



University of Antwerp  
Ruusbroec Institute



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## MTN 2025 Mystical Entanglements Programme

Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> June

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|--------------|---|--|---|
| 9-10am       | Collection of Conference Packs and Coffee (AGORA)   |  |   |
| 10am-12 noon | <b>Opening and Keynote Addresses 1 (Ignatius Chapel)</b><br><b>Rob Faesen: “Relationality as the Core of John of Ruusbroec’s Mystical Theology”</b><br><b>Marc De Kesel: “Image as Gift: Preliminary Reflections on the Mystical Crack in Modern Art”</b><br>Moderator: Lieven De Maeyer  |  |   |
| 12noon-13pm  | LUNCH BREAK   |  |   |
| 13-14.30pm   | Parallel Sessions 1   |  |   |
|              | 1A (Ignatius Chapel)<br><b>Art and Language</b><br>Moderator: Patricia Stoop<br><br>Material Entanglements: The <i>Madonna Lactans</i> as Living, Relational Image<br><b>Lieke Smits</b><br><br>Sounding Heaven and Earth: Musical Iconography and the Interrelationship Between the Earthly Origin of <i>The Rothschild Canticles</i> and the Heavenly Destination it Unveils<br><b>Helen Orchard</b><br><br>Communities of Knowledge: Knowing, Being, and Thinking with Catherine of Siena and Teresa of Avila<br><b>Harri Hudspith</b> | 1B (Ruusbroec Library Reading Room)<br><b>Dharma: Interreligious Perspectives</b><br>Moderator: Louise Nelstrop<br><br>“The Whole of the Holy Life:” On the Particular Nature of Spiritual Friendship in the Dharma<br><b>Shodhin Geiman</b><br><br>Pilgrims on the Path of Love: The Mystical Sensibilities of Rabindranath Tagore and Kazi Nazrul Islam<br><b>Hina Khalid</b> (online)<br><br>The Dharma of the True Path: Islamic Mysticism in Western North India, 13th–15th Centuries<br><b>Imran Visram</b> (online) | 1C (Manresa Room, UCSIA)<br><b>The Modern Study of Mysticism</b><br>Moderator: Michael Hahn<br><br>Rediscovering Cistercian Mysticism in the Wake of Étienne Gilson<br><b>Ivan Broisson</b><br><br><i>In Memoriam:</i> Alois Maria Haas (1934–2025)<br><b>Giulia Meloni</b><br><br>Contemporary Approaches to the Study of Christian Spirituality<br><b>Rossano Zas Friz De Col, SJ</b> |
| 14.30-15pm   | COFFEE BREAK (AGORA)  |  |   |

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| 15-17pm    | Parallel Sessions 2  |   |  |
|            | <p>2A (Ignatius Chapel)<br/><b><i>Language and Subjectivity</i></b><br/>Moderator: Lieven De Maeyer</p> <p>Building Community around the Mystical “I”: Intersubjective Sociality in High Medieval Monastic Meditations and Courtly Love Songs<br/><b>Carlo Maria Zanetti</b></p> <p>Open the Closed Totality: Relational Selfhood in Hadewijch of Brabant<br/><b>David Albertson</b></p> <p>Agency and Audience of Mechthild of Magdeburg and Marguerite Porete, Or How to Establish Your Epistemic Authority as a Medieval Female Intellectual<br/><b>Tatiana Barkovskiy</b></p> <p>Mysticism and Private Language<br/><b>Rodrigo Castro Lima</b></p> | <p>2B (Ruusbroec Library Reading Room)<br/><b><i>Mysticism and the Political</i></b><br/>Moderator: Ohin Cheng</p> <p>Dorothee Sölle’s Common Mysticism<br/><b>Isak Tranvik</b></p> <p>Mystical Theology as a Counterproposal – the Challenge of the Christian Right<br/><b>Janet Smith</b></p> <p>“Mysticisme d’après nature”: Companions and Contexts of Salvador Dalí’s Mystical Realism<br/><b>Sergi Castella-Martinez</b></p> <p>Memory, Meaning and Self: The Politics of Memory and the Resilience of Afro-Brazilian Communities<br/><b>Sara Figueiredo Pôncio</b></p> | <p>2C (Manresa Room, UCSIA)<br/><b><i>Reading the Medieval Against the Contemporary</i></b><br/>Moderator: Michiel Vandenbroucke</p> <p>Performativity as an Axis of Mystical Experience and Pastoral Praxis in St. Bernard of Clairvaux<br/><b>Bernard Sawicki, OSB</b></p> <p>New Beguine Movements: The Contemplative Ethics of the Relational Self<br/><b>Noelia Molina</b></p> <p>Solidarity Beyond Time: Imagining a Mystical Community Across Centuries<br/><b>Cathie Lambert</b></p> |
| 17-17.30pm | BREAK  |   |  |
| 17.30-19pm | <p><b>Keynote Addresses 2 (Ignatius Chapel)</b></p> <p><b>Sondra Hausner: “The ‘Oceanic Feeling’ of Belonging to a Nation”</b></p> <p><b>Carol Marie Webster: “Blackness, Femininity, un/out classed/casted, and Mysticism: Revelation, Devotion, Performance - Entanglements and the Audacity of Presence and Be(-longing)”</b></p> <p>Moderator: John Arblaster</p>  |   |  |
| 19-22.30pm | CONFERENCE DINNER (UNIVERSITY CLUB)  |   |  |

## Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> June

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| 9-10.30am     | <b>Keynote Addresses 3 (Ignatius Chapel)</b><br><b>Jane Shaw: “Female Networks and the Twentieth-Century Revival and Making of Mysticism”</b><br><b>Amy Hollywood: “Novel Theology: Jane Eyre’s Psalmic Community”</b><br>Moderator: Michael Hahn   |   |   |
| 10.30-11am    | COFFEE BREAK (AGORA)  |   |   |
| 11am-12.30pm  | Parallel Sessions 3   |   |   |
|               | 3A (Ignatius Chapel)<br><b>Modern Women Studying Mysticism</b><br>Moderator: Amanda Langley<br><br>Romana Guarnieri (1913-2004) and the Rediscovery of Medieval Women Mystics in 20th-Century Italy<br><b>Francesca Barresi</b><br><br>Women Independent Scholars and the Study of Mysticism<br><b>Danielle Dubois</b><br><br>‘A much more living personality’: Evelyn Underhill and Lucy Menzies’ Reception of Angela of Foligno in the Early-Twentieth-Century<br><b>Michael Hahn</b> | 3B (Ruusbroec Library Reading Room)<br><b>Dignity, Detachment, and Delirium</b><br>Moderator: Louise Nelstrop<br><br>The Entangled Soul in Hildegard of Bingen<br><b>Kitty Bouwman</b><br><br>The Noble Man or Detachment as a Mystical Expression in Meister Eckhart (Spiritual Theology and Intertextual Analysis)<br><b>Sr Julian</b><br><br>“If We Are out of Our Mind, It Is for the Sake of God”: The Emergence of Holy Madness in Christian Mysticism<br><b>Wesley Hwang</b> | 3C (Saint James’ Church)<br><b>19<sup>th</sup> and Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Mystics</b><br>Moderator: Michiel Vandenbroucke<br><br>Mystic and the Transformation of Personal, Social and Supernatural Relationships: The Case of St. Faustina Kowalska<br><b>Izabela Rutkowska</b><br><br>Russian Mystics and the Relationality of the Self<br><b>Vladimir Hrabal</b><br><br>From Mystical Experience to Collective Revival: The Legacy of Hans Nielsen Hauge<br><b>Nikolas C. Brusletto</b> |
| 12.30-13.30pm | LUNCH BREAK   |   |   |
| 13.30-15pm    | Parallel Sessions 4   |   |   |
|               | 4A (Ignatius Chapel)<br><b>14<sup>th</sup>-Century Theological Anthropology</b><br>Moderator: John Arblaster  | 4B (Ruusbroec Library Reading Room)<br><b>Communities Across the Abrahamic Traditions</b>   | 4C (Saint James’ Church)<br><b>Therapeutic Approaches</b><br>Moderator: Lydia Shahan  |

