

Winter Semester 23/24 (Oct.-Feb.)

“Doing Theology in the German Context”

09.11.2023 16.15 h - 17.45 h CET – online

„From Rautenstrauch to Rahner: A Very Short History of Catholic Theology in the German Context (1774-1968)“

Modern Catholic University Theology in the German speaking lands has a history which is quite distinct from medieval and early modern scholasticism. After the end of the Jesuit domination of theological studies in the Holy Roman Empire (dissolution of the order in 1773), theological teaching was reorganised with a new focus on pastoral and historical-exegetical studies, as exemplified by the syllabus prepared by Abbot Franz Stephan Rautenstrauch for Austria. The new state faculties of Catholic Theology in the German Federation after 1815 (e. g. Bonn, Breslau, Freiburg, Tübingen) followed this orientation, but took up also the challenge of German Idealism. The lecture will focus on two periods of special importance: the years around 1900, when Catholic Theology joined in the general success of “German Wissenschaft” and the period after Vatican II, when theology in general and theologians like Rahner, Küng and Ratzinger in particular became intellectual figures of international importance.



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