FROM MYTH TO RELIGION - AND BACK AGAIN?
CASSIRER, PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION, AND THEOLOGY
The Fourth Ernst Cassirer Summer School
Helsinki 25–27 August, 2008

The return of mythical consciousness remains a challenge for cultural theory and for any attempt to understand the ‘human condition’. It also implies important questions for philosophy and systematic theology. In Cassirer’s view, religion fosters man’s self-liberation from the mythical. Nonetheless, it still uses the images, signs and symbols which originally belonged to mythical consciousness, but which now are transformed and changed in a significant way. Thus, the step from myth to religion and back again is significant for the entire process of symbolic formation.

The Ernst Cassirer Summer School forms part of the Ernst Cassirer professorship, funded by the Volkswagen Foundation and located at Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study (scas) in Uppsala. The current holder of the chair, Professor Michael Moxter, scas and the Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies together organize the Summer School on August 25–27 in Helsinki.

One of the main reasons for the institutionalization of the Ernst Cassirer professorship is the intention to intensify the scientific cooperation between Germany and the Scandinavian Countries. The Summer School will bring together outstanding young scholars (doctoral and postdoctoral) from Scandinavia and Germany.

Welcome to Helsinki and the 2008 Summer School.

Barbro Klein, Michael Moxter, Juha Sihvola and Björn Wittrock
Please note: Lectures consist of 45 minutes lecture and 45 minutes discussion. Paper sessions consist of 15–20 minutes of presentation by the author and 40–45 minutes discussion based on the paper.

August 25

Venue: Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies
Chair: Michael Moxter

13.00 Welcome and introduction
   Barbro Klein
   Juha Sihvola

14.00 – 15.30 1st Lecture:
   Language and Myth
   Gerald Hartung

15.30 – 16.00 Coffee break

16.00 – 17.00 1st Paper Session:
   Religion and Space According to Cassirer
   Mathias Benckert

17.15 – 18.15 2nd Paper Session:
   Myth and Religion: "Religion" as Myth
   Jon Wittrock

18.15 Summer School reception

August 26

Venue: Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies
Chairs: Barbro Klein and Thomas Wabel

09.00 – 10.30 2nd Lecture:
   Liberalism, Religion and the Public Square
   Juha Sihvola

10.30 – 11.00 Coffee break
11.00 – 12.00 Back to the Sources 1: 

12.00– 14.15 Lunch

14.15 – 15.15 3rd Paper Session: 
Idealization, Idolization, and Iconicity 
Rebekka A. Klein

15.30 – 16.30 4th Paper Session: 
Cassirer’s Critique of Culture: How to justify expressive perception 
Sirkku Ikonen

16.30 – 17.00 Coffee break

17.00 – 18.00 5th Paper Session: 
Faith with Personal Settings: The Rational Self and Re-Islamisation in South Yemen 
Susanne Dahlgren

19.00 Dinner

August 27

Venue: Helsinki Collegium for Advanced Studies
Chairs: Michael Moxter and Juha Sivhola

09.00 – 10.30 3rd Lecture: 
Religion in the Post-secularized Society 
Thomas Schmidt

10.30 – 11.00 Coffee break

11.00 – 12.00 Back to the Sources II: 

12.00 – 13.30 Lunch

13.30 – 14.30 6th Paper Session: 
Charles Taylor on Secularization and the Enchanted World 
Arto Laitinen

14.30 – 15.30 7th Paper Session: 
Language and Consciousness: Liebruck and Cassirer 
Simone Liedtke

15.30 – 16.00 Coffee break
16.00 – 17.00  8th Paper Session:
Different Approaches Towards Symbolism: Cassirer and Tillich on the Structure of Religious and Mythical Consciousness
Lars Heinemann

17.00 – 18.00  Concluding session

19.00  Dinner

PARTICIPANTS

Mathias Benckert, Protestant Church, Nordelbien, Schleswig
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Dr. Sara Grut, Swedish Collegium for Advanced Study
PD Dr. Gerald Hartung, Protestant Institute for Interdisciplinary Research, Heidelberg
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