

SIMAGINE

Social Imaginaries between Secularity and Religion
in a Globalizing World

Re-Imagining the Human

A Conference with Richard Kearney

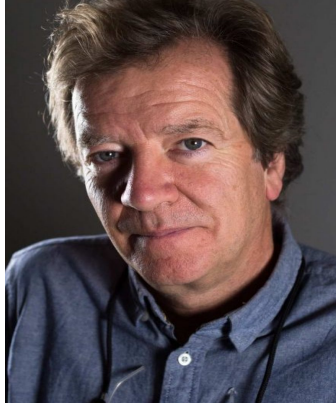
11th January 2022

University of Humanistic Studies, Utrecht

‘God is a shout in the street’. This remarkable image of God is discussed by Simon Critchley and Richard Kearney in the latter’s book *Re-Imagining the Sacred* (2015): a series of philosophical conversations. With Critchley, and with other influential thinkers on the meaning of religion in the secular age, like Charles Taylor, Catherine Keller and Gianni Vattimo, Kearney explores the possibility of a ‘faith of the faithless’. Although many people do not believe in an existing God anymore, *images and imaginations* of God still have a great impact on our culture.

Are we ‘returning to God after God’, as Kearney suggests in an earlier book, *Anatheism* (2012)? And if so, what does that imply for our imaginations of the human, of ourselves? How could a re-imagining of the sacred connect with a re-imagining of the human?

In 'Re-Imagining the Human', a seminar at the University of Humanistic Studies, and in a public lecture with the same title, Kearney will share these questions with us.



The Irish philosopher Richard Kearney is Charles Seelig professor in philosophy at Boston College, USA. Being a leading theorist on imagination and narrativity, Kearney's work is inspired by numerous continental thinkers, like Paul Ricoeur and Jacques Derrida. He locates his studies in hermeneutics, phenomenology and deconstruction. His first major publication was *The Wake of Imagination* (1988), in which he investigates the history of imagination from Judaism and Antiquity to late modernity with its emerging visual culture.

The conference is organized by the University of Humanistic Studies, Utrecht (UvH), in collaboration with the ArtEZ Art Academy, Zwolle, the Thomas More Foundation, and the international research consortium Simagine.

For the programme, see below, or

<https://voormeervrijzinnigheid.nl/2021/11/22/re-imagining-the-human/>

* * *

Programme

11th January 2022

10.00 – 17.00

Seminar

Re-Imagining the Human

*Richard Kearney responds to interventions and questions
by staff members, postdoc-and PhD-researchers and students
from UvH, ArtEZ and Simagine
Chair: Laurens ten Kate*

Morning session: 10.00 – 12.30

Opening by Joke van Saane,
rector magnificus of the University of Humanistic Studies

Interventions by Merel Visse, Hans Alma, Peter Sonderen

Afternoon session: 14.00 – 17.00

Interventions by Rodante van der Waal, Bram van Bortel, Wilhelm Weitkamp

Location:

**University of Humanistic Studies
Kromme Nieuwegracht 29, Utrecht
Room 1.33**

Participation is free but there is a limited capacity

Please register to Laurens ten Kate: ltk@uvh.nl

English spoken

11th January 2022

20.00 – 22.00

Public Lecture by Richard Kearney

Re-Imagining the Human

*Response by Erik Borgman,
professor of public theology at the Tilburg University*

Location:

Instituto Cervantes

Domplein 3, Utrecht

Participation: € 10.-

Please register here:

<https://bit.ly/30tyTq0>

*The public lecture can be attended in person or via a live streaming
English spoken*