

PUBLIC LECTURE CONFÉRENCE PUBLIQUE

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**“Duns Scotus on Mapping the
Mind onto the World”**

Much of Duns Scotus's philosophy of mind and epistemology may be well understood as a contribution to an on-going discussion begun by Thomas Aquinas and Henry of Ghent, though roots of even that discussion may be found in Bonaventure's thought. Aquinas and Henry, maintaining the Avicennian position that being is first known, disagree about what exactly being as first known is: for Aquinas, it is the general notion applicable to created being that allows us to think all finite things; for Henry, it is God who, as the perfect expression of being, underwrites our thinking of anything whatsoever. Yet both Aquinas and Henry agree in the view that being as first actually known is confusedly known. Scotus's mapping of the mind onto the world consists in his challenging many of the assumptions shared by his predecessors and forwarding a view that systematizes in a surprising way the Avicennian position with a developmental psychology.

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