

World Christianity Studies & Asymmetrical Dependency (WCSAD) Working Group

Monthly Table Talk

Against Humanity with Prof. Dr. Hanna Reichel

Charles Hodge Professor of Systematic Theology at Princeton Theological Seminary

Date: Tuesday, February 18, 2025

from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. (CET)

Location: Online via Zoom

Registration: To register, please email
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Theology is deeply invested in humanity. After all, the human being stands at the center of Christian accounts of creation, sin, grace, and redemption. Theological definitions of the human have enabled advocacy for human rights and participation in struggles for emancipation and justice on theological grounds.

In our days, it has become less clear that humanity is an unambiguous good. Black, decolonial, feminist, queer, crip, and ecological critiques have charged notion of "the human" with being deeply complicit in logics of exclusion, oppression, and exploitation of those it relegates to "non-human" or "less-than-human" status by a variety of metrics. My current project takes a critical inventory of theological models of thinking "the human" – as created in the image of God, as God's elect covenant partner, as defined by God's own humanity in Christ, and so on – in light of these critiques. To whom does theological anthropology as we know it promise humanity, on what terms, and who and what is rendered "less-than-human" by them? And how, if at all, could or should humanity be pursued by other means?

**Prof. Dr.
Hanna Reichel**

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Theological Seminary. Reichel earned their Dr. theol. in Systematic Theology from Heidelberg University, Germany, after an MDiv in Theology and a BSc in Economics. Prior to coming to Princeton, they taught at Heidelberg University and Halle-Wittenberg University in Germany. Among many other responsibilities, Reichel co-chairs the American Academy of Religion's Christian Systematic Theology unit. They also co-edit Brill's *Studies in Systematic Theology* series and Routledge's *Karl Barth Studies* series. Reichel's award-winning monographs are *Theologie als Bekenntnis: Karl Barths kontextuelle Lektüre des Heidelberger Katechismus* and *After Method: Queer Grace, Conceptual Design, and the Possibility of Theology*. An internationally renowned scholar, Reichel's work has also been featured in public outlets such as *the Atlantic*, the Presbyterian Foundation's *Leading Theologically*, the Center of Theological Inquiry's *Theology Matters*, and Tripp Fuller's *Homebrewed Christianity*.