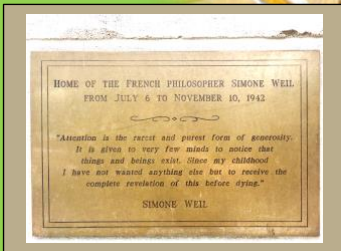




NEWMANINSTITUTET  
HÖGSKOLA FÖR TEOLOGI, FILOSOFI OCH KULTUR

# INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON SIMONE WEIL

25<sup>th</sup> — 27<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2022



# PROGRAM

# Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> November

*Aula Magna, Slottsgränd 6, Uppsala*

**16:00—16:30**                      **Reception and coffee**

**16:30—17:00**                      **Christine Zyka**, Simone Weil in a Scandinavian Context

**17:15—19:15**                      **Rights, Law, and the Evil**

*Moderator: Kim Solin*

**Billie Gynther**, Seven Quintessentials of Rights Scepticism in  
the Thought of Simone Weil

**Pierre Gillouard**, L'émergence du problème du mal dans  
l'œuvre de Simone Weil

**Mårten Björk**, Simone Weil on Crime, Law, and Retribution

*This seminar on Simone Weil is the sixth in a line of international seminars that began in 2012. Following a symposium at the Catholic University of Lyons (France) on June 14th entitled 'Milieus, networks, sources of inspiration: Simone Weil in the 1940--42 war', we dedicate this seminar to the commemoration of the 80th anniversary of the passage of Simone Weil from Marseille, via New York, to London. Individual researchers will present their own entry points to Weil. The seminar will be held in both English and French.*

# Saturday, 26<sup>th</sup> November

9:00—9:30

*Keynote speaker* **Emmanuel Gabellieri**,  
Réinterroger l'opposition « Pesanteur » / « Grâce » - Enjeux  
métaphysiques et éthiques

**09:45—12:30**

## **Subject, Existence, and Otherness**

Coffee 10:45

*Moderator: Mårten Björk*

**Victor Christola**, Gravity and light: metaphors as  
metaphysical concepts in the writings of  
Simone Weil and Friedrich Schelling

**Nathalie Calmès Cordoso**, Simone Weil: l'existence à nu

**Lottie Eriksson**, Perspectives on how to live attentive to  
others – J M Nouwens lived experience  
through the ethics of Simone Weil

**Pascal David**, Simone Weil, une vie philosophique

**12:30—14:00**

**Lunch at the Newman Institute**

**14:00—15:00**

## **Translations and Interpretations**

*Moderator: Christine Zyka*

**Raissa De Gruttola**, China in Simone Weil, Simone Weil in  
China. Chinese thought in Weil's  
writings and their translation into  
Chinese language

**Simone Weil denkkollektiv**, Simone Weil—André Weil.  
Notes on Mathematics

**15:15—15:45**

*Keynote speaker* **Simone Kotva**,  
Simone Weil and French Spiritualism

**Coffee 15:45**

**16:30—19:00**

**Body and Political Life**

*Moderator: Martina Bengert*

**Max Walther**, Bodies in prison. Translation and  
translocation: a bodily (somatic) reading

**Arthur Rochon du Verdier**, La positivité de la vie publique  
chez Simone Weil

**Thomas Sojer**, When corpora turn diaphanous. Bible,  
Simone Weil and the Jewish people

**19:15 Dinner (only for speakers)**

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## **Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> November**

**9:00—9:30**

*Keynote speaker* **Ghislain Waterlot**,  
Création, beauté, présence

**09:45—12:00**

**Mysticism, Creation, and the Impersonal**

**Coffee 10:15**

*Moderator: Lottie Eriksson*

**Martina Bengert**, Darkness, Emptiness, Kenosis. Simone Weil  
and Zen

**Kim Solin**, Rush Rees on Simone Weil

**Mary Elisabeth Trini**, La place de l'image chez Simone Weil  
et son rapport à l'imagination

**Francesca Simeoni**, L'impersonnel et l'âme

**12:30—14:00**

**Lunch at the Newman Institute**

## Participants:

**Bengert, Martina:** is Junior Professor for Literature and Religion at the Institute for Romance Languages and Literature at the Humboldt University of Berlin, where she also teaches and researches at HU's Center for Transdisciplinary Gender Studies. Her research interests include German, French, and Spanish mysticism, topology, French theory, theories of the body, psychoanalysis and theology. Together with Max Walther (Bauhaus University Weimar) and Tom Sojer (University of Erfurt) she is co-founder of the Simone Weil denkkollektiv ([www.simoneweil-denkkollektiv.de](http://www.simoneweil-denkkollektiv.de)).

