

## **Dr Michael Kirwan**

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Michael Kirwan is Associate Adjunct Professor at the Loyola Institute, Trinity College Dublin. He has lectured for twenty years at Heythrop College, University of London. He is a member of the British Province of the Society of Jesus (Jesuits), which he entered in 1980.



His research and teaching interests include:

- The French cultural theorist René Girard, and the implications of his ‘mimetic theory’ of religion, culture and violence
- Contemporary political theology, and the public role of religion
- Theology and literature
- Jesuit spiritual reflection in a globalising world

His current projects include: an edited collection of essays on Girardian theory and Islam; a book project exploring aspects of the interface between mimetic theory, political theology and literature; a project of Jesuit ‘global theology’.

### **POSITIONS HELD:**

September 1998 to 2018: Lecturer in Systematic and Pastoral Theology at Heythrop College,  
University of London

2005 to 2015: Head of Department of Theology

Sept 2011-January 2012: Acting Vice-Principal, Heythrop College

2013-2018: Dean of Theology of the Bellarmine Institute (the ecclesial faculty attached to Heythrop  
College)

Sept 2015- 2018: Director, Heythrop Institute for Religion and Society.

Sept 2017: promoted to Senior Lecturer and Reader in Theology.

Sept 2017-June 2018: Adjunct Associate Professor, Loyola Institute of Theology, Trinity College,  
Dublin.

### **MEMBERSHIP & COMMITTEES**

2004-2007: Member of Committee of Catholic Theological Association GB

2006-2011: Member of Board of COV&R (Colloquium on Violence and Religion).

2011 to present: Founder and Director of REMUS Research Project: Religion-Mimesis-Society at  
Heythrop College.

I have lectured in a number of Systematic and Pastoral Theology programmes at Heythrop, including sessions on Ecclesiology and Ecumenism, Theology of Ministry, Foundations of Pastoral Theology, as well as introduction to theology, political and liberation theologies, and soteriology. I have also been extensively involved in the pastoral and spiritual formation of Jesuits students for the priesthood.

#### EXTERNAL EXAMINING

Luther King House, Manchester; St Mary's College, Strawberry Hill; Beda College in Rome (on behalf of St Mary's University College, Twickenham).

#### RESEARCH STUDENTS

I have examined thirteen PhD theses, and have supervised the following PhDs to successful completion:

- University of London, theology: Norlan Julia, 'Towards an Asian Theology of Priesthood' (2013).
- University of London, theology: James Mather, 'Reclamation of Biblical Concepts: René Girard and Walter Brueggemann' (2014).
- University of London, theology: Wilbert Gobbo, 'Critique of the Trinitarian Social Model of Leonardo Boff: Small Christian Communities of the Archdiocese of Tabora in Tanzania; a Case Study' (2016).
- University of London, theology: Vicente Fernando Chong Sanchez, 'A Theological Aesthetics of Liberation: God, Art and the Social Outcasts' (2016).
- University of London, theology: Leslie Goode, 'Re-evaluating the Relationship between Christian Salvation Event and 'History of Religions' Sacrifice: an Appraisal of the Theological Options' (2017)

#### PUBLICATIONS

1997, 'The Struggles of Perpetua: Vision, Narrative and the Meaning of Martyrdom' in Browne, H.B. and Griffith-Dickson G. (eds.), *Passion For Critique: Essays in Honour of F.J. Laishley*. Prague: Ecumenical Publishing House, pp. 177-200.

1998, 'GC34'S Teaching on Culture: its Significance for Theology', in *Theological Research and Reflection in Service of the Gospel: IV Conference of European Jesuit Theologians*, Bratislava 10th-13th September 1998, pp. 29-39.

2001, 'Refounding and Repeating: Ways to the New', *The Way Supplement* 2001/101, 9-19.

2001, 'Millennial Appetites and the Refusal of Somatocracy' in Stanley E. Porter, Michael A. Hayes and David Tombs (eds.), Sheffield: Sheffield Academic Press. *Faith in the Millennium*, pp. 348-359.

