



University of Antwerp
Ruusbroec Institute



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MTN 2025 Mystical Entanglements Programme

Wednesday 4th June

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

15-17pm	Parallel Sessions 2		
	<p>2A (Ignatius Chapel) <i>Language and Subjectivity</i> Moderator: Lieven De Maeyer</p> <p>Building Community around the Mystical “I”: Intersubjective Sociality in High Medieval Monastic Meditations and Courtly Love Songs Carlo Maria Zanetti</p> <p>Open the Closed Totality: Relational Selfhood in Hadewijch of Brabant David Albertson</p> <p>Agency and Audience of Mechthild of Magdeburg and Marguerite Porete, Or How to Establish Your Epistemic Authority as a Medieval Female Intellectual Tatiana Barkovskiy</p> <p>Mysticism and Private Language Rodrigo Castro Lima</p>	<p>2B (Ruusbroec Library Reading Room) <i>Mysticism and the Political</i> Moderator: Ohin Cheng</p> <p>Dorothee Sölle’s Common Mysticism Isak Tranvik</p> <p>Mystical Theology as a Counterproposal – the Challenge of the Christian Right Janet Smith</p> <p>“Mysticisme d’après nature”: Companions and Contexts of Salvador Dalí’s Mystical Realism Sergi Castella-Martinez</p> <p>Memory, Meaning and Self: The Politics of Memory and the Resilience of Afro-Brazilian Communities Sara Figueiredo Pôncio</p>	<p>2C (Manresa Room, UCSIA) <i>Reading the Medieval Against the Contemporary</i> Moderator: Michiel Vandenbroucke</p> <p>Performativity as an Axis of Mystical Experience and Pastoral Praxis in St. Bernard of Clairvaux Bernard Sawicki, OSB</p> <p>New Beguine Movements: The Contemplative Ethics of the Relational Self Noelia Molina</p> <p>Solidarity Beyond Time: Imagining a Mystical Community Across Centuries Cathie Lambert</p> <p>The Transhistorical Entanglement of Nature, Ecstasy, and Mysticism. An Exploration of the Mystical Culture of Liège (13-14th Century) and the Contemporary Art World Sander Vloebergs</p>
17-17.30pm	BREAK		
17.30-19pm	<p>Keynote Addresses 2 (Ignatius Chapel)</p> <p>Sondra Hausner: “The ‘Oceanic Feeling’ of Belonging to a Nation”</p> <p>Carol Marie Webster: “Blackness, Femininity, un/out classed/casted, and Mysticism: Revelation, Devotion, Performance - Entanglements and the Audacity of Presence and Be(-longing)”</p> <p>Moderator: John Arblaster</p>		
19-22.30pm	CONFERENCE DINNER (UNIVERSITY CLUB)		

Thursday 5th June

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

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



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	Trust me, you can trust Her: Constructing Identity and Authority in Hagiographical Texts Amanda Langley	A Sustained Engagement with the Inner Void as a Path toward the Real: Between the Spiritual Conceptions of Gilberto Safra and Simone Weil João Pedro	
17-17.30pm	BREAK		
17.30-19pm	Keynote Addresses 4 (Ignatius Chapel) Barbara Newman: “Mystical Envy” Minlib Dallh: “Christian & Islamic Mystical Encounter: Jan van Ruusbroec (d. 1381) and ‘Aisha al -Ba’ uniyya (d. 1517)” Moderator: Lydia Shahan		
19-20pm	RECEPTION SPONSORED BY PRISM – PROGRAM IN THE STUDY OF MYSTICISM (AGORA)		