**Björk, Mårten:** is a researcher in systematic theology at CTR, Lund University, a lecturer at the Newman institute and an Associated Fellow at Campion Hall, Oxford University. In his recent book, "The Politics of Immortality in Rosenzweig, Barth and Goldberg Theology and Resistance Between 1914-1945", Björk examined the intersection between the discussion on immortality and politics during the period between 1914 and 1945. In his studies conducted at Campion Hall he probes the emergence of theological and metaphysical themes in the contemporary discussions on consciousness. At Lund University he is the principal investigator for the project "The End of Law" funded by the Swedish Research Council.

**Calmès Cordoso, Nathalie:** est Agrégée de philosophie et enseigne à l'IUT Robert Schuman qui dépend de l'université de Strasbourg. Elle fait une thèse sur « Les métamorphoses de la pauvreté chez Simone Weil » (soutenance prévue fin 2023).

**Christola, Victor:** is a teacher of literature, ethics and philosophy at Sankta Birgittas folkhögskola in Stockholm and master student of philosophy at Södertörns högskola, composing a masters thesis on S. Weils and F. Schellings metaphysical language, particularly the concept of gravity.

**David, Pascal:** enseigne la philosophie à l'Université catholique de Lyon (UCLy). Ses travaux portent sur les liens entre philosophie, littérature et spiritualité. Il est l'auteur, a dirigé ou a participé à une quinzaine d'ouvrages. Sur Simone Weil, il a récemment publié, aux éditions Peuple Libre, *Simone Weil. Un art de vivre par temps de catastrophe* (2020) et *Simone Weil, Luttons-nous pour la Justice ? Manuel d'action politique* (2022).

**De Gruttola, Raissa:** holds a PhD in Asian and African Studies (Chinese) at the Department of Asian and North African Studies of the Ca' Foscari University of Venice (2017). Her PhD dissertation is on Gabriele Allegra and the first complete translation of the Catholic Bible in Chinese. De Gruttola's field of research also includes the

presence of Christians and Franciscan missionaries in China and the various versions of the Bible in Chinese. It was recently extended to the references to Chinese thought in Simone Weils's writings and the translations of her work into Chinese language. She is currently a Post-Doctoral Fellow and Adjunct Professor of Chinese Language at the University of Perugia (Italy).

**Eriksson, Lottie:** is a doctoral student in Systematic Theology at the University of Gothenburg. She is working on a dissertation that examines the concept of attention in relation to ethics in the philosophy of Weil.

**Gabellieri, Emmanuel:** est Agrégé et Pr HDR à la Faculté de Philosophie, Université catholique de Lyon, UR "Confluence Sciences et Humanités" EA 1598, auteur notamment de *Etre et Don. S. Weil et la philosophie* (« Bibliothèque philosophique de Louvain » n°57, Peeters, Louvain, 2003, 581 p.), ses travaux inspirés de S. Weil et M. Blondel, plus largement du spiritualisme français et du débat contemporain entre phénoménologie et métaphysique, le conduisent à la proposition d'un renouvellement "metaxologique" de la métaphysique (*Le phénomène et l'entre-deux. Pour une metaxologie*, Hermann, Paris 2019), lui-même solidaire d'un élargissement du rapport entre philosophie et christianisme (*Etre et Grâce. S. Weil et le christianisme*, Cerf, Paris, à paraître 2023).

**Gillouard, Pierre:** est doctorant en philosophie en co-tutelle entre l'Université de Genève et l'École Pratique des Hautes Etudes (Paris), sous la direction de Vincent Delecroix et Ghislain Waterlot. Sa thèse porte sur le sujet suivant : « la mystique face au problème du mal. Le cas de Simone Weil et d'Etty Hillesum ».

**Gynther, Päivi Billie:** is Doctor of political sciences, an independent researcher and a non-fiction writer from Finland. Her academic background is in public law and human rights. She has published extensively on legal and quasi-legal regulation of education and culture, including "Beyond Systemic Discrimination" (Brill Academic Publisher 2007). Her current book project is about legal obligations of individuals in Nordic welfare states.

