

46<sup>th</sup> International Symposium  
of Philosophy and Theology Professors

# TALKING ABOUT GOD TODAY

## PERSPECTIVES OF RELIGIOUS LANGUAGE IN CONTEMPORARY THEOLOGY AND PHILOSOPHY

**Trakošćan, 4 – 6 April 2024**  
Hotel Trakošćan  
Trakošćan 5, 42 253 Bednja



UNIVERSITY OF GRAZ  
Faculty of Catholic Theology



Univerza u Ljubljani  
Teološka fakulteta



**FOR MORE INFORMATION:**

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PERSPECTIVES OF RELIGIOUS LANGUAGE  
IN CONTEMPORARY THEOLOGY AND PHILOSOPHY

CATHOLIC FACULTY OF THEOLOGY  
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ZAGREB

FACULTY OF CATHOLIC THEOLOGY OF  
THE UNIVERSITY OF GRAZ

FACULTY OF THEOLOGY  
OF THE UNIVERSITY OF LJUBLJANA

CATHOLIC FACULTY OF THEOLOGY OF  
THE UNIVERSITY OF SARAJEVO

CATHOLIC FACULTY OF THEOLOGY  
IN ĐAKOVO OF THE JOSIP JURAJ  
STROSSMAYER UNIVERSITY IN OSIJEK

## INTRODUCTION TO THE TOPIC OF THE SYMPOSIUM

The 46<sup>th</sup> International Symposium of Philosophy and Theology Professors, organized this year by the Catholic Faculty of Theology of the University of Zagreb, in co-organization with the Catholic Theological Faculty of the University of Graz, the Faculty of Theology of the University of Ljubljana, the Catholic Faculty of Theology of the University of Sarajevo and the Catholic Faculty of Theology in Đakovo of the Josip Juraj Strossmayer University in Osijek, will take place in Hotel Trakošćan (near the Trakošćan Castle) from 4 to 6 April 2024.

The topic of this year's symposium is **Talking about God Today. Perspectives of Religious Language in Contemporary Theology and Philosophy.**

Since the beginning of Christianity, one of the central problems of theological and philosophical thought has undoubtedly been the problem of religious language: how to adequately talk about God? Humankind's earliest insights into the encounter with the Holy, which in themselves express "fascinans et tremendum", have culminated with different discourses, ideas, written testimonies, reli-

gious statements, and systems about the Holy, the Absolute, the Transcendent and God. As this is true on a general (religious) level, it is even more true when we think about the possibilities of expressing and talking about God from a Judeo-Christian perspective. Starting with the earliest insights into how the Holy Scriptures represented God's speech in the guise of human speech, the meeting of faith, the kerygma and Greek philosophy as the fundamental starting points of theology, through the negative theology of the church fathers, the analogical speech of medieval philosophers and theologians, and polemics revolving around the question of universals, all the way to contemporary issues regarding verification and falsification, Wittgenstein's language games, hermeneutic philosophy, the linguistic turn in philosophy, narrative theology, structuralism and post-structuralism, the question of the conditions allowing for the possibility of speaking about God turns out to be a permanent question of Christian theology and philosophy. In the contemporary contemplations of the idea of God and the related discourse, psychology and the issue of human consciousness increasingly take their place in philosophical and theological debates.

# PROGRAMME

## THURSDAY, 4 APRIL 2024

- 18:00** Arrival and accommodation of participants at Trakošćan Hotel, Trakošćan  
**19:00** Welcome Drink and Dinner

## FRIDAY, 5 APRIL 2024

- 9:00** **OPENING CEREMONY AND WELCOMING SPEECHES**
- 9:20 – 10:00** **How Does God Enter into Language?**  
(Branko Klun)
- 10:00 – 10:30** COFFEE BREAK
- 10:30 – 11:10** **Theological Problem of Religious Language**  
(Stjepan Kušar)
- 11:10 – 12:10** **DISCUSSION**
- 13:00** **LUNCH**  
Possibility to visit:  
*Trakošćan Castle (near the Hotel)*  
*Museum of Neanderthals in Krapina (approx. 30 min by car from the Hotel)*
- 17:00** COFFEE BREAK
- 17:30 – 17:45** **Speaking of the *Ineffable* as a Religious Act in Wittgenstein's Philosophy of Language**  
(Josip Jozić)
- 17:45 – 18:00** **Jesus' Parables in the Context of Natural Theology and the Analogy of Being**  
(Mario Bernadić)
- 18:00 – 18:15** **From Text to Context: Symbol, Myth and Metaphor in Understanding Theological Discourse**  
(Iva Mršić Felbar)
- 18:15 – 19:00** **DISCUSSION**
- 19:00** **DINNER**

# PROGRAMME

## SATURDAY, 6 APRIL 2024

- 9:00 – 9:15**    **The Problem of the Image of a Violent God in the Old Testament**  
(Božidar Mrakovčić)
- 9:15 – 9:30**    **Talking About God or Talking About Faith**  
(Mari Jože Osredkar)
- 9:30 – 9:45**    **Relationship with God as a Secure Base in Relational Psychotherapy**  
(Barbara Simonič)
- 9:45 – 10:00**    **Practical Theology in Front of the Challenges of Presenting the Reality of the Holy in Contemporary Culture**  
(Nikola Vranješ)
- 10:00 – 10:30**    **DISCUSSION**
- 10:30 – 10:50**    **COFFEE BREAK**
- 10:50 – 11:05**    **Rebuilding the Sacred Bonds: A Therapeutic Inquiry into God Discourse for Individuals with Complex Trauma in the Realm of Religious Psychology**  
(Sara Jerebić)
- 11:05 – 11:20**    **The Wounded Healer: Integrating Psychological Insights into the Christian Narrative**  
(Saša Poljak Lukek)
- 11:20 – 11:35**    **The Interplay Between Empathy, Religious Experience and Family Dynamics - Psychological, Neurological and Religious Aspects**  
(Tanja Valenta)
- 11:35 – 11:50**    **The Usefulness of Therapeutic Interventions in Pastoral Practice**  
(Drago Jerebić)
- 11:50 – 13:00**    **PLENARY DISCUSSION**
- 13:00**            **SYMPOSIUM CLOSING REMARKS**
- 13:20**            **LUNCH**  
Departure

## PROGRAMME COMMITTEE

- **Asst. Prof. Branko Murić**, Ph.D., Vice Dean for Science, Catholic Faculty of Theology, University of Zagreb, President
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Siniša Kolar, *Lux mundi*

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