

CURRICULUM VITAE

From the fall of 2017

Dr. Marie Meaney, married since 2000, 1 child

Born in New York/NY, USA

40, avenue de l'Abreuvoir, 78170 La Celle Saint Cloud, France

0033-(0)6.76.13.89.95 – marie.h.meaney@gmail.com

CURRENT POSITION

Visiting Lecturer

EDUCATION

2002-1997 D.Phil. in French Literature at Oxford University

Dissertation: Literature and Apologetics: Simone Weil's Christological Interpretations of Ancient Greek texts

1997-5 M.Phil. in European Literature (English & German) at Oxford University

Thesis: George Eliot's 'Female Bildungsromane': Bildung or Regression?

1995-2 M.Phil. at the IAP (International Academy of Philosophy), Liechtenstein

Thesis: Die Erkenntnis der Schönheit im Kunstwerk: Eine Phänomenologische Analyse (The Cognition of Beauty in the Work of Art: A Phenomenological Analysis)

1992-1 D.E.U.G. in philosophy at the Sorbonne, Paris IV

Auditoriat at the FLPC (Faculté Libre de Philosophie Comparée), Paris

1991-90 Basic Course at the IAP (International Academy of Philosophy), Liechtenstein

1990 Abitur at the Gymnasium Fridericianum in Erlangen, Germany

Ancient Greek, English

DISSERTATION AND HABILITATION

Literature and Apologetics: Simone Weil's Christological Interpretations of Ancient Greek Texts

Abstract

Marie Cabaud Meaney looks at Simone Weil's Christological interpretations of the Sophoclean *Antigone* and *Electra*, the *Iliad* and Aeschylus' *Prometheus Bound*. Apart from her article on the *Iliad*, Weil's interpretations are not widely known, probably because they are fragmentary and boldly twist the classics, sometimes even contradicting their literal meaning. Meaney argues that Weil had an apologetic purpose in mind: to the spiritual ills of ideology and fanaticism in World War II she wanted to give a spiritual answer, namely the re-Christianization of Europe to which she (though not baptized herself) wished to contribute in some way. To the intellectual agnostics of her day she intended to show through her interpretations that the texts they cherished so much could only be fully understood in light of Christ; to the Catholics she sought to reveal that Catholicism was much more universal than generally believed, since Greek culture already embodied the Christian spirit - perhaps to a greater extent than the Catholic Church ever had. Despite or perhaps because of this apologetic slant, Weil's readings uncover new layers of these familiar texts: Antigone is a Christological figure, combating Creon's ideology of the State by a folly of love that leads her to a Passion in which she experiences an abandonment similar to that of Christ on the Cross. The *Iliad* depicts a world as yet unredeemed, but which traces objectively the reign of force to which both oppressors and oppressed are subject. *Prometheus Bound* becomes the vehicle of her theodicy, in which she shows that suffering only makes sense in light of the Cross. But the pinnacle of the spiritual life is described in *Electra* which, she believes, reflects a mystical experience - something Weil herself had experienced unexpectedly when 'Christ himself came down and took her' in November 1938. In order to do justice to Weil's readings, Meaney not only traces her apologetic intentions and explains the manner in which she recasts familiar Christian concepts (thereby letting them come alive - something every good apologist should be able to do), but also situates them among standard approaches used by classicists today, thereby showing that her interpretations truly contribute something new. (from <https://global.oup.com/academic/product/simone-weils-apologetic-use-of-literature-9780199212453?cc=fr&lang=en&#>)

Committee chair/members
Prof. Dr. Malcolm Bowie
Dr. Patricia J. Little

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Since Spring 2017 Visiting professor at the ITI

- Fall 2012 Teaching for the Christendom College Rome Program
Roman Perspectives Course (Ovid, Livy, St. Augustine, St. Paul, St. Peter, St. Ignatius of Antioch, St Justin Martyr, Hilaire Belloc)
- May 2010- Jan. 2007 Arthur Ennis Teaching Fellow, Villanova University, Philadelphia
- Courses and seminars:
- Interdisciplinary seminars (covering literature, philosophy, literature, theology) on topics as varied as love and friendship, conversion, evil, love and freedom
 - A course on Simone Weil's mysticism in the theology department
- June 2007 Visiting Professor: teaching an intensive course at the Siewerth Akademie/Germany on 'Bekehrung in der Literatur' ('Conversion in Literature')
- 2006 - Jan. 2003 Instructor at James Madison University, Harrisonburg
- Courses:
- on world literature focusing on Western literature
 - on the themes of heroism, beauty, and conversion
 - English literature survey course
- 1999 summer: tutor for the Phoenix Institute Oxford Program
- 1992-1 Latin language instructor at the Faculté Libre de Philosophie Comparée, Paris

