what they have to say. Please join us in this really important event in the *alma mater* of the movement: VU University Amsterdam!



Gerrit Glas
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CHRISTIAN PHILOSOPHICAL CONFERENCE AUGUST 2011

HEREWITH WE GLADLY UPDATE OUR READERS WITH DETAILS OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CHRISTIAN PHILOSOPHY TO TAKE PLACE AT THE VU UNIVERSITY, AMSTERDAM, **16 TO 19 AUGUST 2011**. IN THIS UPDATE, WE CAN GIVE YOU MORE DETAILS OF THE CHRISTIAN PHILOSOPHICAL CONFERENCE (CPC) PROGRAM.

Interested academics were invited to submit paper proposals until March 31. We are glad to report that a large number of proposals have been received from philosophers from all over the world. What's more, the Executive Committee was impressed by the breadth and quality of the submissions. When the review process is completed, we will provide details concerning the papers that have been accepted on the conference website www.cpc2011.org. Those papers will be presented in parallel sessions. Other plenary sessions and their speakers have now also been confirmed. They include:

- Epistemology, with René van Woudenberg & Roy Clouser
- Ontology, with Eleonore Stump & respondent tbc
- Ethics, with Stephen Evans & Edith Brugmans
- Anthropology, with Gerrit Glas & Lydia Jaeger
- Biology, with Denis Alexander & Jitse van der Meer
- Social Science, with Lambert Zuidervaart & Govert Buijs
- Aesthetics, with Gordon Graham & Adrienne Dengerink Chaplin
- Postmodern order, with William Desmond & Renée van Riessen

In addition to the plenary and parallel sessions, there are a number of high-quality invited workshops. Topic and speakers include:

- Civil Society, with Govert Buijs
- Philosophy of Technology, with Bronislaw Szerszynski & Marc de Vries
- Love and Justice, with Nicholas Wolterstorff
- Philosophy of Organizations, with Maarten Verkerk and Andrew Basden

- Philosophy of Language: Metaphors, with Elaine Botha
- Philosophy of Religion, with Mikael Stenmark and Guus Labooy
- Order in Biology, with Jitse van der Meer
- Creation and Evolution, with Conor Cunningham
- The Philosophy of William Desmond, with William Desmond & Sander Griffioen

The latest version of the program is available on the conference website: www.cpc2011.org. We are constantly updating it as information becomes available. From that web-site you will also find an overview of all "pre-conference seminars" that have been organised for Tuesday 16th. These are dedicated exclusively to reformational philosophy. There will be an additional one-day Vollenhoven symposium on Monday 15th with in-depth discussions of Vollenhoven's specific contributions to reformational philosophy. CPC organizers are also trying to arrange a visit to the Dooyeweerd archive in the Historical Documentation Centre for Dutch Protestantism at VU University Amsterdam. So, for the latest information, please visit www.cpc2011.org.

We have received funding to facilitate the attendance of philosophers from specific countries to take part in our conference. Therefore, we invite philosophers from China, Latin-American, Africa, and Eastern Europe to apply for such sponsored participation. You can find the criteria for application at our conference website, posted at 'target audience' on the [cpc2011](http://cpc2011.org) homepage. The deadline for such application is 15 April 2011.

FREE BOARDING FOR STUDENT

As a special service to foreign student the Association for Reformational Philosophy would like to offer free boarding at homes of Association members during the CPC2011. Would you like to take advantage of this opportunity? Please contact Jos Boer via pr@christelijkefilosofie.nl.

SOPHIE MAGAZINE LAUNCHED



On Thursday 24th February the inaugural issue of the Dutch-language magazine Sophie was sent out by The Centre for Reformational Philosophy. This magazine is the result of a “marriage” between the 74 year old Association magazine “Beweging” and the 35 year old Evangelische Hogeschool magazine “Ellips”. According to the editorial board, “Sophie offers its intellectual challenge through critical

analysis of current themes, and inspired by the Christian Tradition”.

The magazine will be distributed to members and others interested in philosophy and the relation of Christian faith and science. Among the readers are hundreds of students enrolled in the Reformational Philosophy courses (held at 8 Dutch Universities) and students of the Evangelische Hogeschool. Sophie will be published six times a year.

Editor in Chief is Prof. Dr. J Hoogland, Special Chair (professor) of Reformational Philosophy at the University of Twente and Associate Professor at the VU University in Amsterdam. Aart Dibbens, current magazine manager of “Beweging” will continue in this position for Sophie. The Editorial Board contains, amongst others, Drs. E. J. van Dijk, Evangelische Hogeschool, Dr. J. Ester, Radboud University Nijmegen, Dr. ir. R. A. Jongeneel, Wageningen University, and dr. K. van der Zwaag, journalist for the Dutch newspaper Reformatorisch Dagblad.

The first issues features: an interview with Prof. Dr. Willem Ouweneel; an exploration of the controversy raised in a Christian television documentary about the treatment of Brandon van Ingen, - an 18 year-old mentally handicapped boy, which included being securely restrained in his cell most of the time; and an analysis concerning the views of the Dutch politicians, Geert Wilders, well-known for his anti-Muslim stance, and how his style of politics can be challenged.

