Join Radboud Summer School 2018!

Reading Mystical Texts

change perspective

Radboud University
Contrary to religion, which seems to have lost its self-evidence, spirituality and mysticism make a better press. In the writings of the mystics, many find what they miss in institutional religion. Yet, what the study of the mystical corpus all too often neglects is the surprisingly critical dimension of the mystical tradition. The close-readings of Ruusbroec, Hadewijch, Meister Eckhart, Fénelon, Simone Weil, and others will discover that neglected dimension.

The Radboud Summer School Reading Mystical Texts offers a promenade through some of the major mystical texts from the Christian tradition. Experts in that field explore in their reading the richness exemplified in the selected passages. One of their focuses is the critical dimension present in these mystical texts and the latter's potential for contemporary thought. In times when the Cartesian Ego was not yet fully established, it was already being 'deconstructed' in the writings of Teresa of Avila and John of the Cross. In the works of Meister Eckhart, Ruusbroec and Thomas a Kempis, the criticism of the emerging 'bourgeois' mentality was already an important aspect.

Not only is the mystical tradition inherently critical, it has itself become an important reference for contemporary cultural criticism as well. One of the basic texts in Christian mysticism, Pseudo-Dionysius' Celestial Hierarchies, lays bare the hidden fundamentals of Western political power, so the philosopher Giorgio Agamben argues. A number of other contemporary critical theologians and philosophers, such as Michel Foucault and John Caputo, are also inspired by writings from the mystical tradition.

**Entry level**
Master, PhD, Post-Doc and Professional

**For whom is this course designed**
Research master students or PhD students in the social or behavioural sciences (e.g., psychology, pedagogics, sociology, and educational sciences), marketing and communication sciences, medicine, or related fields. Regular master students or advanced bachelor students who have strong interest in or experience with peer relations research are also welcome.
After this course you are able to
• Read and analyze exemplary texts from the mystical tradition of western Christianity
• Detect the critical dimension in those texts
• See how the mystical texts conceal 'dispositives' and 'structures' at work in the non-religious (political/ethical/cultural) discourses of modernity,
• Understand the connection between the 'old' classic mystical argumentation and today's way of dealing with social and cultural challenges

Course leader
Prof. Dr. Peter Nissen, Professor of Spirituality Studies, Radboud University

Number of EC
2 ECTS credits

Admission documents
Motivation letter

Dates
Monday 13 August – Friday 17 August 2018

Course fee
€485

Discounts
• 10% discount for early bird applicants. The early bird deadline is 1 April 2018.
• 15% discount for students and PhD candidates from partner universities.
Want to be part of the RSS experience?

More than just a course!
Radboud Summer School is more than an academic event. It is a unique opportunity to meet other international students and researchers and to get to know Radboud University and the city of Nijmegen. Our participants come from all over the world and have different cultural and academic backgrounds. Our programme includes the following activities free of charge: welcome reception, guest lecture and farewell drink. We offer sports activities, a BBQ, a river cruise on a Pancake Boat and a city tour for a small fee.

Have a look at what participants have said about their experience!

You can find more details about the courses on our website

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Deadline application
1 June 2018

Register now!

www.ru.nl/radboudsummerschool, August 5-17 2018