

Nineteenth Biennial Conference of the American Cusanus Society
in cooperation with the International Seminar on Pre-Reformation Theology,
United Lutheran Seminary, Gettysburg PA

29 September to 1 October, 2023
[In-person with hybrid options]

Fortieth Anniversary of the American Cusanus Society

(Draft)

War and Peace in the Late Middle Ages

Pre-Conference Lecture
Jill Oglie Titus, Civil War Institute:

Presented by the Seminary Ridge Museum and Education Center
and the American Cusanus Society

Plenary Lectures:
Anne Marie Wolf, University of Maine-Farmington
Phillip Stump, Lynchburg University

Banquet Program:
Cormorants Fancy, Irish-Scottish Band

Conference Theme

The American Cusanus Society, continuing its longstanding partnership with United Lutheran Seminary, will hold its nineteenth biennial conference in Gettysburg PA on Friday, 29 September to Sunday, 1 October 2023. Our focus will be on war, peace, and religious violence during the long late Middle Ages in Europe and the Middle East. While we will look closely at the life and works of Nicholas of Cusa (1401-1464), we will also consider major events before, during, and after his career. Our goal is to reevaluate options and actions for war and peace during this crucible moment in history with an eye, as always, toward historical lessons for the contemporary world.

Program

Thursday, September 28 (for early arrivals)

4:30 p.m. Social Hour

Singmaster Center

5:00 p.m. Dinner (on our own) Appalachian Brewing Company

6:00 p.m. Museum Open House (no fee)

7:30 p.m. Pre-Conference Presentation Valentine Auditorium

Chair: **Peter Miele**, Executive Director, Seminary Ridge Museum and Education Center
 Greeting: **Teresa Smallwood**, United Lutheran Seminary

“A New Birth of Freedom?: Civil Rights and Black History in 20th Century
 Gettysburg”

Jill Ogline Titus, Civil War Institute, Gettysburg College

Co-Sponsored by the American Cusanus Society
 and the Seminary Ridge Museum and Education Center

Friday, September 29

8:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast Singmaster Center/Hotel

10:30 a.m. Optional: Battlefield tour Valentine Hall Commons
 Seminary Ridge Museum (fee)

12:15 p.m. Lunch Refectory

1:00 p.m. Registration and Refreshments Valentine Commons

3:00 p.m. Plenary. *The Kyomi Koizumi Watanabe Lecture* Valentine Auditorium

Greeting: **Maria Erling**, United Lutheran Seminary

Introduction to the conference theme
Christopher Bellitto, Kean University

“Learning about Peace from the Middle Ages: Jewish, Christian, and Muslim Insights”
Anne Marie Wolf, University of Maine-Farmington

5:00 p.m. Social Hour Pioneer Room, Library

Hosted by Cody Swisher and Victoria Jesswine, Keepers of the Collection
 New additions to the Bond-Watanabe Collection

6:00 p.m. Dinner Refectory

7:45 p.m. Plenary: *Morimichi Watanabe Lecture* Valentine Auditorium

“The Intersection of Peace and Unity at the Council of Constance and Beyond”

Phillip Stump, Lynchburg University,

9:00 p.m. Social Hour Singmaster Center

Saturday, September 30

7:30 a.m. Breakfast Singmaster Center/Hotel

9:00 a.m. Paper panel I Library Lecture Room

Chair: **Andrew LaZella**, University of Scranton

“Nicholas of Cusa: Just War Ideas in His Later Years”

Marco Brösch, Institut für Cusanus-Forschung

“Nicholas of Cusa’s Theological and Philosophical Syncretism. On the Origins of the Modern Idea of Peace.” (virtual)

Valentina Zaffino, Pontifical Lateran University

“Cusanus as Peacekeeper and Warlord in Rome and The Papal States, 1459-1460”

Thomas Woelki, Humboldt-Universität

10:30 a.m. Coffee Break Rotunda

10:45 a.m. Workshop on Texts I Library Lecture Room

Chair: **Samuel J. Dubbelman**, Lutheran Theological Seminary, Hong Kong

Readings:

