

Lluís Oviedo Torró

Born at Ontinyent (Spain) in 1958. Theology Doctor (PhD), specialization in Fundamental Theology, at the Gregorian University of Rome in 1989.

Postal address

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Academic Activity

Ordinary Professor for Theological Anthropology and Fundamental Theology at the Pontifical University Antonianum of Rome (1992...)

Invited Professor of Fundamental Theology (field: Christian Faith, Society and Science) at the Gregorian University of Rome (2003...).

Editor of the Periodical “Antonianum” from 1997 to 2004.

At the present leads a project of “Interdisciplinary and Empirical Theology” in the Antonianum University, or theology in dialog with human and social sciences.

Editor of the Bulletin ESSSAT News (official Bulletin of the European Society for the Study of Science and Theology) since 2008.

Regular Contributor to Reviews in Religion and Theology

Academic membership

European Society for the Study of Science and Theology (ESSSAT)

Society for the Scientific Study of Religion (SSSR)

International Association for the Cognitive Science of Religion (IACSR)

Participation in International Conferences

Had participated regularly and actively with papers in the last meetings of the former quoted Academic Societies (at least since 2000)

Regular and active participation in the interdisciplinary biannual forum “Colloquium E. Castelli of Philosophy of Religion”

Particular interests and approaches

Interdisciplinary studies on religion; methodological questions in the study of religion

Relationship between Christian and scientific anthropologies

Empirical approaches to religion and theology

At the present, conducting a research trying to incorporate cognitive insights into the theological and biblical hermeneutics

My interests point in two fundamental but clearly linked directions: the conditions of religious survival in advanced societies; and the theological impact of the scientific study of religion and human person. My ultimate aim is to build a theology more entrenched with the ongoing scientific process, able to engage in deep dialogue with differently qualified interlocutors in our cultural and scientific context. It is important to overcome the self-referential way of practising theology, and to proceed with a more dialogical program.

At the moment working on some projects in the interface between social and cognitive sciences and theology, all in collaboration with colleagues from other disciplines. The first, 'Looking for a Universal Religious Grammar', tries to gather evidence about the basic structures of the religious mind, shared by clearly distinct and distant cultures and religious background. The second project looks at the specific characteristics of autistic and Asperger people in their ways of living religious experiences. With other colleagues I am involved in a project of research on pilgrims and pilgrimages.

Some lessons can be learned from that practice: the most important, that theology can improve its proposals when it is able to draw from the empirical method and be in contact with empirical research. New and fruitful inspirations flow when the theologian is able to leave the library and the armchair, to observe directly how people believe, and how they describe their own experiences.