“Evolution and Transcendence:
Philosophical, Scientific, and Religious Perspectives”

2018 Meeting of the Institute for American Religious and Philosophical Thought
Catholic Academy of Berlin, June 18-21, 2018
Program directors: Christian Polke, Nathaniel Barrett, and Stephan Steiner

Monday, June 18th

7 pm  Intellectual Autobiography  (Audi AB)
       Michael Raposa

8 pm  Reception

Tuesday, June 19th

Plenary Lectures – Transcendence

9 – 11:30 am

Robert C. Neville

Evolving Transcendence and the Engagement of Reality

10.00 – 10.30 am

Coffee break

Saskia Wendel

Self-Awareness and Self-Transcendence: The Origin of Religion and the Conduct of Life

11:30–1:30 pm Lunch

Concurrent Sessions – Transcendence

1:30 pm – 3:30 pm

Section A:  Transcendence, Human Imagination, Ineffability

Tyler Tritten, “Ineffability and Cataphaticism or Absolute Transcendence and Peritrope in Damascius”
Lisa Landoe Hedrick, “Whitehead and the Metaphysics of Yearning”

Andrew Irvine, “Arguing God’s Existence as Exercise in Transcendence”

Section B: Robert Bellah and the Evolution of Religion

Danna Hargett, “Religion’s Evolutionary Protection: Defining the upper bounds of biocultural evolution and the blunted impact of the Second Axial Age”


Section C: Hegel, Idealism, and Transcendence

Till Nessmann, “Hegel and the structural relation of material and ideal as the basis of transcendence”

Annette Langer-Pitschmann, “Constructing the Concept of Transcendence: Evolution and Transcendence in G. Kaufman’s Pragmatist Theology”

James McLachlan, “Hegelian Evolutions in America: August Willich, The St. Louis Hegelians, and George Holmes Howison”

3:30-4 pm Coffee break

4 – 6 pm Concurrent sessions

Section A: Social Evolution of the Person, Community, and Ethics

Oren Bader, “First there was a group: The priority of the group level in human evolution”

Robert Smid, “The Transcendence of Community: Emergence Theory, Language, and the Locus of Thought”

Don Viney, “Ethics, Evolution, and Dual Transcendence”

Section B: Michael Tomasello and Naturalizing Morality

Gary Slater, “Ethics without Bodies: The implications of mind uploading for human moral evolution”


Veenus J. Karamullil, “Transcendence at the Horizon of the Sciences of Man: A Test Case from the Natural History of Morality”
Section C:  The Vocation and Home of Philosophy: The Transcendence of the Philosopher’s Work and Place in an Uncertain Future

Randy Auxier, “Philosophy as the New Science: What the Public University Might Have Been”

Laura Mueller, “Education, Philosophy, and Morality: Virtue Philosophy in Kant”

Eli Kramer, “Farewell to the University: Transcending Professional Philosophy”

6.00 pm  Dinner

7.30 pm  Evening Lecture

Hans Joas (Audi AB)

Transcendence as Reflexive Sacredness: The Axial Age as Turning-Point in the History of Religion

Wednesday 20 June 2018

Plenary Lectures – Evolution

9 – 11:30 am

Volkhard Krech

Theory and Empirical Analysis of Religious Evolution. Preliminary Considerations on a Research Program

10:00-10:30 am

Coffee break

Georg Toepfer

Universal Connectedness and Human Uniqueness: Two Modes of Transcendence in Evolution

11.30-1.30 pm Lunch and Annual IARPT Board of Directors Meeting

Concurrent Sessions – Evolution

1:30 pm – 3:30 pm

Section A: Nikolaus and the Tradition of Philosophical Anthropology
Christian P. Stritzelberger, “Cracks in reality: How evolutionary anthropology can explain the necessary interrelation of immanence and transcendence”

Gabriele Aleandri, “Transcendence, secularization, and state of nature: An anthropogenic perspective”

Nikolaos Loukidelis, The Concept of Immanent Transcendence

Section B:  
Process Philosophy, Evolution, and Transcendence

Leslie A. Muray, “The Way We Tell Our Stories”

Roland Cazalis, “Feeling, Believing, Transforming: A Human Landscape of Transcendence”

Marjorie Suchocki, “Evolution and Three Modes of Transcendence”

Section C:  
F. LeRon Shults and the Evolution of Transcendence & Religion

F. LeRon Shults, “The Birth of Transcendence: A Computational Model”

Brandon Daniel-Hughes, “Transcending Inherited Signs of Transcendence: Religious Narratives after the Birth of God”


3:30-7:30  Free time for sightseeing (boat trip/museum/etc.) and dinner

7:30 pm  Evening Lecture

Henrike Moll (University of Southern California)  
Human-Unique Forms of Social Learning: The Case of Teaching

(Audi AB)

Thursday, 21. June 2018

Plenary Lectures – Challenging Religious Naturalism

9 – 11:30 am

Nancy Frankenberry

A Common Faith Today? American Religious Naturalism Since Dewey

10.00-10:30 am

Coffee break
Gesche Linde

A Religion of Science: Charles Peirce on Evolution, Metaphysics, and Theism

11:30-1:30 PM  Lunch

Concurrent Sessions – Challenging Religious Naturalism

1:30 am – 3:30 pm

Section A:  Charles S. Peirce and Semiotic Evolution

Rory Misiewicz, “Regressive Progression: How Peirce’s Triadic Account of Evolution Can Inform Cultural Narratives”

David Rohr, “Biosemiosis and the Synechistic Emergence of Mind from Matter”

Walter Gulick, “Understanding Understanding”

Section B:  Naturalism, Transcendence and Life in the Antropocene

Nicholas Aaron Friesner, “Perfectionist philosophy contra environmental philosophy: rectifying transcendance”

Thurman Todd Willison, “Personalism beyond Anthropocentrism”

William David Hart, “Atheism, Humanism, and Naturalism as nested relations”

3:30-6:00  Free time for sightseeing (boat trip, museums, etc.)

6.00-7.00 pm  Business meeting

7.00 pm  Conference Dinner:  Schnitzelei Mitte
           Chausseestrasse 8
           10115 Berlin