

ROME GLOBAL GATEWAY



INTERNATIONAL
Rome Global Gateway

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE BIBLE AND THE QUR'AN EXPLAINED BY PROF. REYNOLDS



Gabriel Said Reynolds, Professor of Islamic Studies and Theology at Notre Dame, was the last lecturer of the year in the RGG Lecture Series. His lecture, titled *The Bible and the Qur'an*, was organized in co-sponsorship with the

Pontifical Institute for Arabic and Islamic (PISAI).

"In my recent address at the Rome Global Gateway I presented two aspects of the relationship between the Christian Bible and the Qur'an" says Prof. Reynolds. "First, I considered each scripture within the framework of theology. For Christians revelation begins with creation. Nature itself testifies to a good and powerful God. God, however, chose to reveal Himself more fully, first through the prophets and other holy men and women and then in the person of Jesus Christ. The Bible testifies to this revelation: it is the record of God's self-disclosure. Muslims agree that nature contains signs of God. The Qur'an emphasizes the way in which natural phenomena such as rain are gifts which God gives to humanity and for which humans should show gratitude. The words of God in the Qur'an – a scripture which Muslims see as an eternal book brought from heaven to earth – are also "signs" which point to God. Second, I discussed the literary relationship between the Bible and the Qur'an. That relationship is in many ways indirect. The Qur'an does not quote from the Bible, although it includes short Biblical turns of phrase. Moreover the Qur'an transforms Biblical narratives in order to advance its own doctrine. We saw this with the examples of Noah and Moses, both of whom are considered to be prophets in the Qur'an. Distinctive Qur'anic narratives involving each figure have them choose fidelity to God over fidelity to unbelieving family members and thereby teach a lesson with implications for the Islamic community."

In the Question and Answer session which followed the talk both Muslims and Christians raised questions regarding strategies of Qur'anic

interpretation in the Islamic world, and whether one can speak of Biblical "influence" on the Qur'anic text. Mr. Omar Al-Barazani, Iraqi ambassador to the Holy See, also gave a brief address on the importance of inter-religious dialogue in the world today.

DO ALL ROADS LEAD TO ROME? EUROPEAN DILEMMAS OF CITIZENSHIP AND MIGRATION



Maurizio Albahari, associate professor of Anthropology at Notre Dame, presented his work on migration in Europe and on the related changes in the meanings and practices

of active citizenship as part of the RGG Research in Progress annual seminar series.

Albahari, who is in residence at the American Academy in Rome as the inaugural University of Notre Dame RGG Affiliated Fellow, first illuminated the geopolitical, socio-economic, and cultural elements resulting in contemporary maritime migrations toward southern Europe and, in particular, Italy.

In the second part of the talk, Albahari discussed his work in progress, focusing on the civic response to what is a lethal state of affairs for Mediterranean migrations. This civic response, Albahari explained, materializes in the initiative of urban administrations who are leading their citizens in demanding more refugee resettlements into their own cities; in the effort of non-governmental associations, including the Community of Sant'Egidio, that are proactively resettling and assisting refugees in Italy; in the aesthetic vision of artists who, with their public work in coastal locations, are asking critical questions about border violence; and in the daily engagement of citizens, volunteers, and civil authorities who are working in Italian ports toward a dignified reception of newcomers.

Finally, Albahari emphasized the leading role of old and new

residents, including migrants, refugees, and their Italian-born children, in the transversal mobilization toward reimagining urban life, precisely at a historical juncture when urban coexistence seems to be most challenged.

ISABELLA CLOUGH MARINARO PRESENTS HER RESEARCH "MAFIA EXPANSIONS INTO ROME: MAPPING THE INVISIBLE"

On April 12, 2017 Dr. Isabella Clough Marinaro, Associate Professor of Italian Studies at John Cabot University, presented, as part of the annual RGG Research in Progress seminar series, the first part of a larger comparative study of how and why members of originally Southern Italian mafias migrate towards Rome.



