



NEWSLETTER

February 2018

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

TWO NEW PHD FELLOWS IN THE ITN



We are happy to present two new members of the ESR team – both Italian: Sara Contini and Valeria Dessy. Sara will study *Origen and Bernard on Clairvaux* at the University of Reading under the guidance of Prof. Karla Pollmann. Follow this link to read more about her background and project:

<http://itn-humanfreedom.eu/news/nyhed/artikel/meet-our-new-phd-fellow/>



At Aarhus University, we have recruited Valeria Dessy who will be doing her studies on *Origen and the Protestant tradition* at with Prof. Anders-Christian Jacobsen as supervisor. You can find an introduction to Valeria and her project here:

<http://itn-humanfreedom.eu/news/nyhed/artikel/new-phd-fellow-at-itn/>

Daniel Cyranka has left the network, and his former ESR, Kristian Bunkenborg, continues his studies at WWU under the supervision of Alfons Fürst from March 15, 2018.

NEW PANEL AND CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

We are happy to announce that an ITN panel on Origen's Platonism – organized by two ESRs, Andrea Bianchi and Giovanni Tortoriello – has recently been accepted by the International Society for Neoplatonic Studies and will be held in Los Angeles between 13 and 16 June 2018. Everybody is welcome to attend, and the panel welcomes abstracts from scholars who want to contribute. The abstracts should concern Origen's theology and its relationship with Platonic philosophy in the Early Modern period, roughly 1500-1700. Read much more [in this announcement](#).



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation program under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie grant agreement No. 676258.

NEW WEBSITE FEATURE: ITN AUDIOS



Did you miss a conference? Do not worry. Thanks to the efforts of ESR Johannes Renders, we now have an ITN SoundCloud channel. Here, we post recording of papers presented by the ITN participants, and everybody can listen to them for free and when it fits in their schedule.

For our part, gives us the opportunity to reach more people and to get constructive feedback on our work. Currently, ca. 16 tracks are available – check them out [here](#), or read below for more information on the different topics.

NEW NEWSLETTER FORMAT

From now on, we will also be issuing our newsletters via our website. If you do not always have time to keep up with the news on our website and want to receive it directly in your mailbox, you can sign up for the newsletter here: www.itn-humanfreedom.eu/.

WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN THE NETWORK?

SECONDMENTS

By now, many of our ESRs have completed their secondments in different partner organizations and universities. These have proved a great success for the ESRs. They have learned new skills and have trained their old ones; they have gained a valuable fieldwork experience, learned a new organizational culture and have met many exciting people and widened their network – and much more.



One of our ESRs, Ilaria Scarponi, recently completed her secondment at the Charles University in Prague. “My stay in Prague is now over, as I have just returned to Reading, where I am based. I will carry out my research being now more experienced and able than when I left in November, thanks to the knowledge acquired during my stay in the beautiful Czech capital.” In [this report](#), she writes about all the experiences she had there before this happy conclusion of her secondment.

SEMINARS, COURSES AND CONFERENCES

It has been a busy period for our ITN participants. Below, you can read a summary of the many events that have taken place since the last newsletter and find links to audios of some of the numerous papers that have been presented during these events.





In September 2017, a group of ESRs had arranged a panel – "The History of Human Freedom and Dignity in Western Civilization: Considering the value of values" – at the **Ischia Festival of Philosophy**. On that occasion, the ESRs presented papers on topics that are central to the theme of the ITN:

- Lessing and the Tyranny of Reason: 18th-Century Discourses on Freedom (Kristian Bunkenborg)
- Differentiating Human Dignity from Recognition and Respect (Renze Klamer)
- Truth-telling Contra Perfectionist Liberalism: Muslim Parrhesiastes in Denmark (Johannes Renders)
- Is Moral Value in Human Nature Rational? (Joshua Roe)
- An Exposition of the Relevance of Innate Ideas in Anne Conway (Karen Felter)

[Find the audios here.](#)

On October 19, 2017, we had our **Midterm Review Meeting in Münster**. ESRs, supervisors and partners met up with our EU project officer and an external monitor. It was a fruitful meeting in all respects. The ESRs' papers revealed their progress and many important results, and their presentations, which followed a chronological order, also underlined the red thread and coherence in the ITN as a whole. The ESRs also talked with the project officer about their experience as ESRs, and the supervisors and the NC had the opportunity to discuss and learn more about all kinds of matters related to being part of an ITN consortium. Finally, the project officer and external monitor presented their evaluation of the ITN. It was a very positive one that confirmed that we are on the right track.