2002, 'The Limits of Interpretation: the Gadamer-Habermas Conversation', in P. Pokorny and J. Rosovec (eds.), *Philosophical Hermeneutics and Biblical Exegesis* [Wissenschaftliche Untersuchungen zum Neuen Testament 153]. Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, pp. 68-83.

2004, and Anthony O'Mahony (eds.), *World Christianity*. London: Melisende Press.

2004, 'Current Theological Themes in World Christianity', in O'Mahony and Kirwan 2004 (eds.), *World Christianity*, pp. 43-62.

- 2004, 'The Word of God and the Idea of Sacrament', in Anthony O'Mahony, Wulstan Peterburs and Mohamad Ali Shomali (eds.), *Catholics and-Shi'a in Dialogue: Studies in Theology and Spirituality*. London: Melisende Press.pp. 263-77.
- 2004, *Discovering Girard*. London: Darton, Longman and Todd.
- 2006, 'Learning to Say No: Does the Eschatological Reserve Have a Future?', *Political Theology* 7: 3 2006, 393-409.
- 2007, 'Eucharist and Sacrifice', *New Blackfriars* 88: 1014 (March 2007), 213-227.
- 2008, *Political Theology: a New Introduction*. London: Darton, Longman and Todd.
- 2009, 'Girard, Religion, Violence and Modern Martyrdom' in Peter B. Clarke (ed.), *The Oxford Handbook of the Sociology of Religion*. Oxford: OUP. pp. 909-923.
- 2009, *Girard and Theology*. London and New York: T&T Clark, Continuum.
- 2010, 'Being Saved from Salvation: Rene Girard and the Victims of Religion', *Communio Viatorum* (LII 2010) no.1: 27-47.
- 2010, 'George Tyrrell and Vatican II', in Oliver Rafferty (ed.), *George Tyrrell and Catholic Modernism*. Dublin: Four Courts Press, pp. 131-152.
- 2010, 'Reading the Signs of the Times', in James Sweeney, Gemma Simmonds and David Lonsdale (eds.), *Keeping Faith in Practice: Aspects of Catholic Pastoral Theology*. London: SCM Press, pp. 49-63.
- 2012, 'Liberation Theology and Catholic Social Teaching', *New Blackfriars*, vol. 93:1044 (2012), 246-258.
- 2012, 'A Candle in Sunshine: Desire and Apocalypse in Blake and Hölderlin', *Contagion: Journal of Violence, Mimesis and Culture* vol.19 (2012), pp. 179-204.
- 2012, 'Spirituality and Politics', in Richard Woods and Peter Tyler (eds.), *Bloomsbury Guide to Christian Spirituality*. London: Bloomsbury Press, pp. 187-199.
- 2014, 'William T. Cavanaugh and René Girard: the Myth of Religious Violence', *Political Theology* vol.15.6 (November 2014), 509-521.
- 2015, 'A New Heaven and a New Earth: Apocalypticism and its Alternatives', in Paul Gifford and Pierpaolo Antonelli (eds.), *Can we Survive our Origins? Readings in René Girard's Theory of Violence and the Sacred*. East Lansing. Mi.: Michigan State UP.pp. 311-30.
- 2015, 'Literature and Theology: an Overview', in Francesca Bugliani Knox and David Lonsdale (eds.), *Poetry and the Religious Imagination: the Power of the Word*. Farnham, Surrey: Ashgate. pp. 9-30.
- 2015, 'The Unbearable Humanum: Reflecting Back, Working Forwards', *New Blackfriars* vol. 96:1062 (2015), 239-251.
- 2015, 'The "Ugly Broad Ditch"; Authority in a Kenotic Church', in Anthony J. Carroll, Marthe Kerkwijk, Michael Kirwan, James Sweeney (eds.), *Towards a Kenotic Vision of Authority in the*

*Catholic Church*. Christian Philosophical Studies VIII, Cultural Heritages and Contemporary Change Series. Washington D.C.: Council for Research in Values and Philosophy. pp. 165-181.