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|            | <p>Ruusbroec's Mystical Anthropology of Communion<br/><b>Peter Puleo</b></p> <p>The Humility of Hanging in God: Ruusbroec on the Self's Summit (Apex) as the Possibility of Common Love<br/><b>Barrie Bliss</b></p> <p>Imagination as a Communal Technique of Interpreting the Incarnation in Julian's <i>Revelations</i><br/><b>Louise Nelstrop</b></p>                                   | <p>Moderator: Lieke Smits</p> <p>Intellectual Community and Social Networks in the Life of Muhyiddin Ibn 'Arabi (1165–1240)<br/><b>Jane Clark</b></p> <p>Divine Selves and Chosen Communities: Between Universalism and Particularism in 12th-13th-Century Andalusī Mysticism<br/><b>Michael Ebstein</b> (online)</p>  | <p>Friendship and Mystical Consciousness: A Feminist Approach<br/><b>Amy Maxey</b></p> <p>“Dr. Seuse”: Group Therapist <i>avant la lettre</i><br/><b>Philip Liston-Kraft</b></p> <p>A Psychoanalytical Perspective on the Relationality of Self and Absolute: Towards a Clinic of Mysticism<br/><b>Paulo H.C. Dias</b></p>  |
| 15-15.30pm | COFFEE BREAK (AGORA)   |  |   |
| 15.30-17pm | Parallel Sessions 5  |  |   |
|            | <p>5A (Ignatius Chapel)<br/><b>Medieval Mystical Hagiography</b><br/>Moderator: Michael Hahn</p> <p>Blood, Milk and Tears: The Construction of the Female Body in the hagiographical writing of James of Vitry and Thomas of Cantimpré<br/><b>Bo Davids</b></p> <p>Writing for the Community? The Purpose of Beatrice of Nazareth's Autobiography Reconsidered<br/><b>Kris Van Put</b></p> | <p>5B (Ruusbroec Library Reading Room)<br/><b>Modern Mystics</b><br/>Moderator: Louise Nelstrop</p> <p>Bridging Heaven and Earth: Relationality with the Divine and the World in the Mystical Writings of Thomas Merton<br/><b>Fady Ghattas</b></p> <p>Thomas Merton and Sufism's 'Solitude in Company' of the Illumined Divine 'Self'<br/><b>Jenny Miller</b></p> | <p>5C (Saint James' Church)<br/><b>Early Modern Mystics</b><br/>Moderator: Michiel Vandenbroucke</p> <p>The 'Heavenly Life' of Maria Petyt and her Fellow Sisters<br/><b>Esther van de Vate</b></p> <p>A Mystical Reading of Ignatius of Loyola's <i>Spiritual Exercises</i><br/><b>Edward Howells</b></p> <p>“O je ne suis!” Negativity and Self-Relationality in Madame Guyon's Inspired Mystical Writing<br/><b>Lieven De Maeyer</b></p> |



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|            | The Transhistorical Entanglement of Nature, Ecstasy, and Mysticism. An Exploration of the Mystical Culture of Liège (13-14th Century) and the Contemporary Art World<br><b>Sander Vloebergs</b>   |  |  |
| 17-17.30pm | BREAK   |  |  |
| 17.30-19pm | <b>Keynote Addresses 4 (Ignatius Chapel)</b><br><b>Barbara Newman: “Mystical Envy”</b><br><b>Minlib Dallh: “Christian &amp; Islamic Mystical Encounter: Jan van Ruusbroec (d. 1381) and ‘Aisha al -Ba’ uniyya (d. 1517)”</b><br>Moderator: Lydia Shahan |  |  |
| 19-20pm    | RECEPTION SPONSORED BY PRISM – PROGRAM IN THE STUDY OF MYSTICISM (AGORA)  |  |  |

## Friday 6<sup>th</sup> June

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| 9-10.30am     | <p><b>Keynote Addresses 5 (Ignatius Chapel)</b><br/> <b>Rachel Smith: “The Entanglements of Confession”</b><br/> <b>Delfi Nieto-Isabel: “Networking the Holy Spirit:</b><br/> <b>Na Prous Boneta and the Relational Legitimation of Mystical Visions and Martyrdom”</b><br/> Moderator: Amanda Langley</p>   |   |  |
| 10.30-11am    | COFFEE BREAK (AGORA)   |   |  |
| 11am-12.30pm  | Parallel Sessions 6  |   |  |
|               | <p>6A (Ignatius Chapel)<br/> <b><i>Mysticism and Consent I</i></b><br/> Moderator: Lydia Shahan</p> <p>Through Me into You - Intimacy as Intercarnation and a Trust Beyond Consent with Mechthild of Magdeburg and The Evangelical Pearl<br/> <b>Áron Levente</b></p> <p>Consensual Ecstasy: How do Consent and Non-Consent Shape Accounts of Mystical Experience, and their Utility for Spiritual Formation Today?<br/> <b>Molly Boot</b></p> | <p>6B (Ruusbroec Library Reading Room)<br/> <b><i>Mystagogy</i></b><br/> Moderator: John Arblaster</p> <p>There and Back Again. Hugh of St. Victor’s Return Journey in <i>De tribus diebus</i>: A Spiritual Responsibility to the Community<br/> <b>Marina Messeri</b></p> <p>Relationality and Community in the <i>Formula Novitiorum</i> of David of Augsburg<br/> <b>Dom Abbott</b></p> <p>Contemplative Apprenticeship: A Relational Model for pedagogy in the <i>Cloud of Unknowing</i><br/> <b>Becky Field</b> (online)</p> | <p>6C (Nottebohm Room, EHC)<br/> <b><i>Other Sisters</i></b><br/> Moderator: Michiel Vandenbroucke</p> <p>Trust me, you can trust Her: Constructing Identity and Authority in Hagiographical Texts<br/> <b>Amanda Langley</b></p> <p>Divine Whispers and Human Witnesses: Mystical Eavesdropping in the <i>Life and Revelations</i> of Agnes Blannbekin<br/> <b>Jarred Batchelor Hamilton</b></p> <p>The Making of the Collective Matter: Visionary Preaching and Ritual Knowledge in a Castilian Community of Franciscan Tertiaries (16<sup>th</sup> century)<br/> <b>Pablo Acosta-García</b></p> |
| 12.30-13.30pm | LUNCH BREAK  |   |  |

