

Catholic Studies Newsletter

Department of Religious Studies

Spring 2013

Keeping you up to date on our graduate students, the Tipton Visiting Professor, and the Catholic Studies lectures, conferences, and events here at UCSB.



Greetings from the Chair

Ann Taves, Cordano Professor of Catholic Studies

Dear Friends of Catholic Studies at UCSB,

We are pleased to bring you the third issue of our Catholic Studies Newsletter to update you on some of the things that have been going on here at UCSB and generally showcase the flourishing state of Catholic Studies at UCSB. In the pages that follow you can read about this year's student planned Catholic Studies conference –“Personhood, Place, and Possession” – and the visit of anthropologist Thomas Csordas, this year's Tipton Distinguished Visitor in Catholic Studies, plus updates on activities of both faculty and students. In that regard, we are particularly proud to announce that Brad Onishi was invited to give a lecture at the Institut Catholique in Paris this spring and that Rico Monge has accepted a position in theology at the University of San Diego. Both are finishing up their dissertations under the supervision of Professor Thomas Carlson. On a more personal note, I would add that this has been a particularly exciting year in which to teach my lower division course, “Global Catholicism Today.” Students in the course not only learn about how this global institution works, but also follow Catholic news as it breaks and affects the church in different parts of the world. With the papal transition, this year we have had plenty of news to keep us busy!

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Commemorating the 50th Anniversary of Vatican II

The Second Vatican Council was one of the most significant and far-reaching events for the Catholic Church in the modern world. UCSB Catholic Studies took some time to reflect on the memory, implications, and various interpretations of the council during the last fifty years.

Massimo Faggioli, Assistant Professor in the Theology Department at the University of St. Thomas (St. Paul, MN) and a leading expert on Vatican II, came to Santa Barbara this month to discuss the council and how its meaning and implications are still being interpreted after five decades. On May 19 at the Santa Barbara Mission, Faggioli discussed the uncertainty and future for the Vatican in his lecture "Vatican II: The Battle for Meaning." He also gave a lecture to undergraduates at UCSB, and he met with Catholic Studies graduate students to discuss the challenges of studying newly authoritative texts in religious traditions. Faggioli is the author of *Vatican II: The Battle for Meaning* and *True Reform: Liturgy and Ecclesiology in Sacrosanctum Concilium*.



In February, Bishop Remi De Roo re-examined some of the achievements of the council and explored the meanings for today's church and world in his talk at the Santa Barbara Mission. Bishop De Roo actively participated in all four sessions of the council and now at 88 years old, he continues to travel around the world giving lectures on Vatican II. His 2002 book "Biblical Characters and the Enneagram: Images of Transformation," co-authored with Diane Tolomeo and Pearl Gervais, is one attempt to put into practice some of the renewed orientations proposed by the Second Vatican Council.



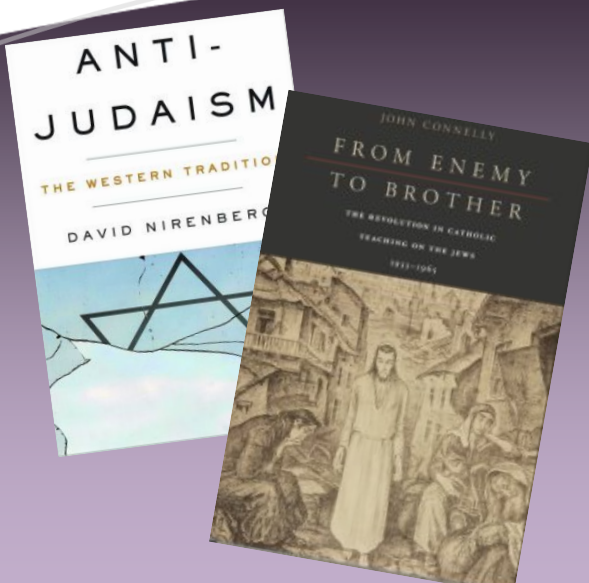
News Release on the Election of the New Pope

With the election of Jorge Mario Bergoglio as the new leader of the Catholic Church, Pope Francis I became the first pontiff from Latin America, the first from the Jesuit order, and the first to choose the name Francis.

Catholic Studies professors Ann Taves and Stefania Tutino weighed in, providing historical context and discussing what this might mean for the future of the Catholic Church. You can read the full [press release here](#).

Jews, Catholics, and the Second Vatican Council

This event featured a dialogue between John Connelly, author of *From Enemy to Brother: The Revolution in Catholic Teaching on the Jews, 1933-1965*, and David Nirenberg, author of *Anti-Judaism: The Western Tradition*. In addition to exploring the character of medieval anti-Judaism and the historical changes within Catholic Christianity prior to the mid-twentieth century, Connelly and Nirenberg discussed the significance of Vatican II and its impact on Catholic and Jewish relations to the present. John Connelly is professor of history at the University of California, Berkeley and David Nirenberg is Distinguished Professor of Medieval History and Social Thought at The University of Chicago.



