

July 3-7, 2024

Thirteenth Century Debates on Human Freedom

A Summer Seminar
for faculty, advanced undergraduate students,
graduate students and postdocs
in philosophy, theology, history and related disciplines

Prof. Bernhard Blankenhorn, OP (University of Fribourg)

Prof. Tobias Hoffmann (Sorbonne, Paris)

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Principal Organizer

Institutum Studiorum Dominicanorum, University of Fribourg

Main Co-Sponsors

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Thomistic Institute, Washington, D.C.

Thirteenth Century philosophers and theologians intensely debated the nature of human freedom, and their insights had an immense impact on competing modern conceptions of human liberty and autonomy. What conditions human willing, and how does it relate to reason, or to divine grace? To what extent does our willing depend on what we consider good or bad? Can God act directly on the will, and if so, are we still free?

An ideal way to engage such questions is from a historical and interdisciplinary perspective, both philosophical and theological. This summer seminar will walk advanced undergraduate students, graduate students, postdocs and junior faculty of various disciplines with a serious interest in medieval thought through classic texts by three of the most influential medieval thinkers: Thomas Aquinas, Henry of Ghent and John Duns Scotus.



Conference events, including lunch and dinner each day, will be held in private areas of the magnificent St. Emmeram Palace, residence of the princely Thurn und Taxis family, thanks to their generous hospitality for this event. Lodging and breakfast for participants will be provided in the comfortable rooms of the nearby diocesan seminary (a short walk from the Palace).

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Information and Registration

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