She first provided contextual background, explaining that, although there has been much recent media attention to the evolving presence of organized criminal groups in the capital, strikingly little scholarly research has been

done on the migration strategies adopted and the historical and geographical trajectories that these have involved. She also discussed the methodological challenges of piecing together information about activities that are largely invisible and the problems of depending mainly on investigative and judicial materials. The talk then focused on the activities of three very different Camorra clans. Prof. Isabella Clough Marinaro mapped and compared the historical and geographical steps in their expansion from the Campania region since the 1980s, the legal and illegal economic opportunities they have exploited in Rome, and the social contexts within which they have become embedded, identifying external enablers and facilitators of this process. Drawing on recent Italian theoretical contributions to the study of criminal mobilities, the talk highlighted the agency and the internal organizational competences and resources that these groups have activated and adapted in order to successfully put down roots in the new urban environment.

The presentation was followed by a long question and answer session where some very helpful feedback emerged. In particular, questions focusing on media reports about criminal activities in Rome, as well as the possibility of estimating the financial impact of these groups and their place within broader patterns of globalization of crime, opened up interesting perspectives on the reliability and comparability of information in this very complex field.

STEPHEN M. METZGER AND HIS SHORT-TERM FELLOWSHIP AT THE RGG

Stephen M. Metzger, Ph.D., Astrik L. Gabriel Postdoctoral Fellow from the Medieval Institute of the University of Notre Dame, received a short term fellowship through the Rome Global Gateway to conduct his research in the city.

How did the RGG fellowship help you in your research?

"The short term fellowship at the Rome Global Gateway allowed me to

make a detailed codicological examination of a manuscript in the Vatican Library that contains all eighteen of Gerard of Abbeville (1220-1272) quodlibetal disputations. It is my hope that this examination will reveal important historical information that will answer the greatest conundrum for the scholar of Gerard's disputations: their order and date. The results of my investigation will be published in the Introduction to my projected critical edition of all of Gerard's disputations. In this way, I will bring to light not only the writings of a little studied, but significant, medieval thinker, but also provide important historical, philosophical, and theological contextualization for the life and writings of Thomas Aquinas."



What is your research about?

"In the early history of the University of Paris, a professor of theology was expected to be proficient in three areas: preaching, lecturing, and disputing. By the middle of the thirteenth century, a master made his reputation, and established his authority, through his performance in the university's public disputations.

The most important of these was a genre unique to Paris, the quodlibet, during which a master of theology could be asked question on any topic whatsoever. Only a handful of theologians routinely presided over such a test of intellectual dexterity and skill: Thomas Aquinas, Henry of Ghent, Godfrey of Fontaines, and Gerard of Abbeville, who held more of these debates than anyone else. Godfrey's and Thomas' quodlibetal disputations have been fully edited, and the edition of Henry's disputations is well underway. Gerard's disputations, with the exception of some isolated questions, have never received the scholarly attention they deserve."

RECONSIDERING DANTE AND BRUNETTO LATINI (AND BONO GIAMBONI)

On the afternoon of Thursday May, 18 and throughout the day on Friday May, 19 the RGG hosted an international workshop on Dante and Brunetto Latini and, more generally, the Florentine vernacular context at the end of the XIII century.



The seminar, sponsored by the Devers Program in Dante Studies, was the first step in sharing the results of the research project "Dante's Florentine Vernacular Culture, 1280-1301," that was initiated at the RGG in September 2015. The main aim of the workshop was to reconsider Dante's relationship to Brunetto less in light of Inferno XV as is normally done, and more in terms of

the earlier and evolving historical and textual contacts between Dante and Brunetto.

In this respect, an important aspect of the re-evaluation was the emphasis that the workshop placed on the Florentine cultural, social, and political context of the last twenty years of the thirteenth century— signalled by the inclusion of Bono Giamboni's name in the 'seminar' title.