2015, 'Raymund Schwager und René Girard- ein anthropologisch-theologisches Gespräch', in Mathias Moosbrugger und Jozef Niewiadomski (eds.), *Auf dem Weg zur Neubewertung der Tradition: die Theologies von Raymund Schwager und sein neu erschlossener Nachlass*. Freiburg: Verlag Herder GmbH., pp. 86-99.

2015, 'Se Deus está morto, tudo é permitido? Girard não acieta o veredito de Nietzsche', in *Revista do Instituto Humanitas Unisinos*, no. 479 (2015): 64-68.

2016, Michael Kirwan SJ and Sheelah Treflé Hidden, "'Things Hidden, Now Revealed": Mimetic Theory and the Child Sex Abuse Crisis', in Stephen Bullivant, Eric Marcelo O. Genilo SJ, Daniel Franklin Pilario CM, Agnes M. Brazal (eds.), *Theology and Power: International Perspectives*. New York/Mahwah New Jersey: Paulist Press, pp. 175-192.

2016, 'René Girard's Mimetic Theory: an 'Anti-political Theology?', in Antonio Cerulla and Elizabetta Brighi (eds.), *The Sacred and the Political: Explorations on Mimesis, Violence and Religion*. London: Bloomsbury Press. pp. 127-144.

2016, 'Goetheho ,Rímske prázdniny': Utopická imaginácia pre teológiu sveta [Goethe's "Roman Holiday": Utopic Imagination for a Theology of the World]', in Zdenko Š Širka (ed.), *Domov jako most: Festschrift k padesátinám prof. Ivany Noble* ('Home as a Bridge: Festschrift for fiftieth birthday of Prof. Ivana Noble'); Studie a texty Evangelické teologické fakulty; vol. 27, pp. 23-36. Jihlava, Czech Republic: Jan Keřkovský-Mlýn.

2017, and Sheelah Treflé Hidden (eds.), *Mimesis and Atonement: René Girard and the Doctrine of Salvation*. New York, London, Oxford, Delhi, Sydney: Bloomsbury Academic.

2017, "'Strategies of Grace": Mimesis as Conversion in Girard and in Theology', in Sheelah Treflé Hidden and Michael Kirwan (eds.), *Mimesis and Atonement: René Girard and the Doctrine of Salvation*. New York, London, Oxford, Delhi, Sydney: Bloomsbury Academic. pp. 115-34.

2017, with Anna Abram and Peter Gallagher (eds.), *Philosophy, Theology and the Jesuit Tradition*. 'The Eye of Love'. London: Bloomsbury.

2017, 'Theology and Education', in Sean Whittle (ed.), *Vatican II and New Thinking About Catholic Education*. London and New York: Routledge (Taylor and Francis Group), pp. 159-170.

2017, "'Putting the Facts to Shame": Eschatology and the Discourse of Martyrdom', in Lieven Boeve, Stephan van Erp, and Martin Poulson (eds.), *Grace, Governance and Globalization: Theology and Public Life*. London: T&T Clark. pp. 159-172.

2017, 'Mimetic Theory and the Katēchon', in James Alison and Wolfgang Palaver (eds.), *The Palgrave Handbook of Mimetic Theory and Religion*. New York: Palgrave. pp. 195-213.

2018, 'René Girard and World Religions', in Wolfgang Palaver and Richard Schink (eds.), *Mimetic Theory and the World Religions*. East Lansing, Mi.: Michigan State UP, pp. 195-214.

2018, 'The Paraclete and the Nightingale: the Vital Legacy of Friedrich Spee', *The Way* 57.1 (January 2018): 25-37.

2018, “‘Time, the Mercy of the Messiah’: Pope Francis and Johann Baptist Metz’, in John Downey, Steve Ostovich and Johann M. Vento (eds.), *Facing the World; Political Theology and Mercy*. New York: Paulist Press. pp. 57-74.

2018, ‘Catholic Schools as an Expression of Political Theology’, in Sean Whittle (ed.), *Researching Catholic Education: Contemporary Perspectives*. Singapore: Singapore Nature. pp. 83-94.