



International Conference

The Jehovah's Witnesses in scholarly perspective: What is new in the scientific study of the movement?

April 21-22 2016

Faculty for Comparative Study of religions and Humanism

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The European Observatory of Religion and Secularism

In partnership with the Faculty for Comparative Study of religions and Humanism (FVG),

CLIMAS Université Bordeaux Montaigne, CESNUR (Turin)

Organizing committee: Chris Vonck, Régis Dericquebourg, Bernadette Rigal-Cellard, Massimo Introvigne.

Technical and domestic assistance: Ernie Vonck, Lydia Bonte, Yara Goth and Mohamed Aziz.

Thursday April 21, 2016

9h registration

10h 30. Opening speech:

Professor Chris Vonck, Rector of the FVG.

Chair : Régis Dericquebourg

11h-11h 45. Keynote speaker: George D. Chryssides (York, St John University, UK)

The Truth is out there –And How Jehovah's Witnesses Find it.

12 h. Lunch

Thursday afternoon

Session 1: Theology and practices of Jehovah's Witnesses

Chair: Massimo Introvigne

14h. Miquel Angel Plaza-Navas (CSIC, Spanish National Research Council, Barcelona)

Music and Jehovah's Witnesses: an historical approach to their hymnal and music practices.

14h 30. Rolf J. Furuli (University of Oslo)
The Mental Health of Jehovah's Witnesses.

15h. Zoe Knox (The University of Leicester, UK)
The Theology, Practice and Promotion of the Blood Doctrine.

15h 30. Coffee Break

15h 45. Donald Raymond Jacobs (Independent Researcher)
Unofficial Jehovah's Witness Apologetics: The Rise and Fall of a Precarious Community.

16h 15. Philippe Barbey (Paris 5 Descartes-Sorbonne)
Jehovah's Witnesses: Between Tradition and Modernity.

16h 45. Discussion

Friday April 22

Session 2: World perspective on the Jehovah's Witnesses

Chair: Chris Vonck

9h 30. Ringo Ringwee (Institute of the Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church)
From Controversial Bible Students to respected Bible Translators? Some reflections on the reception of Jehovah's Witnesses in the Baltic States.

10h. Massimo Introvigne (Pontifical Salesian University, Turin, director of CESNUR)
Jehovah's Witnesses in Italy: A Story of Success and Controversies.

10h 30. Coffee break

10h 45. Emily Baran (Middle Tennessee State University)
Secular School and Witness Children in Soviet Ukraine.

11h 15. Tim Richter (University of South Africa)
International Bible Students and Jehovah's Witnesses in the Australian Press (1896-1941).

11h 45. Willy Fautré (Human Right without Frontiers Int.)
A History of The Jehovah's Witnesses in Belgium.

12h 15 Discussion. 12h 30 Lunch.

Session 3: French Workshop

Chair: Bernadette Rigal-Cellard

14 h. Laurie Larvent (Université d'Artois-ARRAS)

Une opposition au jéhovisme : Le Mouvement missionnaire intérieur laïque.

[Opposition to the Jehovah's Witnesses: the Mouvement missionnaire intérieur laïque]

14h 30. Bernard Blandre (Président-fondateur AEIRM, Sarreguemines).

Russell, les adventistes et les premiers étudiants de la Bible.

[Russel, the Adventists and the first Bible students]

15h. Mouna Alghosayn Zaiter (Université Bordeaux Montaigne)

Les témoins de Jéhovah au Liban.

[The Jehovah's Witnesses in Lebanon Today]

15h 30. Régis Dericquebourg (FVG & GSRLCNRS Paris)

La naissance d'un prophétisme en société industrielle. Rationalité de marché et économie du charisme. A propos de Charles Taze Russel.

[The rise of a prophetism in an industrial society. Market rationality and the economy of charisma. About Charles Taze Russel]

16h. Discussion and concluding remarks



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