



The Relevance of Kierkegaard's Thought for CATHOLIC THEOLOGY

Although he is not always recognized as such, Søren Kierkegaard has been an important ally for Catholic theologians since the early twentieth century. Moreover, properly understanding this relationship and its origins offers valuable resources and insights to contemporary Catholic theology. Of course, there are some negative preconceptions to overcome. Historically, some Catholic readers have been suspicious of Kierkegaard, viewing him as an irrational Protestant, irreconcilably at odds with Catholic thought. Nevertheless, the favorable mention of Kierkegaard in John Paul II's *Fides et Ratio* is an indication that Kierkegaard's writings are not so easily dismissed. This session investigates the fruitful alliance between Kierkegaard and Catholic studies by focusing on the Dane's resonances with major Catholic thinkers, and by addressing the potential resources in his writings for Catholic theologians since Vatican II.

Presiding: Helene Russell, Christian Theological Seminary

Panelists:

Joshua Furnal, *Radboud University Nijmegen*
'Kierkegaard's Catholic Reception and the Legacy of Vatican II'

Lee Barrett, *Lancaster Theological Seminary*
'Faith, Love, and the Natural Desire for God: Beyond the Protestant/Catholic Impasse'

Christopher Barnett, *Villanova University*
'Rest as *Unio Mystica*?': Kierkegaard, Augustine, and the Spiritual Life'

Respondent: C. Stephen Evans, *Baylor University*



Sponsored by: The Kierkegaard, Religion, and Culture Group
Saturday, 21 November 2015 from 1:00pm-3:30pm
HD Grand Salon A