

# PHILOSOPHY & THE DIVINE COMEDY

NOVEMBER 14-15, 2019  
VILLANOVA  
UNIVERSITY

With Keynote Presentations by:

**Vittorio Montemaggi**, King's College

**Peter Hawkins**, Yale Divinity

**Denys Turner**, Yale Divinity

## Call for Papers

This conference will explore how Dante's *Commedia* can inform philosophical reflection, taking the poem as a foundation for inquiry into reality. Keeping in mind Dante's poetic achievement, we invite papers focused on the fundamental philosophical questions that the poem itself raises and attempts to answer. This will bring the poem into conversation with the wider philosophical tradition, both Dante's sources and branches of thought that have arisen since his time. It will likewise ask what we can learn from thinking philosophically with the narrative, characters, action, and language of *The Divine Comedy*.

We aim to bring together scholars who can speak across disciplines to discuss how *The Divine Comedy* enriches our reading of perennial philosophical themes, and contributes to the task of philosophy in the present day.

Possible questions to address include:

- What do Dante's depictions of the damned, the saved, and the blessed tell us about personal freedom?
- What do the figures encountered by the pilgrim disclose about beauty and the mediating role of the body?
- What does Dante's ascent illustrate about the meaning and destiny of erotic desire?
- How does Dante's portrayal of the structure of the cosmos bear on an account of being and finitude?
- What does Dante's attention to the comportment of souls contribute to a phenomenology of the person?
- How does the poem reflect the link between philosophical seeking and creative *poiesis*?

Proposals should be emailed to Paul Camacho ([paul.camacho@villanova.edu](mailto:paul.camacho@villanova.edu)), and should include a title and an abstract of roughly 500 words.

The deadline for submissions is July 30, 2019.