The seminar was divided into three sessions. Participating scholars included Stefano Carrai (Pisa), Lino Pertile (Harvard), Enrico Malato (Naples), Giorgio Inglese (Rome), Pietro Beltrami (Pisa), Zyg Baranski (ND), Ted Cachey (ND) and Luca Lombardo (ND). The successful results of the workshop will be published in a collective volume expected by the end of 2019.

Student Life

A VERY BUSY SUMMER IN ROME



This summer we are happy to be hosting more than 160 undergraduate students from 6 programs. We are pleased to welcome back the Rome Summer Engineering Program, a six-week program for students in the School of Engineering, led by Prof. Bill

Goodwine and Prof. Davide Hill as well as the Notre Dame International Summer in Rome Program, a five-week program for students from all colleges, guided by Prof. David Hernandez and Fr. Diego Alonso, Professor of Theology at the Pontifical Gregorian University of Rome. Also hosted at the Rome Global Gateway, the Pre-college Program, a 12-day seminar that introduces students to the history and culture of the Eternal city, is specifically designed for rising high school seniors. In July the RGG will welcome the 2017 edition of the Gateway Seminar for incoming freshman, which will be led by Prof. Robert Norton and Prof. Maureen Dawson for incoming freshman.

We are also pleased to give hospitality to a small group of students and professors from the College of the Holy Cross (MA). Last but not least, for the first time the RGG is hosting a cohort of 14 students interns, working in a variety of organizations and institutions throughout the city.

RESEARCH, LIVE, STUDY AND INTERN IN ITALIAN: THE ROME INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARS

"My semester in Rome has been incredibly rewarding and unforgettable. The International Scholars program has provided me with opportunities that I could never have dreamed of" says Becket Salerno, an Economics and Classics Major who came to Rome with the Rome International Scholars Program.

"Taking classes in purely Italian environments at Roma Tre and LUISS gave me an unfiltered peek into Roman culture, not to mention the joy of studying

Italian art and economics in the environment that allowed me to experience them firsthand. Additionally, I had the wonderful opportunity to work with the storied Italian Encyclopedia Treccani. Beyond preparing me for further internships and jobs down the road, I was pushed to polish my Italian in order to fully understand the tasks at hand."



Becket lived with a Roman family during his stay in the eternal city: "Above the many great experiences in Italy this semester, the chance to live with an Italian family has been the most indelible.

While the food and Italian practice was great, the personal connections are what will last a lifetime. All of this involvement in the Roman community is owed to the diligent work of the RGG team--the connections that the gateway has put me in touch with and shared with me have been a crucial part of the immersion process. I could not have hoped for a better semester in Rome."

BROWN BAG ITALIAN LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

Survival Italian language and culture is offered at lunch time for the first time to students in the NDI Rome Summer program. The course, informal and tailored around the demanding



schedule of Summer students, provides a grounding in the basics of the Italian language, which the students can use or hear in their daily lives, while at the same time offering some cultural information to help them connect to the Italian life in which they are immersed.

The course is taught by Professor Anna Mauceri, who also teaches Italian Literature, Italian Language and Sociolinguistics at John Cabot University in Rome.

Faculty News

BARRY MCCREA ORGANIZES FIRST JOINT IRISH AND ROME SEMINAR; WINS FELLOWSHIPS TO WRITE SECOND NOVEL

Barry McCrea, Keough Family Professor of Irish Studies and Professor of English and Romance Languages, won a fellowship at Princeton University for writing his fourth book and second novel. He will be spending the Spring 2018 semester at Princeton, while his Fall 2017 semester will be divided between Rome and Monaco, where he has been appointed Irish writer in residence at the Princess Grace Irish Library. McCrea is also the Director of the first joint session of the Notre Dame Irish Seminar and Rome Seminar,

hosted at the RGG from June 16 to June 30, 2017.