OTHER RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

Catholic & Pro-life Activities

6. 2017 One hour interview on infertility with Catholic Song and Fire Ministries
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XxtnXtzcV2Q>
1. 2017 Talk 'Une grossesse tant désirée', for the AFC (Association des Familles Catholiques), La Celle Saint Cloud
11. 2016 Radio interview on in vitro-fertilization with Anne-Marie Michel on Radio Espérance <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0EOeBGj0OTM>
5. 2016 'Une Grossesse tant désirée', AFC Versailles, Napro-conference

3. 2016 'Une Grossesse tant désirée', Paroisse de St. Colette, 75019 Paris
- 1.2016 Radio interview on *Une Grossesse tant désirée* with Gabrielle Cluzelle on « Libre journal de la famille et de l'éducation » on Radio Courtoisie, Paris. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P0RjCZDPIdk>
- 2.2015 Radio interview on the situation of the divorced and remarried with Mike Church on Sirius
- 6.2015 Radio Interview on Infertility with Pia Bühler on Radio Maria, Switzerland
- 6.2014 Interview on Infertility for "The Good Fight", EWTN live radio show with Barbara McGuigan
- 1.2014 Interview on Radio Horeb, German live radio show "Lebenshilfe" with Sabine Böhler, "Das Kreuz der Unfruchtbarkeit"
- 10.2012 'Reproduktive Technologien', HLI-Conference, Vienna
- 6.2012 'Das Kreuz mit der Unfruchtbarkeit', Initiativkreis deutscher Katholiken, Bamberg
7. 2009 one hour Radio Interview on Infertility on Catholic Answers
- 12.2008 Interview on Infertility for "Saints and Future Saints", EWTN live radio show with Barbara McGuigan
- 5.17.2006 Comcast TV- Interview about *The Da Vinci Code*
- 3.28.2006 Relevant Radio Interview about *The Da Vinci Code*
- 12.2005 Interview on Polish Radio Maria and TV Maria
- 3.2005 NGO-participant at the Beijing +10 UN-Conference in New York
- 2005-2004 translating articles for the *Pontifical Council for the Family's* English edition of Lexicon. Termini ambigui e discussi su famiglia, vita, e questioni etiche.
- 2003-2002 German Correspondent for Vatican Radio in the USA
9. 2003 attendance of the Latin-American Bishop's Conference in Santo Domingo
- 2.2003 speaker for HLI on *Life on the Rock*, EWTN
- 1998-97 President of the Oxford University Catholic Graduate Society
Vice-president of the Oxford University Life Group
- 1997 President of the Oxford University Newman Society
- 1996 - Journalist at the World Food Summit of the FAO in Rome

- Official NGO-representative at the 2nd UN-Conference on Human Settlements, Istanbul
- Secretary of the Oxford University Newman Society

TV-Appearances

- 26.5.2014: EWTN Vaticano: brief appearance speaking about contraception <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l0PY6r4gtRA>
- 9. March 2013 Short appearance on EWTN-Vatican-Daily with Colleen Carol Campbell
- 10.2012 German Interview on my infertility-booklet <http://www.gloria.tv/?media=353130>
- Ibid. English Interview on my infertility-booklet <http://www.gloria.tv/?media=363363>
- 10. 2007 TV-Interview on Simone Weil for *Lift High the Cross*, Virginia Public TV

Board-Member and Other Experiences

From 5.2013- 5. 2010 On the board of Directors of Heartbeat International, Columbus, OH:

- bringing about an association between HB and the biggest Italian prolife movement, Il Movimento per la Vita, with its 600 prolife centers
- establishing a contact to the NGO, “No Girls Left Behind”, which then inspired HB to initiate prolife help in China
- facilitating the delivery of an official greeting from the Pontifical Council for the Family on HB’s 40th anniversary
- generally counselling HB on its international outreach

UNIVERSITY AND OTHER EDUCATIONAL SERVICE

2000/1999 Director of the Phoenix Institute Oxford Summer Program

Organizing a three-week summer program on “Relativism and the New Millenium: Cultural Revival in a Modern/Postmodern World” with 24 different speakers giving 28 lectures, a tutor leading tutorials, and cultural visits to London and Cambridge

PUBLICATIONS

Monographs

2007 Simone Weil's Apologetic Use of Literature: Her Christological Interpretations of Classic Greek Texts. *Modern Language Monograph Series*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2007.

Academic Articles

2018, March 'Simone Weil et Josef Ratzinger sur la diversité des religions', *Cahiers Simone Weil*.