**Kotva, Simone:** is Doctor and Research Fellow at the Faculty of Theology, University of Oslo, and Affiliated Lecturer at the Faculty of Divinity, University of Cambridge. Her first book, *Effort and Grace: On the Spiritual Exercise of Philosophy* (London: Bloomsbury, 2020), tackles the relevance of Simone's Weil's concept of attention for critical theory and practice today. She works on philosophy as spiritual exercise and way of life and is especially interested in the transgressive practices of Catholic and Protestant dissident mystics. She is currently completing a monograph on mysticism

and/as plant-thinking, *Ecologies of Ecstasy: Practicing Philosophy through Mystical and Vegetal Being*.

**Rochon du Verdier, Arthur:** est doctorant à l'UCLy. Il travaille avec le professeur Gabellieri sur « la positivité de la vie collective dans la philosophie de Simone Weil ». Il enseigne en classe préparatoire (*Institution des Chartreux*) les sciences politiques et la géopolitique. Il enseigne également en lycée (*Olympique Lyonnais académie*), l'histoire-géographie, la philosophie et la géopolitique.

**Simeoni, Francesca:** a consacré ses recherches à la philosophie antique, avec une première thèse sur Philon d'Alexandrie et l'identité immuable du Dieu-Être, et à la pensée de Simone Weil, avec une seconde thèse sur l'impersonnel et son rapport avec la psychagogie platonicienne. Elle enseigne actuellement philosophie antique et anthropologie philosophique à la Faculté de philosophie de l'Université catholique de Lyon.

**Sojer, Thomas:** works as Catholic Theologian at the University of Erfurt. Together with Max Walther (Bauhaus University Weimar) and Martina Bengert (Humboldt University Berlin) he is co-founder of the Simone Weil denkkollektiv ([www.simoneweil-denkkollektiv.de](http://www.simoneweil-denkkollektiv.de)).

**Solin, Kim:** is Adjunct Professor of Philosophy (docent) at the University of Helsinki, Finland, and currently works as a Senior Faculty Administrator at Uppsala University, Sweden. He is an Honorary Research Fellow in Philosophy at The University of Queensland, Australia. He teaches regularly at The Newman Institute in Uppsala. His main philosophical interests are in Wittgenstein studies and in existential philosophy broadly construed.

**Trini, Mary Elisabeth:** est doctorante en philosophie depuis 2019 à l'Université de Perugia où elle a obtenu son Master avec une thèse sur le De Trinitate de St. Augustin. Elle est membre du IHRC (International Human-being Research Center). Sa recherche doctorale s'articule autour de la question de l'imagination et de l'image chez Simone Weil. Sur la philosophe française elle a écrit quelques contributions dont "Simone Weil lettrice di Eckhart: il radicamento al Cielo", in "Studium" 3/2020, pp. 68-83, Le "fait social total" di Simone Weil, et "Il ritmo dell'azione in Le beau et le bien di Simone Weil", en cours de publication.

**Walther, Max:** is historian, and literary critic based in Leipzig, Germany. Currently he is research assistant in media studies at Bauhaus-Universität Weimar, where he writes a dissertation on Simone Weil, Chris Kraus und Kathy Acker. Among others Walther is,

together with Prof. Dr. Martina Bengert and Thomas Sojer, co-founder of the *trans | disziplin Simone Weil denkkollektiv* and co-founder of ORINOCO books, a library-bookshop hybrid in Leipzig.

**Waterlot, Ghislain:** est professeur de philosophie de la religion et d'éthique à l'université de Genève. Il est spécialiste de Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Henri Bergson et Simone Weil. Depuis une dizaine d'années, il a spécialement travaillé le champ de la spiritualité mystique et s'intéresse aux relations entre philosophie et théologie. Il termine actuellement un ouvrage intitulé *Les enjeux de la mystique chez Bergson. Entre philosophie, théologie et histoire* (à paraître chez H. Champion).

**Zyka, Christine** is the organizer of the seminar, a lecturer in philosophy and the Acting Vice-Chancellor at the Newman Institute (August 2022—March 2023). She wrote her PhD thesis on the Aesthetics of Simone Weil (2013 at UCLY). Her fields of research – besides the aesthetics – revolve around Weil's philosophy of trees/plants, and Weil's cosmological and social conception of tissue, cloth, and network.

## Practical information

The Newman Institute is located a 5-minutes walk from Uppsala central railway station, at Slottsgränd 6. The *Aula Magna* is on floor 1, in the white main building.

The seminar is free of charge, but places are limited. Please register via this [link](#). A confirmation will then be sent to you. The last day to register is the 18<sup>th</sup> of November 2022.

No meals are included, but free audience participants can join the lunches. They can pay on the spot, in cash or with swish (see the link above). The Newman Institute offers coffee and refreshments during the breaks.

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