Ahmad ibn Naqib al-Misri, *Reliance of the Traveller: A Classic Manual of Sacred Islamic Law*, trans. Nuh Ha Mim Keller (Beltsville MD: Amana Publications, 1997), 599-609 (*jihad*)

Christine de Pizan, selections from *The Book of Deeds of Arms and of Chivalry*, trans Sumner Willard, ed. Charity Cannon Willard (University Park: Penn State University Press, 1990): I.1-5; III.7, 18, 21-24: mostly dealing with non-combatants and *ius in bello*

Régine Pernoud and Marie Véronique Clin, *Joan of Arc: Her Story*, trans. Jeremy duQuesnay Adams (NY: St. Martin’s Press, 1998): especially letters to the English, Philip the Good, and Reims

12:15 p.m. Lunch

1:15 p.m. Paper panel II

“The Wars of the Great Western Schism (1378-1417). Peace-Making and the Dinner Table.”

Joëlle Rollo-Koster, University of Rhode Island

“Strategies of Social Persuasion against Hussitism. The Case of Peter of Pirchenwart in Vienna.”

Matteo Esu, Institut de Recherche et d’Histoire des Textes, Paris

“Pius II, Nicholas of Cusa, and the Crusade to Retake Constantinople and Jerusalem”
(virtual)

Nathan Ron, Haifa University

3:00 p.m. Free Time

Battlefield Tour

Tour of the Seminary Ridge Museum and Education Center (fee)

“The Future of Cusanus Studies: an Open-Invitation Virtual Roundtable” Hosted by
Sean Hannan, MacEwan University

4:30 p.m. ACS Business meeting

Singmaster Center

6:00 p.m. Reception

Lewars House

7:30 p.m. Candlelight Banquet

Refectory

Grace: Rabbi Brooks Susman

Christopher Bellitto, Remembering John O’Malley

Toasts: The American Cusanus Society at Forty

Entertainment: *Cormorants Fancy*, Irish-Scottish Band

Sunday, October 1

7:00 a.m. Mass

7:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast

Singmaster Center/Hotel

8:00 a.m. Ecumenical Service

Chapel

Sermon by Nicholas of Cusa

Remembering those who have departed since 2021

9:15 a.m. Paper panel III

Library Lecture Room

“*Cardinalis, qui Polonos odisset*: Nicholas of Cusa’s Learned Ignorance on Poland”

Rafal Wilkolek, Pontifical University of John Paul II, Krakow

“Nicholas of Cusa and the Delegation of Religious Violence” (virtual)
Markus Riedenauer, Katholische Universität Eichstätt-Ingolstadt

“From Mysticism to Reformation to Political Theology: Nicholas of Cusa and Martin Luther on Ecclesiastical Purity and Political Peace”
Nathan Pederson, Fordham University

10:30 a.m. Coffee Break

Rotunda

10:45 a.m. Workshop on Texts II:
 Capstone Conversation: “Whither Just War?”

Facilitators: **Christopher Bellitto**, Kean University;
D. Zachariah Flanagin, Saint Mary’s College of California

Readings:

An Appeal to the Catholic Church to Re-Commit to the Centrality of Gospel Nonviolence: April, 2016.

Mark J. Allman and Tobias Winwright. “Protect Thy Neighbor: Why Just-War Tradition is Still Indispensable.” *Commonweal*, June 2, 2016: a critique of the *Appeal*.

Lisa Sowle Cahill, “A Church for Peace?” *Commonweal*, July 11, 2016: a critique of the critique.

12:15 p.m. Close of the Conference

12:30 p.m. Departures begin

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Program committee: **Christopher Bellitto** and **Anne Marie Wolf**, co-chairs; **Thomas Izbicki**
 Arrangements Committee: **Vincent Evener**, chair; **Gerald Christianson**
 Registrar: **Andrew Taminger**, **Hannah Tonn**

Thank you for thirty-seven years of collegial dialogue and productive scholarship.