



Collegium Spinozanum IV

4-7 July 2023

Venue: Academy Building, Heymanszaal, Broerstraat 5, 9712 CP Groningen

Everyone who will arrive earlier is warmly invited to welcoming drinks on **Monday 3.07.2023 starting 17:00** at **Mr. Mofongo** in the **Oude Boteringestraat 26, 9712 GJ Groningen**

Tuesday 4.07.2023

9:00 - **Lecture 1 Individuality and Human Body in the Ethics**

10:15 **Raphaële Andraut (ENS Lyon)**

Chair: Martin Lenz (RUG)

(lecture 9:00-9:45)

(discussion 9:45-10:15)

10:15 - Break (coffee, tea and biscuits)

10:30

10:30 - **Presentation Session I**

12:30 Infinity And Non-Existence: On Indeterminate Existence In Spinoza's Modal Metaphysics

Ryan Foster, KU Leuven

Spinoza on the process of imagination

Harmen Grootenhuis, University of Groningen

Empowering Ideas. The Affirmation of our Conatus in Spinoza's Ethics

Joas de Jong, University of Groningen

Can Spinoza help to substantiate ecological thought?

Fabio Carnevali, University of Bologna

13:00 - Lunch break

14:00

14:00 - **Presentation Session II**

16:30 Constructive Forms of Uncertainty in Spinoza's Theological Political Treatise

Alfonso Vergaray, Texas A&M International University

The Problem of Civil Religion in Spinoza's Tractatus Theologico-Politicus

Benedetta Catoni, Sapienza University of Rome

Spinoza and the nation. Reconstructing a theological-political tool

Thomas van Binsbergen, Vrije Universiteit Brussel

A fresh look on Spinoza's third kind of knowledge

Eva Wink, University of Oldenburg

What does Spinoza Understand by 'Attribute'?

Antonio Salgado Borge, University of St. Andrews

16:30 - Closing session (coffee, tea, biscuits)

17:00

Wednesday 5.07.2023

9:00 - **Lecture 2 Spinoza and 'Temporal' Modality**
10:15 **Yitzhak Melamed (Johns Hopkins University)**
Chair: Andrea Sangiacomo (RUG)
(lecture 9:00-9:45)
(discussion 9:45-10:15)

10:15 - Break (coffee, tea and biscuits)
10:30

10:30 - **Presentation Session III**
13:00 Spinoza's Mereology: Modes as Parts and Parts as Modes
Florian Vermeiren, KU Leuven
A One-Category Mereological Reconstruction of the Substance-Mode Relation in Spinozist Ontology
Ilgin Aksoy, Memorial University
Which temporal metrics for Spinoza?
Dario Zoppetti, University of Aberdeen
Cartesians and Spinozists between Germany and Holland: The question of method
Adi Eyal-Lautenschläger, Beit Berl Academic College
Spinoza on the Salvation of the Non-Philosopher
Hannah Laurens, University of St Andrews

13:00 - Lunch break
14:00 *Special theme: Postdocs for Spinoza scholars (Yitzhak)*

14:00 - **Presentation Session IV**
16:30 Spinoza and Phenomenology: An Experiment
Michael Strawser, University of Central Florida
Candidates for Spinoza's "Simplest Bodies"
David Harmon, University of St Andrews
Spinoza on the Common Standard Between Will and Motion
Ruben Noorloos, Central European University
Spinoza's dualities
Stefanos Regkas, University of Thessaloniki
Spinoza on the Natural Light
Jacob Zellmer, University of California, San Diego

16:30 - Closing session (coffee, tea and biscuits)
17:00

18:30 Dinner at [Het Feithuis](#) in [Martinikerhof 10, 9712 JG Groningen](#)

Thursday 6.07.2023

9:00 - **Lecture 3 Spinoza's Mysticism**
10:15 **Andrea Sangiacomo (RUG)**
Chair: Gábor Boros (Károli Gáspár University Budapest)
(lecture 9:00-9:45)
(discussion 9:45-10:15)

