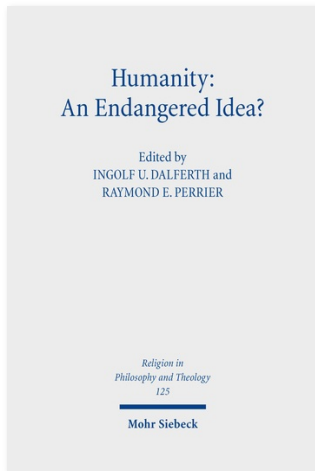


Humanity: An Endangered Idea?

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Edited by Ingolf U. Dalferth and Raymond E. Perrier

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The idea of humanity is more controversial today than ever before. Traditionally, answers to the questions about our humanity and 'humanitas' (Cicero) have been sought along five routes: by contrasting the human with the non-human (other animals), with the more than human (the divine), with the inhuman (negative human behaviors), with the superhuman (what humans will become), or with the transhuman (thinking machines). In each case the question at stake and the point of comparison is a different one, and in all those respects the idea of humanity has been defined differently. What makes humans human? What does it mean for humans to live a human life? What is the humanitas for which we ought to strive? This volume discusses key philosophical and theological issues in the current debate, with a particular focus on transhumanism, artificial intelligence, and the ethical challenges facing humanity in our technological culture.

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Contributors:

Jon Bialecki, Guelfo Carbone, Daniel Chernilo, Ronald Cole-Turner, Ingolf U. Dalferth, Dirk Evers, Adriano Fabris, Thomas Jarred Farmer, Petr Gallus, Hasse Hamalainen, Emily Hodges, Veli-Matti Kärkkäinen, Richard Livingston, Anselm K. Min, Daniel Nelson, Raymond E. Perrier, Joseph Prabhu, Nathan Schrader, Walter Schweidler, Josiah Solis, Hava Tirosh-Samuelson, Lucas Wright, Liu Yue

Ingolf U. Dalferth Geboren 1948; 1977 Promotion; 1982 Habilitation; Professor Emeritus für Systematische Theologie, Symbolik und Religionsphilosophie an der Universität Zürich; Danforth Professor Emeritus für Religionsphilosophie an der Claremont Graduate University in Kalifornien.

Raymond E. Perrier Born 1988; 2010 Bachelor of Arts (Philosophy), Mississippi State University; 2012 Master of Theological Studies (History of Theology), Emory University; 2018 PhD in Philosophy of Religion and Theology, Claremont Graduate University.

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Phone: +49 (0)7071-923-17

Fax: +49 (0)7071-51104



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Mohr Siebeck GmbH & Co. KG
Postfach 2040
D-72010 Tübingen
info@mohrsiebeck.com
www.mohrsiebeck.com