

CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR PARTICIPATION

***Summistae: The Commentary Tradition on Thomas Aquinas's Summa Theologiae (15<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> Centuries)***

International Conference

Porto, 10-12 October 2013

Peter Lombard's *Sentences* was the standard theological text from the late thirteenth century to the beginning of the sixteenth century. Yet, by the end of the fifteenth century, the *Sentences* started to be replaced by the *Summa Theologiae* as the book to be taught and commented on at the faculty of theology. The reading of the *Summa* was already a practice in fifteenth-century Dominican *studia*, most notably in Cologne where the earliest commentaries on the *Summa* came to light. In the beginning of the sixteenth century, Iberian universities adopted the *Summa* as the official text of university teaching at a faculty of theology on a permanent basis. This replacement was later extended to many Counter-Reformed universities all through Europe and even to the universities of the Spanish empire. The *Summa* remained as the theological textbook until the eighteenth century. This explains the huge number of commentaries on the *Summa*.

If not for anything else, the *Summa* commentaries are important for the history of philosophy for two reasons: they continue the tradition of medieval thought — the commentators still draw on authors such as Scotus, Durandus of St. Pourçain, Ockham, Buridan and Gabriel Biel— and they represent a significant part of the Scholasticism which was known to Descartes and Leibniz. However, the commentaries stand as original works on their own, as shown by the commentaries composed by Soto, Báñez, Arriaga, Wiggers, Lessius and many others.

Although some conferences and collective volumes have been dedicated to the study of a single author, to the late scholastic political thought or to the commentaries produced in the sixteenth-century University of Salamanca, no symposium has ever been specifically devoted to the *Summa* commentaries which span from the fifteenth to the eighteenth centuries. As the *Summa* deals with nearly all the theological and philosophical topics and touches on all the philosophical domains, this conference may provide an outline of the philosophical thought produced in early modern university.

The main purpose is to hold a conference on the *Summa* commentaries following the structure of the *Summa* itself. Each participant will select a question, a set of articles from a question or even a delimited group of

questions, from one part of the *Summa* and carry out an investigation on how different commentators (and from different backgrounds and regions) dealt with a given issue. The commentaries on the *Summa* are here understood in a broad sense, thereby including *Disputationes* and *Cursus Theologici* based on the text of the *Summa*.

The papers do not necessarily have to be eminently historical or make use of a diachronic approach, as the main interest is to see the ways in which various commentators touched on the same question. For this reason, we welcome also studies that may compare the commentators with early modern philosophers, such as Descartes, Hobbes, or German Protestant authors. Further to this, we welcome papers that may offer a study of the commentaries against the background of early modern Aristotelianism. Each participant should deal with more than one commentary and, if possible, takes into account not only the most notable authors, but also names such as Augustinus Reding, Juan Salas, Nicolas Ysambert, or Francisco de Araújo (given their importance in their own time).

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## CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

This is an invited conference, but a small number of papers will be accepted through application. If you want to present a paper, please send, by e-mail, a title and an abstract, with a cover letter containing contact information to: [gfm@letras.up.pt](mailto:gfm@letras.up.pt) (subject head "Summistae paper presentation"). Closing date for applications: **15th October 2012**.

Stipends are available through application for accepted independent or unemployed researchers.

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This conference is part of the research project *Iberian Scholastic Philosophy at the Crossroads of Western Reason: The Reception of Aristotle and the Transition to Modernity*

Organization: J. Meirinhos, L. Lanza, M. Toste.

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Conference web page: <http://ifilosofia.up.pt/gfm> → Summistae

Gabinete de Filosofia Medieval  
Faculdade de Letras da Universidade do Porto  
Via Panorâmica s/n  
4150-564 Porto  
Portugal