10:15 - Break (coffee, tea and biscuits)
10:30

10:30 - **Presentation Session V**
12:30 Toward a Spinozist Demonology: On Goethe's (and Blumenberg's) Mythical Recasting of Spinoza's Pantheism
Yutong Li, KU Leuven
Poisonous snake or rabid dog? – the development of Spinoza's notion of evil
Oliver Toth, University of Graz/University of Heidelberg
Spinoza's concept of evil
Sybrand Veeger, KU Leuven
Peace and war in the Tractatus politicus
Marie Sondard, Ecole Normale Supérieure (Ulm)

12:30 - Lunch break
13:30 *Special theme: Blogging philosophy (Martin)*

13:30 - **Presentation Session VI**
15:30 Idea or Essence? Young Spinoza's Problematic Theory of Soul
Liu Fengyuan, Utrecht University
Spinoza's Re-Thinking of Human Power
Josefine Klingspor, Yale University
Spinoza and the Politics of Sexual Desire
Julian Sheldon, University of Toronto
On Spinoza's "Definition" of Truth
Esteban Caro, University of Chile

15:30 - Closing session (coffee, tea and biscuits)
15:45

15:45 - Reading Group **Tantric nondual immanentism**
17:00 Chair: Andrea Sangiacomo (RUG)

Friday 7.07.2023

9:00 - **Lecture 4 On the hidden Spinoza connection in Ricœur, and what we can learn from it**
10:15 **about Spinoza**

Gábor Boros (Károli Gáspár University Budapest)

Chair: Raphaelle Andrault (ENS Lyon)

(lecture 9:00-9:45)

(discussion 9:45-10:15)

10:15 - Break (coffee, tea and biscuits)

10:30

10:30 - **Presentation Session VII**

12:30 Spinoza on the Illusion of the Free Will of Others and Overcoming the Passions

Christopher Kluz, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Shenzhen

That diamond of pure light. Maria Zambrano and Spinoza's poetic system

Ludovica Filieri, University of Verona

Spinoza on Jealousy

Pablo Montosa, University of Barcelona

The abyss and the horizon: the concept of actual infinity between Spinoza's Ethics and

Georg Cantor's Set Theory

Matteo Camerini, University of Bologna

12:30 - Lunch break and closing session

14:00

Recommended readings

Lecture 1

Adler, Jacob. 1996. "Spinoza's Physical Philosophy." *Archiv für Geschichte der Philosophie* 78/3: 253–276.

Andrault, Raphaële. 2019. "Spinoza's Missing Physiology", *Perspectives on Science*, 27 (2), p. 214-243.

Balibar, Etienne. 1997. "From Individuality to Transindividuality."

Lecture 2

Yitzhak Y. Melamed. "Spinoza and Crescas on Modality". Forthcoming in Yitzhak Y. Melamed and Samuel Newlands (eds.), *Modality: A History*. Oxford University Press.

Lecture 3 and Reading Group

§ On the ultimate goal, conceived *not* as full cessation of all experience, but rather as 'cosmic consciousness': Sri Aurobindo, *The Synthesis of Yoga*, ch. 15-16.

§ On the 'immanentist' (and idealist) non-dual understanding of the relation between finite and infinite: Ksemaraja, *The Hearth of Recognition*, sutras 1-2, with auto-commentary (optional reading: the commentary by Ch. Wallis).

§ On the role of 'good reasoning' as a powerful tool to induce the realization of 'identity' between finite and infinite: Abhinava Gupta, *Essence of Tantra*, chapter 4 (until p. 71, before the Sanskrit, the rest of the chapter is optional).

Lecture 4

J.-P. Changeux and P. Ricoeur: *What Makes Us Think? A Neuroscientist and a Philosopher Argue about Ethics, Human Nature, and the Brain*. Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press, 2000: **those pages on which the name of Spinoza occurs (cf. "Index")**

P. Ricoeur: "Religion, Atheism, and Faith", in P. Ricoeur: *The Conflict of Interpretations*, London: The Athlone Press, 1989, 440-467.