



“Subdue The Earth?”

Theological and Philosophical Presuppositions
of Modern Science and Technology

Summer School 2024

August 5–9

Benedictine Monastery Mariastein

foXs

FORUM CHRISTLICHE STUDIEN
FORUM FOR CHRISTIAN STUDIES

Science and technology are such central elements of modern societies that we can hardly imagine our lives without them anymore. Yet their emergence in the early modern period and their later rise to such a prominent position were by no means inevitable. They depended contingently on various preconditions, which apparently were fulfilled in only some parts of the world, but not in others. The summer school will investigate the philosophical and theological aspects of these preconditions with both a historical and a systematic interest.

Historically, the medieval retrieval of Aristotle's philosophy and its further development by philosopher-theologians like Thomas Aquinas (1225 – 1274) and William of Ockham (1287 – 1347) led to a transformed conception of theorizing that shifted focus from a metaphysical to an empirical approach to nature. The Renaissance witnessed a further shift away from a disinterested contemplation of the cosmos to a practical engagement with God's creation, resulting in the emphasis on experiment and technical innovation that we find, for example, in Galileo Galilei (1564 – 1642) and Francis Bacon (1561 – 1626).

On the systematic side, we are interested in the role that these philosophical and theological underpinnings still play in contemporary science and its various interactions with society and the environment. In particular, we will ask how science and technology can – despite their inherent tendency to «subdue the earth» (including ourselves) – nevertheless contribute to a sustainable development of humankind and all of creation.

Speakers:

Prof. em. Dr. Peter Harrison (Brisbane)

PD Dr. Andreas Losch (Zürich)

PD Dr. Matthias Egg (Bern)

Dr. Reto Gubelmann (St. Gallen)

Prof. Dr. Johannes Corrodi (Zürich)

The Summer School is designed for graduate and doctoral students in all disciplines, willing to engage in in-depth study of philosophical, intellectual-historical, and theological developments.

Location: Benedictine Monastery
Mariastein, Klosterpl. 1, 4115 Mariastein,
Switzerland

Duration: Monday August 5, 2pm – Friday
August 9 2024, 2pm

Costs: 700 sFr. Includes course fees, accommodation, and all meals. Students who cannot cover their expenses through their home institution and are unable to afford the cost may apply for a reduced fee.

Registration: Until May 15 2024.
Please direct your applications to:
summerschool2024@foxs.ch

The number of participants is limited to 15.

Please enclose a short CV and letter of motivation. Confirmation of participation will be sent at the beginning of June 2024.