

METAMORPHOSES of Christianity in literature, art and philosophy

Willie van der Merwe and Laurens ten Kate invite you to the fourteenth Metamorphoses seminar:

THE EXSISTANCE OF GOD: ON THE VERY IDEA OF RADICAL THEOLOGY

A Symposium with and on John D. Caputo



Speaker: John D. Caputo (philosopher/theologian)

Date: Friday October 27, 2017

Time: 13.30-17.45 hrs

Venue: Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Main Building,
PthU Filmzaal

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This symposium is the fourteenth in a series of seminars as part of the project Metamorphoses of Christianity. John D. Caputo is the Thomas J. Watson Professor of Religion Emeritus (Syracuse University), where he taught from 2004-11, and the David R. Cook Professor of Philosophy Emeritus (Villanova University), where he taught from 1968-2004. He is a hybrid philosopher/theologian who works in the area of radical theology and has spearheaded a notion he calls “weak theology,” by which he means a “poetics” of the “event” that is harbored in the name (of) God, or that “insists” in the name (of) “God,” a notion that depends on a theological reworking of the notion of event in Derrida. In his major works he has argued that interpretation goes all the way down (*Radical Hermeneutics*, 1987), that Derrida is a thinker to be reckoned with by theology (*The Prayers and Tears of Jacques Derrida*, 1997), and that theology is best served by getting over its love affair with power and authority and embracing what Caputo calls, taking a phrase from *St. Paul, The Weakness of God. A Theology of the Event* (2006).

In *The Insistence of God: A Theology of Perhaps* (2013), he argues that God does not exist, God insists, and that God’s existence depends upon us. His recent work includes *Hoping Against Hope: Confessions of a Postmodern Pilgrim* (2015), a personal and intellectual autobiography of which the Dutch translation will be launched at the symposium. Caputo will briefly introduce his most recent work, followed by short critical responses by scholars who have published on his work.

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