2016 'Understanding Simone Weil's „Science of the Supernatural“ within the Context of Rationalism'. *Spaziofilosofico* (17), pp.351-365.
<http://www.spaziofilosofico.it/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Cabaud-Meaney1.pdf>

2014 'Gnadenlos – Simone Weil's Kriegsverständnis im Lichte der ‚Ilias‘', *Communio* (43), pp. 16-24

2012 'Die Banalität des Bösen aus der Perspektive Simone Weils mit einem Blick auf Hannah Arendt', *Jahrbuch für Religionsphilosophie* 11, (München: Verlag Karl Alber), pp. 143-183

2012 'Le Mal, est-il mystérieux ou banal?', *Cahiers Simone Weil* 36/2, June 2012, pp. 255-278

2010 'Simone Weil and René Girard: Violence and the Sacred', *The American Catholic Philosophical Quarterly* 84/3, Summer, 565-587.

'Simone Weil', The Encyclopedia of Christian Literature, George Thomas Kurian (ed.), Lanham/MD: Scarecrow Press.

2009 'The Supernatural as Remedy to Totalitarian Regimes – Simone Weil on Sanctity and the Eucharist', The Relevance of the Radical: Simone Weil 100 Years Later, Lucian Stone and A. Rebecca Rozelle-Stone (eds.), T & T Clark, ch.3.

2008 'Peace through Conversion: Beauty as the Stepping-Stone to God in *Brideshead Revisited*', Making Peace in Our Time: Proceedings of the Northeast Regional Conference on Christianity and Literature, October 26-28,

2007, Joan F. Hallisey and Mary-Anne Vetterling (eds.), Regis College/MA: Peace Press, pp. 173-185.

- Fall 2003 'Simone Weil's Critique of Ideology', *Faith and Reason* 28/3&4, Christendom College Publication, pp. 319-344.
- May/June, 2003 'The Vocation of the Cross – Simone Weil's Theodicy', *St. Austin Review* vol.3/3, pp. 8-12.
- Oct., 2002 'The Mission of the Non-Baptized – Simone Weil: An Apologist of the Supernatural', *Second Spring* 3, Oxford, pp. 39-49.
- 2001 'Why Antigone was right after all: Simone Weil's Mystical Hermeneutics', Shifting Borders: Theory and Identity in French Literature, E. Butterworth & K. Robson (eds), *Modern French Identities* 12, Oxford: Peter Lang, pp.123-140.
- March, 2000 'Mystique et Herméneutique: Simone Weil et sa lecture christologique d'*Électre* et du *Prométhée enchaîné*' ('Mystic and Hermeneutics: Simone Weil's Christological reading of *Electra* and *Prometheus Bound*'), *Cahiers Simone Weil* 23/1, Paris, pp.51-77.

Book-Reviews

Summer 2012 On: Palle Yourgrau, Simone Weil (London: Reaktion Books, 2011) *French Studies* (Oxford), Summer 2012

June 2011 On: E. Jane Doering, Simone Weil and the Specter of Self-Perpetuating Force (Notre Dame/IN: Notre Dame UP, 2010), *Cahiers Simone Weil* XXXIV/3, pp. 349-351

Spring 2006 On: E. Jane Doering & Eric O. Springsted (eds), The Christian Platonism of Simone Weil (Notre Dame/IN: Notre Dame UP, 2004) *Faith and Reason* XXXI/1, pp.152-6.

Popular Publications

Books/CDs

2015 *Une Grossesse tant désirée*, Paris : Téqui.

2012 *Das Kreuz der Unfruchtbarkeit*, transl. Rosemarie Cabaud, Rosemarie Messerer & Marie Meaney, Wien, Immakulata-Verlag, 2012.

January, 2010 *Embracing the Cross of Infertility*, Front Royal/VA: Human Life International.

This book has also appeared in different versions in the following languages:

- Spanish: *Aceptación de la Cruz de la Infertilidad*, transl: Elizabeth Irigoyen, Front Royal/VA : Human Life International, 2011
- Hungarian: *A Meddőség Keresttje*, transl. Istaváfi Gáborné, ed. Imre Téglásy, Alfa Szövetség, 2011
- Croatian: *Prihvatiti križ neplodnosti*, trans. Sermon dool, Karlovac/Croatia : Nonnatus doo., 2012

May 2007 ‘Embracing the Cross of Infertility’, CD, Human Life International (www.hli.org/infertility).

May 2006 ‘The Da Vinci Code: A Violation of Women’, CD, Human Life International.

I have published many online articles in Crisis-Magazine, The Truth and Charity Forum and The Personalist Project, as well as some in The Asketerion.

MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS

Brücken zum Übernatürlichen: Simone Weil über das Böse, den Krieg und die Religion, Patrimonium-Verlag, 2018.

