POLITICS, VIOLENCE AND THE SACRED:
Exploring René Girard’s thought in Security and International Studies

23-24 MAY 2013

UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL LANCASHIRE, UK

http://renegirard2013.wordpress.com/
DAY 1 – 23 May 2013

9–9.25: Registration/coffee break

9.25–9.30: Introductory remarks: Antonio Cerella & Pradeep Passi (UCLan)

9.30–10.25 1st Keynote address: MICHAEL KIRWAN (Heythrop) (30 min)

René Girard’s Mimetic Theory: An ‘Anti-Political Theology’?
Discussant: Antonio Cerella (UCLan) (5 min) + Q&A (20 min)

Panel 1: Beyond Violence: Things Hidden since the Foundation of the Polis
10.30 – 12.30 (20min x 4 + 40min Q&A)

Chair: Brian Rosebury (UCLan)

- Arata Takeda (Chicago): Aristotle on Mimesis and Violence: Things Hidden since the Foundation of the Literary Theory
- Paul M. Rogers (Cambridge): René Girard and Thomas Aquinas on Prophecy and the Purging of the Notion of Justice
- Rosemary Durward (King’s College): Rivalry and its Anti-Dote in Charity: Implications of the Crucifixion for Wars and Rumours of Wars
- Daniel Nunes Pereira (Fluminense, Brazil): The State as Imitatio Dei – Theogony, Cosmogony and Theosis

12.30 – 14.00: Lunch Break

Panel 2: The Rise and Fall of Christianity: Modernity and Postmodernity
14.00 – 16.00 (20min x 4 + 40min Q&A)

Chair: Martin O’Brien (UCLan)

- Stéphane Marcireau (Poitiers): Christianity and the Rise of the Individual: A Girardian Account
- Katrin Becker (Luxembourg): Christianity – Key or Obstacle to Intercultural Dialogue? A Comparison between Girard’s Theory of Mimetic Desire and Legendre’s Dogmatic Anthropology
- Emanuele Antonelli (Turin): Girard and Postmodernity: Ontology of a Panic-Stricken Age
- Harald Wydra (Cambridge): Spells of the Sacred in a Global World

16.00 – 16.30: Coffee Break
Panel 3: **Mimetic Theory and the Origins of Politics and Conflict**

16.30 – 18.30 (20min x 4 + 40min Q&A)

Chair: *Peter Lucas* (UCLan)

- William C. Wolf (Scranton, US): *Hegel’s State and the Divinity of Violence: A Girardian Reading of the Philosophy of Right*
- Kent Enns (Humber College, Canada): *René Girard, Human Nature and Political Conflict*
- Margaret Denike (Dalhousie): *The Sacrificial Politics of Race: Biopolitics of Security*
- Vern N. Redekop (Saint-Paul): *Mimetic Structures of Violence and Blessing in Israel/Palestine*

**DAY 2 – 24 May 2013**

9–9.30: Registration/coffee break

9.30–10.25  
**2nd Keynote address: SCOTT M. THOMAS** (Bath) (30 min)

*Mimetic Theory and the Study of International Relations: Theoretical Issues and Research Trajectories*

Discussant: Harald Wydra (Cambridge) (5 min) + Q&A (20 min)

Panel 4: **The ‘Mimetical’ and the ‘Political’: René Girard vs. Political Realism**

10.30 – 12.30 (15min x5 + 45min Q&A)

Chair: *Elisabetta Brighi* (Cambridge)

- Ernesto Gallo (Open): *Unlikely Twins? Machiavelli and Girard on Violence and the Origins of the State*
- Jodok Troy (Innsbruck): *Desire for Power or the Power of Desire? Mimetic Theory and the Hearth of 20th Century Realism*
- Andrea Salvatore (Sapienza – University of Rome): *A ‘Theoretical Double’: Violence, Religion and Social Order in Girard and Schmitt*
- Antonio Cerella (UCLan): *Until the End of the World: Girard, Schmitt and the Origins of Violence*

12.30 – 14.00: Lunch Break
Panel 5: **Nuclear Deterrence, Security and the Meaning of Power**

14.00 – 16.00 (20min x4 + 40min Q&A)

Chair: *Jodok Troy* (Innsbruck)

- Anne I. Harrington (CNS): *Mimetic Rivalry, Nuclear Weapons and the Struggle for Power*
- Naveed Sheikh (Keele): *Towards a Mimetic Theory of Nonproliferation: Girard, the Post-Colonial Condition and the Meaning of the Bomb*
- Laura Schuurmans (Peking): *Mimesis and Nuclear Deterrence: A Case Study of Iran and North Korea*
- Bianca Baggianini (York, Canada): *The Politics of Military Privatization and the Shifting Terrain of Sacrifice*

16.00 – 16.30: Coffee Break

Panel 6: **Mimesis, Terrorism and Sacrifice**

16.30 – 18.30 (20min x4 + 40min Q&A)

Chair: *Antonio Cerella* (UCLan)

- Dzhamal Z. Mutagirov (Saint Petersburg): *Modern Forms of Violence and Sacrifice*
- Viola Giuliano (Sussex): *Religious Self-Sacrifice and Symbolic Violence: A Girardian Reading of Contemporary Suicide Terrorism*
- Hüseyin I. Cicek (Erlangen): *A Mimetic Reading of al-Qaeda’s Messages*

18.30 – 18.35: Concluding remarks: Antonio Cerella (UCLan)

18.35 – 19.30: Drinks