



The University of  
Nottingham

‘François Laruelle is engaged in one of the most interesting undertakings of contemporary philosophy.’ The judgement of Gilles Deleuze and Félix Guattari, from their 1991 book *What is Philosophy* is only now being realised in the English speaking world. While François Laruelle has been developing his project – what he calls ‘non-philosophy’ – for nearly 40 years in France, his work is just being translated into English.

What Laruelle proposes as ‘non-philosophy’ is not an anti-philosophy. Laruelle is not interested to herald another ‘end of philosophy’ nor any kind of the post-Kantian internal critique of philosophy. Rather, modelling non-philosophy by an analogy with non-Euclidean geometry, he proposes both a science of philosophy and a radical reworking of philosophical concepts along new axioms. Thinking from the One, rather than of Being. From minorities, rather than authorities; the individual, rather than the whole. Radical immanence, rather than the philosophical mixture of transcendence and immanence. Fashioning philosophy in the service of humanity, rather than subjecting humanity to philosophy.

This radical reworking of philosophy draws upon the whole of the history of philosophy, yet Laruelle has not limited non-philosophy to a historical function. From the beginning of non-philosophy’s development Laruelle incorporated a number of elements from theology and religious thought. He took seriously the Jewish character of Levinas’s ethical challenge to Greek philosophy, made nuanced and critical appeals to mysticism, and engaged heavily with heretical Christian movements like Gnosticism. In recent years he has made this engagement more explicit having written a book on heresy (*Future Christ: A Lesson in Heresy* [forthcoming in English, Continuum, 2010) and mysticism (*Mystique non-philosophique à l’usage des contemporains* [Kimé, 2007]). With his work beginning to be translated into English for the first time the Department of Religious Studies and the Centre of Theology and Philosophy is honoured to be a part of introducing Laruelle’s non-philosophy to the English speaking academy, both in relation to his work on religion and with regards to his wider project.

This one-day conference is orientated around introducing Laruelle’s non-philosophy. It includes an accessible introduction to the project, a roundtable discussion with theologians and philosophers, and a keynote address by Laruelle that will detail the current direction of non-philosophy. We encourage MA and research students from across the humanities to attend and participate. The day’s events are free and open to the public and a light lunch will be provided. The event will take place in the University Staff Club on the University Park Campus (Number 8 on attached map of University Park campus). We ask that you register by emailing [anthonypaul.smith@gmail.com](mailto:anthonypaul.smith@gmail.com) so that we can provide the correct level of catering.