



October 20, 2020 9-11 AM CDT (16-18 CEST)

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## “The Epistemology of Theological Predication”

This paper is about epistemological constraints on a theory of theological predications. By theological predications, I mean predications of intrinsic perfections to God. Examples include ‘good’, ‘wise’, ‘omniscient’, etc. The usual debates over theological predication focus on deploying exclusively metaphysical considerations to support whether theological predicates are univocal or analogical or purely negative predications. For example, divine simplicity is often used a premise to support some version of the analogical theory of theological predication. I aim to introduce epistemological considerations into the debate, by asking whether prominent theories of theological predication are consistent with knowledge of claims such as ‘God is good’, ‘God is wise’, etc. I argue that medieval thinkers including Maimonides, al-Razi, and Duns Scotus relied on epistemological considerations. I then close by arguing that many proposals in the contemporary literature, most notably proposals from Daniel Bonevac and William Alston, clearly run afoul of epistemological desiderata on a theory of theological predication.

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### *The Christian West and Islamic East Lecture Series 2020-21*

Part of *The Christian West and Islamic East: Theology, Science, and Knowledge* project, at the University of Missouri-St. Louis and funded by the John Templeton Foundation

In collaboration with the Aquinas and “the Arabs” International Working Group (AAIWG)

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