The Irish-Italian seminar, with 30 graduate student participants from a variety of universities in Europe and the US, will bring together scholars, writers, poets, translators, and musicians from Ireland, Italy, the US, and elsewhere to explore the old and complex links between Ireland and Italy, including some of the following broad areas: Ireland and the Vatican; the early modern Irish presence in Italy; Joyce and Italy; Yeats and Ravenna; Yeats and Fascism; political and revolutionary thought in Ireland and Italy; the reception and translation of Irish literature in Italy; Italian themes in contemporary Irish literature; Ireland, Italy and the European Union.

The ND Irish Seminar has been held annually since 1999 and is the flagship event of Irish Studies at Notre Dame. The Annual Rome Seminar was founded in 2011 by Italian Studies at Notre Dame and has been hosted by the RGG since 2015. This is the first time the seminars have been held together.

Rome News at ND

WRIGHT'S 'DRAMA AND DEVOTION' BRINGS JAZZ TO CHURCH AT ROME'S HISTORIC CHIESA NUOVA

J.J. Wright, University of Notre Dame doctoral candidate in sacred music and Grammy award-winning composer, premiered his five-part composition "Drama and Devotion" on June 1 (Thursday) at Chiesa Nuova in Rome.

Wright's bold blend of contemporary jazz and traditional liturgical music developed through his research on the work of 17th-century composer Giovanni Anerio, who – 400 years ago at the very same church – similarly surprised and delighted crowds with secular riffs on sacred song. "Anerio lived and worked just after the Council of Trent, so the Catholic Church was prioritizing transparency and understanding in the life of faith," Wright said.

"It's not unlike our own time where a post-Vatican II Church is asking how we can make the experience of worship and liturgy present to people in their everyday lives."



The music of "Drama and Devotion" is organized around five biblical scenes, which are inspired by Easter Vigil Mass readings: Abraham and Isaac, the parable of the

Prodigal Son, the crucifixion, the resurrection and St. Paul's conversion on the road to Damascus.

Whereas Anerio popularized vespertino prayer services at Chiesa Nuova by infusing musical responses to Scripture readings with the madrigal tunes of his day, Wright's compositions introduce jazz improvisation as counterpoint to more traditional sacred music.

The Notre Dame Children's Choir brought this dialogue between past and present to life for Wright during the launch of "O, Emmanuel," his bestselling 2016 Advent and Christmas album that debuted at No. 1 on Billboard's Traditional Classical Albums chart.

"After rehearsing for so long, the kids had the memorized sacred portion down cold, but when we added the three-piece jazz improvisation around their singing, they just lit up," Wright said. "It was like they understood that the music could be different every time – that in being present to the moment, they could be creative with it."

Wright's artistic and scholarly path combining jazz and sacred music may have surprised him most of all.

"While I was raised Catholic, loved the music, and wanted to contribute something of my own to the Church, I ended up playing jazz exclusively through high school, college and in my time in the military with the Naval Academy Band," he said.

After graduating from New School and applying to graduate programs while working as a church music director to support his family, Wright assumed he would need to let go of jazz in order to pursue sacred music. Margot Fassler, Keough-Hesburgh Professor of Music History and Liturgy and director of the Sacred Music at Notre Dame program, relieved Wright of this notion when he arrived in her graduate class on liturgical prayer. Wright is the recipient of the Dominica and Frank Annesse Fellowship in Graduate Studies from Notre Dame's Nanovic Institute for European Studies in the Keough School of Global Affairs. "The Institute is excited to support a student so immersed in the global nature and history of the Catholic church that he is in a real position to contribute something new," said Anthony Monta, associate director of the Nanovic Institute.

The Chiesa Nuova premiere of "Drama and Devotion" is made possible through a partnership between Notre Dame's Rome Global Gateway and the Pontificio Istituto di Musica Sacra and will feature a combined chorus of students from both institutions, as well as the NYC-based jazz ensemble Endless Field.