Totalitarian Evil – An Analysis of Evil, Ideology and Totalitarianism from the Perspectives of Simone Weil and Hannah Arendt 120,000 words written

Conversion or Utopia? - An Analysis of the Concept of Conversion in Literature 30,000 words written

PRESENTATIONS

Feb., 2017 ‘Die Banalität des Bösen im Zeitalter des Totalitarismus aus der Perspektive Simone Weils und Hannah Arendts’, Interdisziplinäres Forschungsinstitut der Gustav-Siewerth-Akademie, Heroldsbach

Oct., 2016 ‘Simone Weil et Joseph Ratzinger sur la diversité des religions’, Colloque Simone Weil, Angers

- Feb., 2011 'For the Sake of the Children: Reproductive Technologies Analyzed from a Natural Law Perspective', National Catholic Bioethics Center, Bishops' Workshop, Dallas/TX
- Oct., 2010 'La Banalité du Mal', Colloque S. Weil, Paris
- April, 2010 'The Mystery of Evil', Simone Weil Colloquy, Boston College
- Nov., 2008 'Christ before Christianity – Simone Weil and the Greek Classics', Falvey Library Lecture Series, Villanova University
- Oct., 2008 'Waiting on God: Simone Weil, Literature and Apologetics', lecture (invited speaker) at Scranton University
- April, 2008 'Faust and Mme Bovary: From Ecstasy to Agony', lecture (invited speaker) at Thomas More College, New Hampshire
- April, 2008 'The Supernatural as Enemy of the Natural – Antigone Versus Creon', Simone Weil Colloquy, St. Michael's College, Toronto.
 'A Friendship in Love – Jacques Cabaud's Contacts with the Weil Family and their Friends', After-dinner Presentation, St. Michael's College, Toronto.
- October, 2007 'Peace through Conversion: Beauty as the Stepping-Stone to God in *Brideshead Revisited*', Northeastern Christianity and Literature Conference on 'Making Peace in Our Time', Regis College/MA
- June, 2007 Intensive Course at the Siewerth Akademie/Germany on 'Bekehrung in der Literatur' ('Conversions in Literature')
- April, 2006 'Simone Weil and Joseph Ratzinger: Truth, Ideology and Culture', Southeastern Christianity and Literature Conference, Anderson University/SC
- June, 2005 'Nazism and Communism: Simone Weil Dissects Idolatrous Ideologies', Catholic Information Center, Washington D.C.
- March, 2005 'Mysticism and Literature: Mystical Spaces in T.S. Eliot, Simone Weil and C.S. Lewis': leading panel; lecture '*Love Bade Me Welcome: From Welcome to Anguish – Simone Weil's Mystical Spaces*', CEA-conference, Indianapolis.
- Feb., 2005 'Simone Weil and René Girard: Violence and the Sacred', lecture given at the symposium "Violence and the Changing Geopolitical Order in Literature and the Arts", University of Oregon
- April, 2004 'Harold Bloom and Simone Weil: From Aesthetics to Mysticism', CEA-Conference, Richmond
- June, 2003 'Simone Weil's Critique of the *Zeitgeist*' and 'C.S. Lewis' Critique of Ideology in *That Hideous Strength*', International Institute for Culture,

- Eichstätt Summer Program (Germany)
- June, 2003 ‘Simone Weil and Ideology’, Siewerth Akademie, Germany
- July, 2002 ‘Simone Weil’s Apologetic Use of Literature: A Christological Interpretation of the Antigone’, International Institute for Culture, Eichstätt Summer Program (Germany)
- May, 2002 ‘The Apologetic Use of Literature in the 20th Century: The Example of Simone Weil’, Università della Santa Croce, Rome
- April, 1999 ‘Why Antigone was right after all: Simone Weil’s Mystical Hermeneutics’, French Graduate Seminar Day in Cambridge on the topic “Shifting Borders”
- Oct., 1998 ‘Mystique et Herméneutique: Simone Weil et sa lecture christologique d’*Èlectre* et du *Prométhée enchaîné*’ (‘Mystic and Hermeneutics: Simone Weil’s Christological reading of *Electra* and *Prometheus Bound*’), Conference on Simone Weil’s mysticism, Simone Weil Society, Paris

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Simone Weil
 Hannah Arendt
 Totalitarianism
 Evil
 Conversion
 René Girard
 Aesthetics
 George Eliot

TEACHING INTERESTS

- Interdisciplinary courses on the topics of
 - o Conversion
 - o Beauty
 - o Evil
 - o Love
 - o Heroism
- Courses on different aspects of Simone Weil’s life and thought
- Courses on the Greek Classics: Homer, Aeschylus, Sophocles, Antigone, Plato etc.
- Courses on French and/or English Catholic authors

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Member, Association pour l'étude de la pensée de Simone Weil
Member, American Simone Weil Society

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

ISI Western Civilization Scholarship (Intercollegiate Studies Institute), 2000-2001, 20,000 \$

LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY

German: mother-tongue
English: mother-tongue
French: mother-tongue (I was brought up trilingual)
Italian: good speaking and reading skills
Latin: Latinum (7 years)
Greek: Graecum (5 years)