THE NEXT ISSUE OF PHILOSOPHIA REFORMATATA

The entire first issue of Volume 76 is devoted to the book Purpose in the Living World? Creation and Emergent Evolution, written by Jacob Klapwijk, translated and edited by Harry Cook (Cambridge University Press, 2008). The Dutch version, entitled Heeft de Evolutie een Doel? Over Schepping en Emergente Evolutie, was published by Kok (Kampen) in 2009.

For this issue Bruce C. Wearne from Australia acted as guest editor. After an article in which Jaap Klapwijk summarizes his position, seven distinguished authors provide feedback on Klapwijk's views as exposed in his book. The authors have different backgrounds: some are

active or retired philosophers, some are active or retired scientists.

This collection of essays, totaling some 160 pages, is important in that the philosophic discussion about creation and evolution is taken up where it in a certain sense was left in 1959 when Herman Dooyeweerd published in Philosophia Reformata an extensive review of Jan Lever's Creation and Evolution (which was published in 1958 as translation of a 1956 Dutch book). At the same time this issue contains excellent reading material for the upcoming international conference on The Future of Creation Order (16-19 August 2011, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam).

ASPECTS SOON AVAILABLE FOR SPANISH SPEAKING WORLD

THE ASSOCIATION FOR REFORMATIONAL PHILOSOPHY IS GRATIFIED BY THE CURRENT INTERNATIONAL REACH OF REFORMATIONAL PHILOSOPHY. IN MANY PARTS OF THE WORLD, THE VIEWS OF REFORMATIONAL THINKERS ARE BEING TAUGHT, THEIR BOOKS ARE BEING READ AND AS A RESULT OUR MOVEMENT IS ACTIVE ON MANY LEVELS AND IN MANY DIFFERENT WAYS. STILL, MOST OF THIS ACTIVITY IS USUALLY CONCENTRATED IN THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING COUNTRIES, **ALTHOUGH THERE ARE SIGNS OF INTEREST IN OTHER AREAS AS WELL.**

That's why we were glad to announce that Carlos Oschilewski has recently offered to translate Aspects into Spanish and in that way make it available for scholars in Spanish regions as well. The Association was glad to agree to this innovation, and Carlos will soon begin on the first issue. Curious about his background and future plans, we interviewed Carlos.

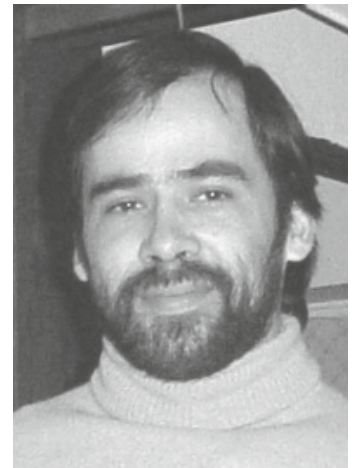
First, can you tell us more about your relation with reformational philosophy?

Two years ago I came across the life and works of H. Dooyeweerd and D.T. Vollenhoven. For me this body of knowledge is a welcome and accurate source of scientific knowledge centred on Christian values. By my investigation and study of Spykman, Seerveld and Wolters and others, I translated what they had written into Spanish. When I saw that there were few texts in Spanish I contacted the authors and gained their permission to translate their work for Spanish readers and launched the website: www.reformacional.cl. There documents and translations are freely available. My aim is to improve the scope of this Neo-Calvinism and Reformational movement in Latin America and Spain. The main objective of my work is to provide the Spanish speaking public with documents, studies and books in their own language and for free. Further, it will be a very pleasant task to edit Aspects and keep interested readers alert to current developments in the Spanish language.

Its fantastic that you are willing to make Aspects available for the Spanish-speaking world. What motivated you to come with this offer?

To have "Aspects" available in Spanish will provide Spanish-speaking readers a great opportunity

to appreciate the scope and values Reformational philosophy and to understand what it can give them. It also has consequences for inspiring new ideas and for personal development. This will then promote further growth. It is good to have such information available for students in philosophy and theology.



'Could you give us more insight in the current state of reformational philosophy in Latin America and Spain?

The number of publications in Spanish about Reformational thinking is very limited. Of the top of my head I can list maybe 10 works. Maybe there are a few more, but not too many. And the Spanish-speaking readership is relatively small. While considering that this is a rather specialized interest, we can say that our site has received near to 26,000 visits in the last 2 years. These numbers are due to publicity given to Google and other popular sites. Although the main block of visitors appears to be from Britain it is interesting to note that countries like Paraguay, Argentina, Guatemala also show an interest in a reformational dimension to studies. There is much work remaining to be done; many fresh neurons to burn.

'And what about the standing of this philosophy in Colleges or Universities? Do teachers take the opportunity to teach reformational philosophy in their own translations of English? I am thinking of people like Professor Adolfo García de la Sierra Veracruzana University, Mexico?'