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| 13.30-15pm | Parallel Sessions 7  |   |   |
|            | <p>7A (Ignatius Chapel)<br/><b><i>Mysticism and Consent II</i></b><br/>Moderator: Lieke Smits</p> <p>Prostration: The Politics and Powers of Bending Over<br/><b>Louise Trueheart</b></p> <p>Canine Messengers, Arboreal Memories: A Dual Exploration of Non-Consensual Transformations in the Rhineland and Colombian Amazonas<br/><b>Monika Gabriela Dorniak &amp; Óscar Perdomo Ceballos</b></p> <p>Reality as Practice: ARIA (Algo-Rhythmic Ideation Assembly)<br/><b>Brandon Rosenbluth</b></p> | <p>7B (Ruusbroec Library Reading Room)<br/><b><i>Women and Their Books</i></b><br/>Moderator: Lydia Shahan</p> <p>Hadewijch's Books? A Comparative Analysis of the (Non-)Publication Strategies of the Beguine Mystics<br/><b>Veerle Fraeters</b></p> <p>An Entanglement of Learning and Social Restraints Reflected in Medieval Women's Mystical Prose: A Comparison with Women Writers in the Late Heian Period in Japan<br/><b>Fumiko Yoshikawa</b></p> <p>Originality and Handling of Sources in the Florilegium Ducam Eam, Leipzig UB, MS 827<br/><b>Ana Laura Forastieri (online)</b></p> | <p>7C (Nottebohm Room, EHC)<br/><b><i>Simone Weil</i></b><br/>Moderator: Dom Abbott</p> <p>"[T]o Make Breathing Itself a Sacrament": Simone Weil, Luce Irigaray, and the Mystical Poetics of Breathing<br/><b>Emily Griffiths</b></p> <p>Relationality and Autonomy: A Theological Exploration of the Mysticism of Simone Weil<br/><b>Arun Joseph</b></p> |
| 15-15.30pm | COFFEE BREAK (AGORA AND NOTTEBOHM ROOM)  |   |   |
| 15.30-17pm | Parallel Sessions 8  |   |   |
|            | <p>8A (Ignatius Chapel)<br/><b><i>Medieval Mystical Communities</i></b><br/>Moderator: Michiel Vandenbroucke</p> <p>The Lifelong Dialogue between Bernard of Clairvaux and William of Saint-Thierry on the Interpretation of the "Kiss" in the Song of Songs<br/><b>Ohin Cheng</b></p>   | <p>8B (Nottebohm Room, EHC)<br/><b><i>Ecological Mysticism</i></b><br/>Moderator: Amanda Langley</p> <p>Ecological Mysticism - Interspecies Entanglements<br/><b>Richard Kearney</b></p> <p>Mystical Pantheism<br/><b>James Morley</b></p>  |   |



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|            | <p>Two Helftas: Transformation of Communal Consciousness and Literary Production at Helfta<br/><b>Aedamar Kirrane</b></p> <p>Margery Kempe and Francesca Romana: Overlapping Networks of Influence in Rome<br/><b>Einat Klafter</b></p> | <p>Art Healing and Mysticism: From Wounds to Scars<br/><b>Sheila Ghallager</b></p> |
| 17.15-18pm | PRISM PRESENTATION (Ali Qadir), BOOK ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND CONFERENCE CLOSE (Nottebohm Room)   |  |