Friday 6th June

9-10.30am	<p>Keynote Addresses 5 (Ignatius Chapel) Rachel Smith: “The Entanglements of Confession” Delfi Nieto-Isabel: “Networking the Holy Spirit: Na Prous Boneta and the Relational Legitimation of Mystical Visions and Martyrdom” Moderator: Amanda Langley</p>		
10.30-11am	COFFEE BREAK (AGORA)		
11am-12.30pm	Parallel Sessions 6		
	<p>6A (Ignatius Chapel) <i>Mysticism and Consent I</i> Moderator: Lydia Shahan</p> <p>Fluid Selfhood and Relational Consent in Mechthild von Magdeburg’s <i>Ein vliessendes licht der gotheit</i> Hannah Victoria</p> <p>Through Me into You - Intimacy as Incarnation and a Trust Beyond Consent with Mechthild of Magdeburg and The Evangelical Pearl Áron Levente</p> <p>Consensual Ecstasy: How do Consent and Non-Consent Shape Accounts of Mystical Experience, and their Utility for Spiritual Formation Today? Molly Boot</p>	<p>6B (Ruusbroec Library Reading Room) <i>Simone Weil</i> Moderator: Dom Abbott</p> <p>“[T]o Make Breathing Itself a Sacrament”: Simone Weil, Luce Irigaray, and the Mystical Poetics of Breathing Emily Griffiths</p> <p>Relationality and Autonomy: A Theological Exploration of the Mysticism of Simone Weil Arun Joseph</p> <p>The Body, Relationships and Asceticism in Julian of Norwich and Simone Weil Richard Norton</p>	<p>6C (Nottebohm Room, EHC) <i>Other Sisters</i> Moderator: Michiel Vandenbroucke</p> <p>Divine Dialogue: The Philosophy of Prayer of Angela Foligno Gerann Chan</p> <p>Divine Whispers and Human Witnesses: Mystical Eavesdropping in the <i>Life and Revelations</i> of Agnes Blannbekin Jarred Batchelor Hamilton</p> <p>The Making of the Collective Matter: Visionary Preaching and Ritual Knowledge in a Castilian Community of Franciscan Tertiaries (16th century) Pablo Acosta-García</p>
12.30-13.30pm	LUNCH BREAK		

13.30-15pm	Parallel Sessions 7		
	<p>7A (Ignatius Chapel) <i>Mysticism and Consent II</i> Moderator: Lieke Smits</p> <p>Prostration: The Politics and Powers of Bending Over Louise Trueheart</p> <p>Canine Messengers, Arboreal Memories: A Dual Exploration of Non-Consensual Transformations in the Rhineland and Colombian Amazonas Monika Gabriela Dorniak & Óscar Perdomo Ceballos</p> <p>Reality as Practice: ARIA (Algo-Rhythmic Ideation Assembly) Brandon Rosenbluth</p>	<p>7B (Ruusbroec Library Reading Room) <i>Women and Their Books</i> Moderator: Patricia Stoop</p> <p>Hadewijch's Books? A Comparative Analysis of the (Non-)Publication Strategies of the Beguine Mystics Veerle Fraeters</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 Fumiko Yoshikawa</p> <p>Originality and Handling of Sources in the Florilegium Ducam Eam, Leipzig UB, MS 827 Ana Laura Forastieri (online)</p>	<p>7C (Nottebohm Room, EHC) <i>Mystagogy</i> 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 Marina Messeri</p> <p>Relationality and Community in the <i>Formula Novitiorum</i> of David of Augsburg Dom Abbott</p> <p>Contemplative Apprenticeship: A Relational Model for pedagogy in the <i>Cloud of Unknowing</i> Becky Field</p>
15-15.30pm	COFFEE BREAK (AGORA AND NOTTEBOHM ROOM)		
15.30-17pm	Parallel Sessions 8		
	<p>8A (Ignatius Chapel) <i>Medieval Mystical Communities</i> 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 Ohin Cheng</p>	<p>8B (Nottebohm Room, EHC) <i>Ecological Mysticism</i> Moderator: Amanda Langley</p> <p>Ecological Mysticism - Interspecies Entanglements Richard Kearney</p> <p>Mystical Pantheism James Morley</p>	



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