

**The Society for the Globalization of Effective
Methods of Evolving**

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SGEME REPORT, JUNE 2016

**Prepared also for the Lonergan Centers Group Meeting following the
2016 Lonergan Workshop, Saturday, June 25, 2016, Boston, MA.**

This report is in two parts.

PART A regards the SGEME mission, global needs, Lonergan Studies, and includes **two proposals**.

PART B is a list of some of our members' activities, publications and works in progress.

PART A

Our original plan for this year's report was to simply share a list of activities and publications of SGEME members. Further thought, however, led us to include this Part A. We do not wish to cause bother. Yet, we may risk doing so with this Part A. For, in various venues and publications, we already have been inviting interest in functional specialization, including previous reports to the annual June Boston Lonergan Centers meeting.

Are we repeating the same old message? Global circumstances are not as they were in 1965, nor as they were this time last year, June 2015. Global crises multiply. Peoples of the world increasingly struggle; the business of contemporary education kills wonder; and our world-garden is being damaged at rates unprecedented in geo-history. These are serious problems, are they not? The longer cycle of decline is a reality, it is upon us, and, indeed, it is within us. In particular, is it not something of a concern that present patterns of global scholarship (which includes Lonergan Studies) contribute to the horrors of present decline? We are struggling within confusions of a "second stage of meaning" (*Method*), what McShane has identified as Axial Times. But, what are we to do? The problem may seem overwhelming.

SGEME does not ask that all scholars in Lonergan Studies agree that functional specialization is important. **What we do ask, our first proposal here, is that Lonergan's 1965 discovery be made a topic in the June 2016 Meeting, and in Lonergan Studies.** It may seem strange that we feel the need to include this as a proposal, this June 2016. But, with only few exceptions, the topic has remained generally absent from Lonergan Studies. Even if one is to eventually reject the importance of Lonergan's 1965 discovery, is it not plausible that it might be worthwhile to explore an idea that, at a summit of his creative life, the community's namesake discovered and considered important? Perhaps someone has a better idea for how the Academy might climb out of present confusions, and eventually go on to effectively promote "cumulative and progressive results" (*Method* 4, 5)? If so, might it not help to speak of that alternative, to think out how *we* might implement the idea, *together*? Fresh inquiry

into such matters undoubtedly will uncover dimensions of progress not accounted for in the brief chapter 5 of Lonergan's *Method in Theology*.¹ If, though, we seek luminous consensus "at the level of the times"² (surely needed and practical), then even if one disagrees with Lonergan, it will be difficult to self-consistently avoid the series of challenges compactly outlined in *Method*, 250.

This brings us to our second proposal, regarding that (future) possibility, a pressing need, of working at "the level of the times."³ **Our second proposal is that we start talking about what steps we can take to encourage scientific development in junior scholars in Lonergan Studies.** No doubt, this would need to be a gradual process over several generations of students.

In the meantime, however, we can't afford to wait for that longer process to mature. Somewhat more feasible in the near future would be modest progress toward an eightfold division of labor, in preliminary descriptive mode. Soon, this would begin reveal almost outrageous advantages compared to present patterns of scholarship. Such progress also would increasingly bring out the need for being luminous in, and about, up-to-date scientific development.

PART B

SGEME

The Society for the Globalization of Effective Methods of Evolving did not hold its regular conference in 2015, nor this year, 2016. There have been various ongoing projects and works in progress that focused on the overall mission of SGEME and they have had to take precedence. Besides these efforts, it was an opportunity for those who usually gathered at SGEME conferences to reflect on new strategies.

PROJECTS, PUBLICATIONS AND WORKS IN PROGRESS

A number of articles that are chapters in books are not separately recorded below. See, for example, the *Brendan Lovett Festschrift* (Altarejos et al., 2016) and *Seeding Global Collaboration* (Brown et al., 2016)

Marina Obal Altarejos, James Duffy and Philip McShane (editorial team), *Brendan Lovett Festschrift, Himig Ugnayan A Theological Journal of the INSTITUTE OF FORMATION AND RELIGIOUS STUDIES (IFRS)*, Volume XVI, AY 2015-2016 SPECIAL EDITION.

Bruce Anderson & Michael Shute, *The Procedural and Contextual Aspects of Objectivity in Legal Reasoning*, in *Truth and Objectivity in Law and Morals*, ed. H. Yoshino, A. Santacoloma Sanatacoloma, G. Villa Rosas, ARSP-Beiheft 148, (Stuttgart: Franz Steiner Verlag, 2016), 81-95. This paper also was presented at the *IVR World Congress of Philosophy of Law and Legal Theory*, University of Minas Gerais, Brazil, July 2013.

Lawyers and legal theorists accept that the writings about objectivity in law are confusing and vague. An interpretation of Lonergan's explanation of objectivity is applied to a legal decision making process in an effort to explain Lonergan's position and to highlight the limitations of contemporary versions of objectivity.

B. Anderson & M. Shute, *The Need for a Better Understanding of Reasoning and Feelings in Legal Decision Making*, *Archiv fur Rechts und Sozialphilosophie*, Franz Steiner Verlag, Accepted for publication October 2015. This paper was also presented at the *IVR World Congress of Philosophy of Law and Legal Theory*, Georgetown University, Washington, DC, July 2015.

The deficiencies of current truncated views on legal reasoning and feelings are highlighted and the argument is that if you want to understand the role of feelings in legal reasoning you have to do intentionality analysis.

¹ See, also, the 1969 article in the *Gregorianum*.

