



Religion &  
Theology:  
Redeeming  
Autonomy IV

12–14 September 2022



ACU

INSTITUTE FOR  
RELIGION &  
CRITICAL INQUIRY

*Redeeming Autonomy: Agency,  
Vulnerability, and Relationality IV*

ACU Seminar Series

12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Rome Campus

Australian Catholic University  
Largo Giovanni Berchet, 4,  
00152 Roma, Italy

Convenors

Christopher Insole and Benjamin DeSpain

## *Director's Welcome*

On behalf of my colleagues in the Institute for Religion and Critical Inquiry I welcome you to the "new" ACU Rome Campus on Largo Berchet. While the campus still sits above Rome on the Gianicolo and has wonderful vistas of the city from its rooftop terraces, it is in the leafy and tranquil neighbourhood of Monteverde, some distance (but not too far!) from the tourists of Trastevere, and alive with local life, including the buzz of cafes and many fine restaurants, historical sites such as Villa Pamphili and its lakes and woodlands.

After the covid-enforced exile from the city, we are excited again to host a series of conferences that provide an opportunity for the Institute to bring together leading scholars to explore key issues in their fields of study. The respective seminars are a practical expression of our ongoing global collaboration in religion and theology, philosophy, biblical and early Christian studies, and, for the first time, medieval and early modern history.

Since the seminars were inaugurated in 2015 as invitation-only events they have been focussed on the participants themselves and their intellectual engagement around key questions and innovative topics. This year we are turning outwards. We are hosting a series of public lecture, aimed to showcase our three core research programs and to signal our commitment and aspiration to engage with the universities and academies that animate Rome with intellectual vitality.

I take this opportunity to thank fellows of the institute for the work they have undertaken to bring together wonderful programs for their respective seminars. My thanks also go to our former Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) at ACU, Professor Wayne McKenna, and now his interim successor, Professor James McLaren, for ongoing support and sponsorship of the IRCI Rome Seminars.

I trust that your participation will provide the opportunity to establish new connections and to enrich existing ones. I am sure there will be lively and engaging discussions and deliberations as you explore issues which not only create new knowledge but also have the potential to benefit belief, civil society, and our fragile world.

Professor Peter Howard  
Director, IRCI

TIME	MONDAY 12 SEPTEMBER
	<b>Rome Campus</b>
1pm-2pm	Luncheon and Strategic Discussion with CIs
3pm-4pm	<b>Introductory Session for all Participants</b>
4pm	Coffee break
4:30pm-6pm	<p><b>Session 1: Is Autonomy Worth Redeeming?</b></p> <p>Niki Kasumi Clements (Rice University)</p> <p>Lexi Eikelboom (Australian Catholic University)</p> <p>Respondent: Charles Mathewes (University of Virginia)</p>
6pm-7:30pm	<p><b>Reception &amp; Book Launches – Rome Campus Rooftop Terrace</b></p> <p>Jennifer Herdt, <i>Assuming Responsibility: Ecstatic Eudaimonism and the Call to Live Well</i> (OUP, 2022)</p> <p>Benjamin DeSpain, <i>Thinking Theologically about the Divine Ideas: Reexamining the Summa of Thomas Aquinas</i> (Brill, 2022)</p>
8pm	<b>Dinner – off Campus</b>

TIME	TUESDAY 13 SEPTEMBER
	<b>Rome Campus</b>
	Coffee on arrival
10:30am-12pm	<b>Session 2: Alternative ‘Enlightenment’ Conceptions of Autonomy</b> Clare Carlisle (King’s College London) Christopher Insole (Durham University & Australian Catholic University)  Respondent: Karen Kilby (Durham University)
12pm-2pm	Lunch on Rome Campus
4:30pm-6pm	<b>Session 3: Is Autonomy Intrinsic to Theology?</b> Jonathan Zecher (Australian Catholic University) Benjamin DeSpain (Australian Catholic University)  Respondent: Judith Wolfe (St. Andrews University)
6pm-7:30pm	<b>Reception – Rome Campus Rooftop Terrace</b>
8pm	<b>Dinner – off Campus</b>

TIME	WEDNESDAY 14 SEPTEMBER
	<b>Rome Campus</b>
	Coffee on arrival
	<b>Session 4: What might Theology add to the Understanding of Autonomy?</b> Vincent Lloyd (Villanova University) D. Stephen Long (Southern Methodist University/Perkins School of Theology)  Respondent: Jennifer Herdt (Yale University)
	11:30am-12pm
	12pm-1pm
	1pm-2:30pm
	Lunch on Rome Campus (all participants)
3pm-4pm	<b>CI Planning Meeting</b>

Participant	Academic affiliation	Email contact
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*Cover art:  
Photo by shamim2010 "Girl, Evening, Sky Silhouette."*