

Thinking with Jean-Luc Nancy, An International Conference

On 28-30 March 2019, the University of Oxford's Balliol College hosted an international conference on the work of Jean-Luc Nancy, one of the most active and original philosophical voices of contemporary France. Co-hosted by the Maison Française d'Oxford and the Taylorian Institute, this conference sought to celebrate the work of Jean-Luc Nancy and to provide a platform for the discussion of current work on Nancy's *œuvre* in terms of how it allows us to bring into view contemporary challenges, whether these are intellectual, cultural, political, or religious. We were pleased to welcome Jean-Luc Nancy himself and Professor Emmanuel Falque (Institut Catholique de Paris), who both kindly agreed to deliver keynote lectures, respectively entitled 'Un avenir sans passé ni futur' and 'Spread Body and Exposed Body: A Dialogue with Jean-Luc Nancy', as well as nine plenary speakers who are all prominent voices in Nancy-scholarship – Christopher Watkin (Monash University), Ian James (University of Cambridge), Aukje van Rooden (University of Amsterdam), Peter Gratton (Southeastern University of Louisiana), Gert-Jan van der Heiden (Radboud University), Joeri Schrijvers (Independent Scholar), John McKeane (University of Reading), Irving Goh (National University of Singapore), and Leslie Hill (Warwick University). Rarely had so many scholars of Nancy's work been in a room together within the English-speaking world. Additionally, this conference stemmed from the urgent need to bring young scholars of Nancy's work, especially post-graduate students, in contact with more established ones, and thus to provide them with the opportunity to receive meaningful feedback on their work. Over the course of the two days and a half of the conference, thirty-five early-career researchers from over nineteen different countries (from France to Australia, Singapore and Finland, South Africa and India, Canada and Japan), presented papers as part of parallel panels on topics ranging from 'Theological Themes' and 'Artistic Expressions', to reflections on 'The Body', 'Poetics', and 'The (Moving) Image'. Apart from presentations in panels and plenary sessions, Eduardo Jorge de Oliveira (University of Zürich) gave a lecture accompanying a screening of his film *La Joie qui vient*. A special issue based on the contributions of the keynote and plenary speakers will be published by *Angelaki: Journal of the Theoretical Humanities* in 2021. It will also be republished as an edited volume from Routledge six months later. Funding was generously provided by the Society for French Studies, the University of Oxford's Faculty of Theology and Religion, the Association for the Study of Modern and Contemporary France, and the Balliol Interdisciplinary Institute.

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