

Guest lecture of Prof. Michael Fuller at the Catholic Faculty of Theology University of Zagreb

Science and Religion in the Anglophone World. Looking back, looking forwards

May 10, 2024

Welcoming words of Branko Murić

As the Vice-Dean for Science and on behalf of Prof. Josip Šimunović, the Dean of the Catholic Faculty of Theology - University of Zagreb, I am pleased to extend a warm welcome to Professor Michael Fuller from the University of Edinburgh. I also greet all the guests, professors, and students.

I would like to thank Assist. Prof. Petar Tomev Mitrikeski, the Head of the Center for the Study of the Relationship between Science and Religion, for the productive cooperation between our two institutions and for providing us with the possibility to host our guest Professor Fuller here at the Catholic Faculty of Theology.

The contemporary topic of the relationship between science and theology, science and religion, is replete with tensions, oscillations, disputes, but also with novel insights, collaboration, and novel prospects. Numerous theologians and scientists bear witness to this assertion. Although there were and still are some sorts of dissonances, in the field of catholic theology, dialogue has been strongly encouraged by the teaching of the Church, since the founding of the Pontifical Observatory, the Pontifical Academy of Science and other institutions, especially through the teachings of the Second Vatican Council, and the teachings of the last popes, John Paul II, Benedict XVI and Francis.

It is also important to examine the controversies of the complex history of the relationship between theology and science, as well as the points of rapprochement, dialogue, and complementarity between them. I am confident that through Professor Fuller's lecture today, we will gain new insights, awaken the desire to search, and focus our attention on what kind of dialogue and cooperation between theology and science might be fruitful for the future. Thank you for your attention!