Graduate Student Conference 2013: Personhood, Possession, and Place

This conference explores the social, cognitive, philosophical, and religious dynamics of personhood. Participants will explore alterations of subjectivity, altered states of embodiment and emplacement, and cross-disciplinary theories of transient selves. Research will be presented on topics that touch upon the ways in which people understand personhood and the possibilities of its creation, transformation, and loss.



Catholic Studies will once again be hosting its annual graduate student conference at UCSB at the end of May on the 28th and 29th. The theme for this year is *Personhood, Possession and Place: Embodiment and Emplacement in Special Contexts*. We are proud to be hosting a wide array of faculty and graduate students from across the country and around the world, coming from universities including Princeton, Harvard, Emory, Rutgers and the University of São Paulo. Papers will be given from scholars in disciplines such as medical anthropology, theology, philosophy, literature and religious studies, and among the many topics to be addressed are the following: philosophical inquiries on the Incarnation, the religious dimensions of an annual protest of migrant deaths along the U.S.-Mexico border, and Augustinian notions of memory and the self.

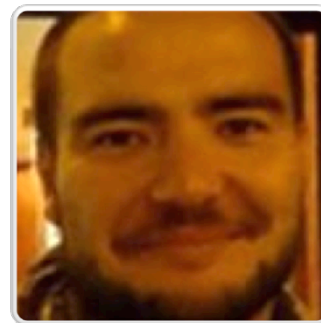
The highlight of the conference will be three Keynote Addresses from distinguished scholars. Tanya Lurhmann, Professor of Anthropology at Stanford, will be giving a paper on "Hearing Voices." Lurhmann has received scholarly acclaim and wide attention in the media for her 2011 book *When God Talks Back* which addresses practices of prayer, including a fascinating look

at the various uses of the *Spiritual Exercises* of St. Ignatius of Loyola. The J.E. and Lillian Byrne Tipton Distinguished Visiting Professor in Catholic Studies at UCSB for spring 2013, Thomas Csordas, will be giving a paper entitled "Something Other Than Its Own Mass: Corporality, Animality, Materiality." Csordas is Professor of Anthropology at UC San Diego, and in addition to his previous work on Charismatic Catholics has been engaged in an ongoing comparative study of the Roman Catholic Rite of Exorcism in the United States and Italy. David Hershenov, the chair of the philosophy department at the University at Buffalo who works on metaphysics, bioethics, and religion, especially as related to identity, will be giving a presentation entitled "Is the Soul the Sole Solution?"

The 2013 conference has been made possible by its graduate student organizers, Michael Kinsella, Garrett Baer, Philip Deslippe, Nathan Fredrickson, Jennifer Hahn, Keith A. Hess, and Chris Morales, the help of Professor Ann Taves, and the sponsorship of the Virgil Cordano Endowment in Catholic Studies in the Religious Studies Department.

By Philip R. Deslippe

Forging Global Connections: Brad Onishi



During the 2011-2012 academic year Brad was the first American resident at the Séminaire de Carmes on the grounds of L'Institut catholique de Paris. During that time, he worked closely with professor Emmanuel Falque, Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy, and attended seminars with Jean-Luc Marion and other faculty. At the end of the academic year, he was awarded a *licence* in philosophy, with distinction, from L'Institut Catholique.

Through the connections he made during this time in Paris, Brad helped to organize an international conference in Dublin on medieval mystical theology. This summer, he will begin co-editing the proceedings from the conference for publication. In April Brad returned to Paris to give an invited lecture on the reception of French philosophy in America during the last 30 years as part of the honorary doctorate ceremony for Professor Kevin Hart.

Brad was first able to make a connection with Professor Falque and L'Institut Catholique through a two-day conference generously funded by Catholic Studies and the Cordano foundation. He is grateful that it has given him the chance to receive a degree from a French university, make numerous connections with European scholars in his field, and give papers at international conferences, and co-translate a book.



By Rafael Gamboa

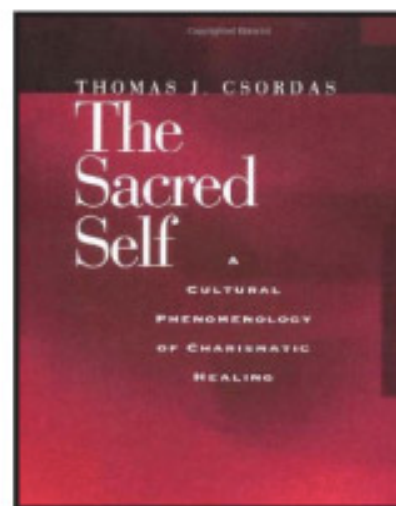
THOMAS CSORDAS

Tipton Distinguished Visiting Professor in Catholic Studies for Spring 2013

Professor Csordas is visiting us from the Anthropology Department at the University of California, San Diego. He has conducted research with Charismatic Catholics, Navajo Indians, and adolescents in the American Southwest on topics including therapeutic process in religious healing, self-transformation, and the experience of psychiatric inpatients.