In my country there are no universities with reformed thought as basis; there are some projects, but they are as yet in the study stage. It is highly unlikely that there will be scholars who develop their own writings with input from this perspective. At least that is in my experience. Dr. Garcia is an eminent exception and one of the few that attract, develop and motivate the study of this perspective in Latin America. For this reason Dr Garcia's terrific work is much appreciated for its support of getting this philosophical view into Spanish.

In contrast to the many approaches in many disciplines in English, our Spanish-speaking scholars in Latin America do not have anything of a comparable range, but in this sea of information it is always difficult to anticipate what would be the best way forward. It will be necessary to make decisions in order to support and reach more than 350,000,000 Spanish speakers.

Talking about point of views; do you think people from Spain and Latin America will look at reformational philosophy with another eye than them from English-speaking countries? Can one say that there is another centre of gravity?

Your question is actually quite difficult. We are Catholic countries, and are not reformed its our general design. So our heritage is quite simply the enlightenment, and so Kant and his followers are predominant in giving shape to the form and development of our thinking. This is the general trend in

our educational circles. And this means it has an impact at the institutional level. In philosophy they have no base-line other than Kant. There is obviously not another center of gravity, mainly because there is no other way of thinking available in Latin America, where the duality of thought developed by Scholasticism is predominant. Therefore, this reformational scheme is so appropriate, but its development will require a lot of outreach work and education. The situation, as far as I know it, is from what has been developed in Mexico in the hands of Dr. Garcia and other wonderful scholars like Dr. Josué Gabriel Tah y Noh, Dr. Manuel D. Martín Herrera, Dr. Virgilio Crisóstomo Manuel, Dr. Jorge Ramírez Catalán and Dr. José M. Velázquez Iglesias. They all received their education with the influence of a student of Dr. H. Evan Runner, Dr. Roberts Haine, who now teaches at the Edinburg theological seminary in Texas.

And lastly; what is it that you would hope to eventually achieve with a Spanish version of Aspects?

Such a specialized publication will always allow those who are interested to meet and learn more about their common concerns. An initial goal for "ASPECTS" in Spanish and "Reformacional.cl" is to disseminate and disclose, allowing information about this reformational philosophy to cover places and people who currently do not know about it. Also, as a publication that is issued in 3 languages it is interesting for anyone who takes the time to inquire as to why this knowledge is valued. This is precisely the goal we want to promote: developing an appreciation for reformational principles by Spanish-speaking students, so that it becomes a real alternative and encourage other projects, such as book publishing, further translation or establishing an association.

SOCIAL MEDIA

The Association for Reformational Philosophy is very much aware of the benefits of social media in facilitating debate and spreading news. This is why the Association is now present of LinkedIn and Facebook (click on the names for a direct link to the accounts).

Would you like to start a discussion, or are you interested in news on Reformational philosophy, or would you like to get in touch with others who are interested in these subjects? Please visit these media and join our groups.

RENÉE VAN RIESSEN

NEW PROFESSOR REFORMATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

ON THE FIRST OF JANUARY DR. RENÉE VAN RIESSEN WAS APPOINTED EXTRAORDINARY PROFESSOR OF REFORMATIONAL PHILOSOPHY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LEIDEN. HER APPOINTMENT WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY THE ASSOCIATION FOR REFORMATIONAL PHILOSOPHY. VAN RIESSEN IS THE SUCCESSOR OF PROF. DR. GERRIT GLAS.



As a professor of Reformational Philosophy, Prof. Dr. Van Riessen will focus her work on Philosophical Anthropology. In particular, her interest is to reflect upon mankind as existence within relationships and thus to reckon with the

place of the notion of soul within this framework. In this field she sees possibilities to connect Reformational Philosophy to the Jewish philosophy of Levinas and Rosenzweig. Her other great interest is the way religion expresses itself in symbolic and esthetical forms (language, image, music, rituals). On this subject she has authored various publications, having also organized several multidisciplinary educational projects.

Renée van Riessen (1954) studied Philosophy and Dutch Language and Literature at the Free University in Amsterdam. In addition to her extraordinary Chair at Leiden University she also teaches philosophy at the Protestant Theological University and at ArtEZ Academy of Arts. She received her PhD in 1991 for a thesis titled: *Erotiek en dood, met het oog op transcendentie in de filosofie van Levinas* (Erotics and death. Considering transcendence in the philosophy of Levinas). In 2007 she published *Man as a Place of God, Levinas Hermeneutics of Kenosis*, a study on Levinas' philosophy of religion. Van Riessen has also had various Prometheus/Bert Bakker volumes of poetry published, the last entitled: *Krekels in de keuken* (2008).

Association for Reformational Philosophy

Aspects of Reformational Philosophy is the international information bulletin of the Foundation for Reformational Philosophy and the Association for Reformational Philosophy. The Association pursues philosophy in the light of the Bible as the Word of God. The Foundation aims to spread the fruits of this pursuit. Both do their work in the conviction that all philosophy is religiously determined. Aspects will be sent on request.

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