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Faith and Reason in Christian Traditions

RES 3/2027

From antiquity to the present, the relationship between Christianity and philosophical reasoning has shaped Christian self-understanding. While some early Christian voices vehemently opposed speculative traditions, others drew from philosophical culture to articulate their faith. Over the centuries, this tension between fides and ratio has resurfaced in various forms, from the ascetical suspicion of learning to the scholastic synthesis of theology and Aristotelianism, from Reformation critiques of reason to modern encounters with scepticism, science, and secularization.

However, far from being a simple opposition, faith and reason have functioned as intertwined modes of inquiry within Christianity. Classical education formed many of the major patristic theologians, and monasteries preserved philosophical and scientific texts from Greek antiquity. Later, medieval and early modern debates continually renegotiated the boundaries between rational inquiry and revealed truth. In modernity, the rise of scientific epistemologies, rationalism, and post-truth scepticism has once again transformed the terms of this long-standing dialogue.

This issue invites contributions that examine the diverse ways in which Christians have negotiated the relationship between intellectual culture and religious belief. We welcome historically grounded, comparative, and interdisciplinary studies that analyse how Christian traditions have defined, contested, integrated, or resisted rational inquiry from antiquity to the present day. Possible topics include, but are not limited to:

- Early Christian engagements with Greek philosophy and classical paideia
- Ascetic, monastic, and mystical critiques of intellectualism
- Medieval scholastic integrations of faith and rational inquiry
- Reformation and post-Reformation reconfigurations of fides and ratio
- Anti-intellectual tendencies in modern and contemporary Christian movements

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Submission deadline: April 1, 2027

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Contributions will be published in German or English and are to follow editorial guidelines:
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