Immediately after the Midterm review meeting in October, many of the ITN participants as well as numerous external participants gathered for the ITN course **Origen's philosophy of freedom in early modern and modern times**, arranged by Prof. Alfons Fürst at WWU. Two ESRs – Andrea Bianchi and Elisa Bellucci – presented their research on Origen's philosophy of freedom in the 17th century. [In this post](#), you will find a brief introduction to their PhD projects and can listen to recording of their papers, entitled: Cambridge Platonists: The Bibliothèques of Jean Le Clerc (Bianchi), and Origenian, English and Kabbalistic influences in J.W.Petersen's apokastasis doctrine (Bellucci). Find the entire program of the course [via this link](#).



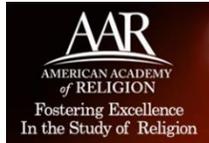
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Also in October, one of our associated researchers, Dr. Christian Hengstermann at the **Cambridge Centre for the Study of Platonism** hosted the 1st Colloquium Adamantium: Divine and Human Freedom – The Philosophical Significance of the Church Father Origen Each of these events revolve around the research of one pre-eminent Origen scholar. The first was Prof. Theo Kobusch, one of the ITN's advisors. Read [this report](#) to learn more of the event.



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PS. Did you know? The next Colloquium Adamantium will center on the work on Origen by the ITN's Network Coordinator, Anders-Christian Jacobsen: *Christ – The Teacher of Salvation*. Follow [this link](#) to find out the details.



As announced [in an earlier post](#), the ITN team was granted the opportunity to host five AAR seminars focusing on Origen and the Roots of Human Freedom and Human Dignity in the West. The Annual Meetings are hosted by the American Academy of Religion and Society of Biblical Literature and are the world's largest gathering of scholars interested in the study of religion. The ITN panel in 2017 took place at the **AAR Annual Meeting in Boston in November**. Many researchers joined the event and many interesting papers were presented. Three of them were recorded and posted on SoundCloud. These are:

- "It Is Precisely the World That Counts": From Origen to Balthasar (Elisa Zocchi)
- The Middle Way of Truth: The Role of Christ in Anne Conway's Trinitarianism (Karen Felter)
- Castration and Democratic Rights: Origen in Post-Apartheid South Africa ((Kristian Bunkenborg)

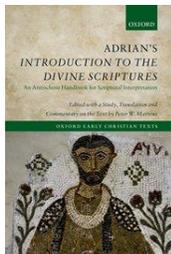
Read more about these ESRs' research and find the audios [in this post](#).

On 25th November, the second **Cambridge workshop "Theology and Philosophy in Origenism Old and New"** took place. Andrea Bianchi and Sara Contini joined the workshop and have shared their experiences with us: "We ESRs, as well as many other Origen scholars, are always excited by every occasion that presents itself for either listening to other's work on the Alexandrine or present our own projects or both. Cambridge was (once again), the location where we were offered one of these opportunities". Read the rest of the report [here](#).



2018 has also offered opportunities for meeting and sharing research on Origen and his great opponent, Augustine. In connection with the stays of visiting researchers from Argentina, Brazil and Chile working on Augustine and Origen, **Aarhus University hosted two seminars** in January and February 2018. The seminar in January focused on Augustine's anthropology, while Origen's theology and philosophy was the main focus of the February seminar. Both seminars included lectures from senior researchers as well as shorter presentations by PhD fellows and postdocs working on the topics.

NEW PUBLICATION



The ITN scientific advisory board member Peter W. Martens has very recently published a new book at Oxford University Press: *Adrian's Introduction to the Divine Scriptures - An Antiochene Handbook for Scriptural Interpretation*. It is the first critical edition and English translation of Adrian's Introduction to the Divine Scriptures and includes both the Greek text and an English translation with extensive commentary. You can read more [via this link](#).



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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

What (where)	Date and time	Confirm participation
ITN Network-wide seminar 2 (MLU, Halle)	February 25-March 1, 2018	Closed
PhD course: Human freedom and dignity in Palestine (CUNI, Dar al-Kalima College of Arts and Culture in Palestine)	April 15-20, 2018	Closed
Colloquium Adamantium II (Cambridge): The papers and discussions will revolve around the work on Origen by Prof. Anders Christian Jacobsen.	2nd June 2018	Not necessary
ISNS panel on Origen's Platonism (Los Angeles)	13 th -16th June 2018	Deadline will be announced here: https://isns2018.wordpress.com/registration/

Remember to keep us updated about news you would like to share. This includes anything related to the project's research, to Origen and to the theme of human freedom and dignity. We post news, events, publications and other matters related to our research theme on the project's website www.itn-humanfreedom.eu, on our social media profiles and in this newsletter. Send your news to bb@cas.au.dk.

