

**IN SEARCH OF THE ORIGINS OF RELIGION**  
**BABEL RELIGIONS COLLOQUIUM**  
**GHENT, SEPTEMBER 11-12**

**FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 11**

12.00 u.        REGISTRATION / LUNCH BUFFET COFFEE

13.30 u.        WELCOME ADDRESS

                  Jos Verheyden (President Babel / KU Leuven)

                  Marco Pasi (General Secretary EASR / Universiteit van Amsterdam)

                  Danny Praet (Secretary Babel / UGent)

14.00 u.        KEYNOTE LECTURE I

                  Michel Tardieu (Collège de France)

                  La topographie chrétienne de Nazareth : l'invention des débuts

15.15 u.        SESSION I: HISTORICAL ORIGINS

                  Annelies Lannoy (UGent), The origins of Christianity in the work of Alfred Loisy

                  Philippe Swennen (ULiège), Le sacrifice et la représentation des origines  
                  dans le monde indo-iranien ancien

16.15 u.        COFFEE-BREAK

16.30 u.        SESSION II: THE ORIGINS OF ISLAM

                  Mehdi Azaiez (KU Leuven), Les origines du Coran et les débuts de l'islam.

                  Radouane Attiya (ULiège); À la recherche des origines de l'islam

17.30 u.        COFFEE-BREAK NON-BABEL-MEMBERS

17.30 u.        GENERAL ASSEMBLY BABEL / ELECTION NEW COMMITTEE

18.30 u.        RECEPTION

20.00 u.        CONFERENCE DINNER

## SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 12

09.30 u. KEYNOTE LECTURE II

Vincent Gaffney (University of Bradford) & Philippe De Smet (UGent)

Stonehenge: new discoveries and their interpretation

10.45 u. SESSION III: HISTORICAL ORIGINS

Horatio Vella (University of Malta), Malta and the eternal beginnings of religion

Nickolas P. Roubekas (University of Aberdeen), Theorizing about religion without

‘Religion’: Euhemerus of Messene on the origin of Gods

11.45 u. COFFEE-BREAK

12.00 u. SESSION III: EVOLUTIONARY & COGNITIVE ORIGINS OF RELIGION

Tony Pacina (University of Rostock), The cognitive origins of religion: religion as an epistemological reference system

Stefaan Blancke (UGent), The implications of the cognitive studies of religion for the belief in God

13.00 u. LUNCH BREAK

14.00 u. SESSION IV: ORIGINS AND ESOTERICISM

Marco Pasi (EASR / UvA), In search of the origins of Western esotericism

Anna Maria Vilenó (ULB), *La philosophia perennis* et les origines des religions dans les travaux de kabbalistes chrétiens

15.00 u. SESSION V: ORIGINS IN ORIENTAL RELIGIONS

Bart Dessein (UGent), The argument of authority and the start of Buddhism as a religion

Eva De Clercq (UGent), On the origins of the Śvetāmbara-Digambara divide in Jainism.

16.00 u. COFFEE BREAK

16.30 u. KEYNOTE LECTURE III

Philippe Borgeaud (Université de Genève)

Les origines des religions dans l'histoire des religions

17.45 u. GENERAL DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

18.00 u. RECEPTION