

**RESEARCH GROUP**  
**THE SCIENTIFIC MENTALITY AND QUESTIONS ABOUT GOD**

**GRUPPO DI RICERCA**  
**LA MENTALITÀ SCIENTIFICA E QUESTIONI SU DIO**

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***Professors and researchers***

Louis Caruana	<i>Areas of interaction between philosophy of science and philosophy of religion; evolutionary explanation; philosophical presuppositions of the scientific mentality</i>
Luca Di Gioia	<i>Evolutionary explanation and philosophy of religion</i>
Yolanda Rodríguez Jiménez	<i>Philosophical anthropology; personal identity; gender studies</i>
Terrance Walsh	<i>German Idealism, the concept of God, Kant, Hegel, Nietzsche, Heidegger; contemporary theories of practical reason and normative ethics</i>

***Doctoral students***

Humphrey Ude	<i>Models, metaphors and analogies in science and religion, Mary B. Hesse</i>
Treejo Chakkalackal	<i>Nature as inherently dynamic, A.N. Whitehead, Dispositionalism</i>
Joshy Joseph	<i>William James and the philosophy of religion</i>
Jijo Joseph Peruvellil	<i>Philosophical anthropocentrism: comparing Pierre Teilhard de Chardin with the Deep Ecology Movement</i>
Tim Maina Macharia	<i>Epistemology of religion, testimony and authority</i>
Jeevan Mendonsa	<i>Evolutionary explanation and moral philosophy, Alasdair MacIntyre</i>
Michael Uzoma Chukwu	<i>The Process of Knowledge according to Nicholas Rescher, a Critical Analysis in the Light of the Philosophy of Thomas Aquinas</i>
René Wongbi	<i>Beyond the mechanistic worldview, philosophy of life, Hans Jonas</i>

## Research group annual report 2020-2021

During the first semester, the coordinator L. Caruana was on sabbatical abroad, but continued to organize the group's meetings as usual. The year started with a fruitful planning session that resulted in the decision to divide the year's work in two parts, the first semester dedicated to discussing some of the members' own research and the second dedicated to a specific topic. The topic chosen for the second semester was: *Philosophical and theological issues related to artificial intelligence*. Moreover, the group decided to broaden its membership by contacting and inviting previous members who are now abroad. Tigi Abraham (PhD PUG 2019) joined the group from his institute in Kerala, India, and is happy to commit himself on a long-term basis. David Nanatt (PhD PUG 2020) from Kerala, India, and James Kabata (PhD PUG 2018) from Nairobi, Kenya, participated in some sessions but realised that their present duties and commitments do not permit a regular participation. Since last year, two members left the group: David Nanatt, who completed his doctorate and returned to India, and Lubos Rojka who has other research interests. There were two visitors who attended some sessions only: Jean Gové (PhD student, St. Andrews Scotland), Anyanwu Ugochukwu (Licentiate student PUG). Apart from the research activities listed below, one can mention that Yolanda Rodríguez Jiménez published a paper entitled "La persona y el mundo natural. Un estudio comparativo entre Lynne Rudder Baker y Robert Spaemann" in *Gregorianum* 102, 1 (2021) 129-149; L. Caruana published the Italian translation of his book *Science and Virtue*; the other members of the group continued working in their respective areas of research.

Meeting	Presenter	Topic
29 October 2020	Planning session	Planning session
19 November 2020	Jeevan Mendonsa	"Moral Relativism and Anti-Thomism: Objections against MacIntyre's Moral Philosophy"
3 December 2020	Tigi Abraham	"Knowing Emotions: Truthfulness and Recognition in Affective Experience", evaluation of the book by R.A. Furtak (2018).
17 December 2020	Luca Di Gioia	"The crisis of ontological determinism and the question of realism in an evolving universe: insights stemming from the concept of information".
14 January 2021	Humphrey Ude	"The Role of Models in Theory: the phases in the development of model in philosophy of science"

25 February 2021	Treejo Chakkalackal	Ian G. Barbour's paper "Neuroscience, Artificial Intelligence and Human Nature: Theological and Philosophical Reflections".
18 March 2021	Tim Macharia	Scott Midson's paper "Robot-Theisms and Robot-Theists"
22 April 2021	René Wongbi	Noreen L. Herzfeld's paper "Creating in Our Own Image: Artificial Intelligence and the Image of God".
20 May 2021	Terrance Walsh + Louis Caruana	Edmund Furse's paper "The Theology of Robots" and Sean Barker's response