

University Centre of Excellence: Theological Anthropology in Ecumenical Perspective

UNCE No. 204052 (HUM/012)

International Scientific Doctoral and Post-Doctoral Conference

**The Role of Beauty in Being and Becoming Human:
An Interdisciplinary Perspective**

Fortna, 19-22 May 2022

In Cooperation with Masaryk University

The conference will bring an interdisciplinary approach to the understanding of a sense for beauty as an integral and cultivating part of our being human. Drawing on theology, religious studies, philosophy, anthropology, history, social and natural sciences, and art, it will investigate what possibilities our different disciplines bring to grasping such a sense of beauty, one that is integral to being human, that plays a cultivating role in human self-understanding, in the desire for transcendence and the holy, in shaping values and social relations, in the understanding of history, the creating of scientific theories, and in overcoming social, religious and political conflicts.

THURSDAY 19 MAY

16.00 Registration and coffee (UNCE)

17.00 Opening session: Welcome, introduction of the participants,

Ivana Noble and Jiří Hanuš: Introduction

Ivana Noble: The Role of Beauty in Understanding of the human self, of the transcendence and of what is and what is not holy

Jiří Hanuš: Does Beauty have a History?

17.45-19.00 SESSION I: HOW CAN WE UNDERSTAND BEAUTY AS AN ANTHROPOLOGICAL CATEGORY

Martin Soukup (UK, Prague) Beauty as a foundational Anthropological Category

Responses - PRESENTATIONS OF SHORT THESES (20 min each)

Anne-Marie Reijnen (theologian, ICP Paris), **Zdeněk Strakoš** (mathematician, MF UK, Prague)

19.30 Prayer in the chapel

Dinner at Fortna

FRIDAY 20 MAY

8. -8.45 Fortna open, possibility of coffee

9.00 Prayer

9.30 - 11.00 SESSION II: WHAT BEAUTY? INERCULTURAL THEOLOGY. RELIGIOUS STUDIES AND ART (UNCE)

Gesa Thiessen: Beauty reminding people of the lost paradise or of the Kingdom to come?

Kateřina Kočandrle Bauer: Sophiological Understanding of Beauty

11.00 – 11.30 Coffee break

11.30 – 13.00 SESSION III: BEAUTY IN THE NATURAL WORLD (MU BRNO)

Karel Stibral (FSS, MU) J.G. Sulzer: The Beauty of Nature between Science and God
Petr Husák (Brno) Does Beauty Matter in Agriculture? Landscape, Horses and Wine

13.15 Lunch together at Fortna.

15.30 - 17.00 SMALL GROUPS I (each speaker - 20 min +10 min discussion)

Coffee break

17.30 CONCERT Trio Helix (Ondřej Štochl)

SATURDAY 21 MAY

8. -8. 45 Fortna open, possibility of coffee

9.00 Morning prayer

9.30 – 13.30 INTERACTIVE PROGRAMME IN THE CITY (UNCE)

Study trip – Beauty in the different disciplines (**František Štěch** and co.)

13.00 lunch together at Fortna

14.00-15.30 SESSION IV: BEAUTY IN THE ART (MU BRNO)

Norbert Schmidt (KTF, AVU, Prague) L'Art Sacré "The Spirit blows where it wills"
Martin Flašar (MU, Brno) A Sense of Beauty in Music

16.00 – 17.15 ROUND TABLE: BEAUTY IN THE PUBLIC SPACE

Vítek Hloušek (political science, Brno) **Jan Jandourek** (sociologist, Prague), **Petr Gallus** (theologian, Prague)

17.15 Coffee break

17.45 – 19.15 SMALL GROUPS II (each speaker - 20 min +10 min discussion)

SUNDAY 22 MAY

9.00 Liturgy at Fortna

10.30 Coffee break with the Fortna community

11.00 – 12.30 SESSION V: THE THERAPEUTIC ROLE OF BEAUTY (UNCE)

Main lecture: **George M. Kondotra** (India, theologian, psychotherapist, painter): To which degree and in which sense is it possible to understand a sense for beauty as an integral and cultivating part of us being human? (20 min)

Responses: **Pavel Pola**, **Pavel Hošek**, **Gabriela Ďurašková** (15 min each)

12.30-13.15 FINAL PANEL DISCUSSION (return to the theses from the first evening)

13.15 Lunch together at Fortna