On May 1 he delivered a lecture entitled “Hammering the Devil with Prayer: The Contemporary Resurgence of Exorcism in the Catholic Church,” which is based on his current comparative study of the Roman Catholic Rite of Exorcism in the United States and Italy. A resurgence in the performance of the exorcism rite began in 2004 when Pope John Paul II ordered that every diocese should have an officially appointed exorcist, and has since gathered momentum. Csordas’s research is an effort to understand this development on the level of therapeutic process in terms of how it may genuinely relieve affliction, and on the level of culture as a conservative discourse on evil at large in the contemporary world. He recently spent a week in Rome at a clerical conference on exorcism, to which he was one of only a few lay people invited.

He is currently teaching an undergraduate course as well as a graduate seminar on the anthropology of religion. He will also give one of the keynote talks at the Graduate Student Conference on Personhood, Possession and Place.



The J.E. & Lillian Byrne Tipton Distinguished Visiting Professorship in Catholic Studies enables the Department of Religious Studies to bring outstanding scholars and public figures to UCSB for a quarter or longer to teach, present public lectures, and conduct research.

Congratulations to Rico Monge on his tenure-track position at the University of San Diego

Rico Monge, a PhD candidate in Religious Studies at UCSB, has been appointed Assistant Professor of Comparative Theology at the University of San Diego, an independent Roman Catholic university. Joining the Department of Theology and Religious Studies, he will be teaching "The Problem of God" this fall, and introducing a new course in comparative/interreligious theology to the USD curriculum in the Spring. Rico has been active in Catholic Studies at UCSB, co-organizing the Cordano sponsored conference, "Medieval Voices and Postmodern Theory," and co-founding the Catholic Studies Group at AAR's Western Region. An ordained deacon in the Eastern Orthodox Church, he has also been active in Catholic-Orthodox dialogue. We wish Rico all the best, and we look forward to following what is sure to be an exciting career!



First Catholic Studies Unit at AAR-WR Created and Chaired by UCSB Graduate Students

The first year for the Roman Catholic Studies Unit at the Western Regional Meeting of the American Academy of Religion was a great success. This Unit was created and chaired by UCSB's Lauren Horn Griffin and UCSB Graduate Rico Monge (now at Univ. of San Diego). In keeping with the overall conference theme, Religion in Public Life, we invited papers that would explore the dynamic relationships between Catholicism and public affairs, especially papers that focus on the role of Catholicism or

Catholics in political processes, public institutions, the media, or other public expressions of religion in the U.S. and around the globe. The first panel of the Catholic Studies Unit, "Faith, Rights, and Regulation in Latin American Catholicism," was the highest-attended session of the conference that day. It was followed by a spirited discussion of Catholic identity and traditions in Bolivia, Nicaragua, and the Mexican-American border. The second of our two panels, "Catholics, Public Discourse, and the Media," included panelists from the University of Nevada Las Vegas, UC Davis, and the

University of Torino in Italy. This group allowed us to examine Catholicism and the media in various historical and geographical contexts, from eighteenth-century America to contemporary Italy. We were very pleased to be welcomed so warmly by the AAR-WR community, and though we are thrilled that our first year's panels were such a sensation, we are already looking forward to our panels at next year's conference. We want to extend a big thank you to the UCSB Catholic Studies Program for their support in this endeavor.

by Lauren Horn Griffin

OUR CURRENT CORDANO FELLOWS



This quarter, Rafael Gamboa has been finishing his master's thesis, "Lived Catholicism in Alta California among the gente de razon: 1810-1850's" in which he demonstrates the structure and practices of a civil religion in Alta California. He does this by illustrating the prevalence of popular Catholic practices that have long been present in other Catholic traditions, such as public processions and communal household prayers. He also demonstrates how this civil religious structure was made up of other practices that we usually would not see as religious, like artillery salutes, bullfights, and late night social dances. This work has led him to begin developing a dissertation project that seeks to understand the history and popularity of combat sports, like boxing and mixed martial arts (even illegal combat, like cockfights), among many Latino Catholics.

After advancing to candidacy last year, Lauren Horn Griffin is currently working on her dissertation entitled "The Battle for Bede: Sacred History and Religious Identity in Early Modern England," in which she looks at Catholic communities after the Reformation in England to address questions about how our confessional, regional, and national identities overlap or, better yet, stand in tension. She has received a Huntington-Oxford Fellowship to study in England next year as well as a two-month fellowship to work in the archives of the Clark



Library at UCLA. She has received travel grants to present her work on this project at the national meetings of the American Academy of Religion and the American Catholic Historical Association as well as an international conference on Historiography of Religion by the European Science Foundation. She served as our Department's Lead Teaching Assistant this year, and she will be teaching our Catholic Studies Associate's course this fall, *Mary Through the Ages in Text and Tradition*, which will explore the many variations of Mary in different times and places and will consider a variety of questions surrounding the stories of her appearances and the material culture associated with them.



Finally, we are pleased to introduce our most recent Cordano Fellow, Kolby Knight. Kolby will be joining us this fall, having completed his Master of Divinity from Wake Forest Divinity School. He is interested in nineteenth-century Catholicism in the United States, focusing particularly on Catholic converts and their conversion experiences.