

**Green European Foundation, with Green Foundation Ireland and the School of Religions, Peace Studies & Theology, Trinity College Dublin, presents a one-day conference**

## **Green Values, Religion & Secularism**



**Where:** Irish School of Ecumenics, TCD, Dublin 2

**When:** Saturday 1 July 2017, 09:30-17:00

# Programme

**MORNING SESSION 09:30 to 13:30**

## Welcome and Introduction:

**Andrew Pierce** on behalf of the Irish School of Ecumenics, Trinity College Dublin, and

**Nuala Ahern** on behalf of Green European Foundation and Green Foundation Ireland

## "What are the core values which inspire ecological and social activism?"

The Green evaluation of modernity and philosophies of consumerism and growth has parallels with theological criticism of secularist humanisms, where a restricted view of the human person becomes the measure of all things. Green values are critical of the idea of the rational self-interested isolated individual as the basis of social and economic life.

**Chair: Dr Geraldine Smyth**, Adjunct Associate Professor at Irish School of Ecumenics, TCD.

**09:45-10:15 Dr Erica Meijers**, Theologian and Co-Editor of *"Green Values, Religion and Secularism"*.

The work of the German poet Novalis shows that the critical tradition of the Enlightenment and the longing for a world that is whole has always belonged together. They can both contribute to an inclusive humanism today.

**10:15-11:00 Dr Andreas Weber**, Biologist and Cultural Change Expert.

Only a science, politics and economics that puts the living world at its heart will be truly sustainable. Andreas discusses the idea that nature is a living commons and is not only about competition, but also about the commoning activities of a myriad of individual agents living in an ecosystem.

**11:00-11:15 Coffee Break**

**11:15-12:00 Dr Cathriona Russell**, Assistant Professor in Theology, Trinity College Dublin. Integrating the good life and duty in environmental ethics.

**12:00-12:45 Dr John Feehan**, Geologist, Botanist and Environmental Philosopher. Science, Spirituality and the Tao: Inching towards a deeper consilience.

**12:45-13:15 Question & Answers**

**13:15-14:15 Lunch Break**

## AFTERNOON SESSION 14:15-17:00

**Chair: Dr Andrew Pierce**, Head of Discipline at the Irish School of Ecumenics, TCD.

Spirit has been conceived as superior to the earthbound and the carnal in western philosophy since the Greeks. Moreover spirit has been located in the male mind and sexuality and materiality in the female body.

Does the papal encyclical *Laudato si'* transform our idea of sin to include the desecration of the natural world?

**Dr John Dillon**, former Regius Professor of Greek at Trinity College Dublin, and Founder and Director Emeritus of the Plato Centre.

**Dr Mary Condren**, Centre for Gender and Women's Studies at Trinity College Dublin, and Director of Woman Spirit Ireland.

**Dr Jacob Erickson**, Assistant Professor of Theological Ethics at The Loyola Institute, Trinity College Dublin.

**Catherine Devitt**, Environmental Justice Officer at the Jesuit Centre for Faith and Justice.

will ask is it possible to respond in a practical way to the call of *Laudato si'*.

**Followed by: Question & Answers** with all speakers until 16:45

**17:00 / Reception**