

Nov 30th - Dec 2nd
Online Conference

Breaking Boundaries in Theology

In Conversation with Roger Haight SJ

Wider critical engagement with the thought of renowned Roman Catholic theologian Roger Haight SJ seems long overdue, especially in Europe. This US-American Jesuit was honored recently with the prestigious John Courtney Murray award by the Catholic Theological Society of America (CTSA). Despite his prodigious volume of published work in print, Haight's theology has received, thus far, surprisingly little attention beyond the US.

This online international conference, conducted in English, will engage Haight and his theology at a critical time when the limits and limitations of (academic) theology are again being examined at several levels. The focus of such inquiries revolves around the question: Is it possible or even necessary to break some of the boundaries in theology, since "one of the deepest challenges to religious consciousness [is] its seeming irrelevance?" (Haight 2022).

The conference offers an introduction to key elements from Haight's extensive theological oeuvre, built up over 50 years. On three consecutive afternoons (CET) Haight will present papers on "Foundational Issues" (Nov. 30), "Creation and Spirituality" (Dec. 1), and "Religious Pluralism & Liberating Christology" (Dec. 2). Each paper is followed by responses from international scholars with various religious backgrounds. Following these responses, there will be the opportunity for short online public discussion and thereupon breakout room discussion for students only.

Please register via email no later than **Nov. 24, 2023**: [andrea.granitz\[at\]uni-graz.at](mailto:andrea.granitz@uni-graz.at)
Students who would like to participate in the breakout room discussion add the note "student".



For further questions, please contact: [andreas.telser\[at\]univie.ac.at](mailto:andreas.telser@univie.ac.at)



Roger Haight

“Theologians need to explore more fully the ways in which an open theology grounds a strong religious identity and a vital Christian spirituality. A critical understanding of how Christianity can be universally relevant and at the same time open to other religious experiences confirms rather than threatens one’s Christian identity. Our professed faith in precisely the God of Jesus should convince us that openness to other churches and other religions is a proper Christian spiritual attitude. New times and new theologies call for new forms of spirituality.”

(Haight 2008)

Picture: <https://berkeleycenter.georgetown.edu/people/roger-haight>

Thursday November 30th

[Central European Time]

Chair: Annette Langner-Pitschmann

15:00 - 15:15		Opening Remarks
15:15 - 15:45	Roger Haight	Foundational Issues
15:45 - 16:05	Susan Abraham, Berkeley	Response I
16:05 - 16:25	Jefferson Zeferino, Sao Paolo	Response II
16:25 - 17:00		Public Discussion
17:00 - 18:00	Zoom: Breakout Rooms	Student Discussions with Roger Haight and Responders

Friday December 1st

Chair: Sibylle Trawöger

15:00 - 15:30	Roger Haight	Creation and Spirituality
15:30 - 15:50	Jakob Deibl, Vienna	Response I
15:50 - 16:10	Florian Mittl, Graz	Response II
16:10 - 16:45		Public Discussion
17:00 - 18:00	Zoom: Breakout Rooms	Student Discussions with Roger Haight and Responders
19:30 - 21:00	Fireplace Conversation	Roger Haight and Andreas Telser

Saturday December 2nd

Chair: Sebastian Pittl

15:00 - 15:30	Roger Haight	Pluralism and Liberating Christology
15:30 - 15:50	Shadaab Rahemtulla, Edinburgh	Response I
15:50 - 16:10	Cornelia Dockter-Verscharen, Bonn	Response II
16:10 - 16:45		Public Discussion and Closing Remarks
17:00 - 18:00	Zoom: Breakout Rooms	Student Discussions with Roger Haight and Responders