



Vendredi 14 avril 2023, 16h-18h15

Chair: Eric Crégheur (Université Laval)

- **CHRISTOPH MARKSCHIES (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin - Berlin-Brandenburgische Akademie der Wissenschaften) :**
Middle Platonic Theories of Principles and the Valentinian Grande Notice in Irenaeus of Lyon

In Irenaeus' *Adversus Haereses* an extoteric sketch of a group of so called "Valentinian Gnostics" is preserved, probably not written by Ptolemy, a free-lanced Christian teacher in Rome, but by one or some of his pupils. This sketch contains a theory of principles (in the form of a myth which one can compare to myths in Platonic texts. After having discussed the question which esoteric theory of principles is behind the esoteric myth we will discuss the question how this "Valentinian" theory of principles is related to contemporary Middle Platonic theories. We will observe a certain tendency of these Christians to demonstrate their independence and at the same time an interest to recognized by Platonists as part of a contemporary dialogue on principals.

- **JAY BREGMAN (University of Maine) :**
Harmonics, Theurgy and Syncretism in the De Nuptiis Philologiae et Mercurii of Martianus Capella

In his Neoplatonic allegory of the ascent of the human soul to the noetic realm, *The Marriage of Philology and Mercury*, Martianus Capella follows the polyvalent allegorical principles of Porphyry and the Theurgic Neoplatonists for whom gods and myths, disturbing on the surface, esoterically represent noetic forms and processes. Mercury and Philology symbolize the divine and human intellect and their marriage. Martianus uniquely applies Greek harmonic principles and intervals to the steps of Philology's ascent through the spheres. The "natural music" in the grove of Apollo suggests the theurgic presence of the god. Harmony's discourse on Greek music covers the modes and categories of Greek music. Martianus allegorical principles accord with the emperor Julian's theology. His use of musical principles displays his grasp of theurgic and harmonic principles.

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Projet pluriannuel de recherches dirigé par Luciana Gabriela Soares Santoprete, Anna Van den Kerchove, George Karamanolis, Éric Crégheur et Dylan Burns