² F. E. Crowe, S J., *Lonergan*, 1992.

³ *Ibid*.

B. Anderson,

Common Sense versus Science: Lawyer's Talk & Text, Fourth International Conference on Law, Language and Communication: negotiating cultural, jurisdictional and disciplinary boundaries, to be presented at the Centre for Research in Language and Law, Department of Law, University of Naples 2, Caserta, Italy, May 2016.

Various legal theorists draw analogies between science and law in order to bolster the prestige of legal theory and to help them understand legal methods. This paper critiques those analogies, points out differences between science and common sense practical problem solving, and claims that intentionality analysis is a key to getting to grips with method in law.

The Role and Limitations of the Common Sense Method in Law, 20 pages. Presented at the *Monthly Jurisprudence Seminar*, Law Faculty, University of Stockholm, Sweden, May 2014.

Reasoning in law is portrayed primarily in terms of argumentation and the interpretation of texts. The aim of this paper is to explain the extent to which legal decision making is a trouble-shooting and practical problem solving activity subject to the limitations common sense.

Dealing explicitly with Functional Collaboration:

Is There More to Legal Interpretation than Interpretation? Legal Argumentation and Legal Theory Conference, Modern Legal Interpretation: Legalism or Beyond? European Faculty of Law and the Graduate School of Government, Ljubljana, Slovenia, to be presented November 2016.

For the legal profession interpretation covers just about everything they do. This paper uses the eight functional specialties to untangle things.

Foundations for Corporate Legal and Governance, presented at the *Sixth International Lonergan Conference: Functional Collaboration in the Academy*, Vancouver, BC. 2014.

What I am searching for here are foundations for policies concerning corporate governance. My guiding question is 'What is the ground for doctrines about how to intelligently govern and manage corporations?' Business people have to know how an economy works, is working, and how to act intelligently in light of that knowledge. The key is getting to grips with Bernard Lonergan's five-square diagram and appreciating that the governance of corporations is governed by the oscillations of local, national, and global flows of production and finance. The ground of good corporate governance requires that those running our corporations understand how the production and sale of goods and services is connected to the circulation of money in a properly functioning economy. Further, they must understand what the needs and demands of such a system are, and be able to do what is necessary to keep the system functioning properly.

Pat Brown and James Duffy (eds.) *Seeding Global Collaboration* (Foreword by James Duffy, and Introduction by Pat Brown). Axial Publishing, June 2016.

Michael George

I'm giving one of the two opening papers at the "15th Losinj Days of Bioethics-International Symposium on Integrative Bioethics and New Epoch," Croatian Philosophical Society and the Croatian Bioethics Society in the town of Mali Losinj, Croatia from May 15-18, 2016. My paper is titled "Bioethics as Social Discourse".

The main focus of my presentation will be on the centrality of communication in promoting, and recognizing, bioethics per se.

Plenary talk, "In Search of Health- A Cultural-Historical Quest", at the 24th Days of Frane Petric-Health and Culture International Interdisciplinary Symposium, hosted by the Croatian Philosophical Society, September 20-23, 2015.

Among the other things I mentioned in this, I was interested in how the absence of a coherent and identifiable model/metaphor for health generally indicated the sorry state of our (lack of) self-awareness/consciousness, and how foundational understanding still continued to escape the awareness of most current thinkers/practitioners in the related fields and disciplines.

Robert Henman *Global Collaboration: Neuroscience as Paradigmatic*, Axial Publishing, 2016. Foreword by Philip McShane.

This book points toward the need for a form of collaboration that is presently inoperative in neuroscience and, as McShane states in the Foreword, is not functioning in the current sciences at all. The New Science is a division of labour and tasks that has the potential to increase the probabilities of cumulative and progressive results. Bernard Lonergan made this discovery in 1965 and called it functional specialization. More recently, through the influence of McShane's research and writings, it is more often referred to as, functional collaboration.

"Can brain scanning and imaging techniques contribute to a theory of thinking?" *Dialogues in Philosophy, Mental and Neuro Sciences*, Vol. 6, Issue 2, 2013, Rome Italy, <http://www.crossingdialogues.com/issue22013.htm>

"Generalized Empirical Method: A Context for a Discussion of Language Usage in Neuroscience" *Dialogues in Philosophy, Mental and Neuro Sciences*, Vol. 8, Issue 1, June 2015, Rome, Italy. <http://www.crossingdialogues.com/issue12015.htm>

"Implementing Generalized Empirical Method in Neuroscience by Functionally Ordering Tasks" *Dialogues in Philosophy, Mental and Neuro Sciences*, Vol. 9, Issue 1, June 2016, Rome Italy. <http://www.crossingdialogues.com/journal.htm>

Sean McNelis S 2016, "Researching Housing in a Global Context: New Directions in Some Critical Issues", *Housing, Theory and Society*, <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/14036096.2016.1167121> (published online 5 April).

Housing varies from society to society. As researchers, we seek to understand these various housing systems and their relations to broader economic, societal and global trends; we seek to identify the interests that drive housing, learn from successful innovations and propose practical innovations. The adequacy of our results depends upon the adequacy of our methods. This paper argues that current methods are no longer adequate to the task of dealing with the complexity of housing in a global context. It examines four critical issues: theory, interdisciplinarity, a scientific approach and making progress through collaboration. In doing so, it proposes a new approach to these issues. It also introduces a new framework for collaborative creativity, Functional Collaboration. This is a set of eight methods that integrates the diversity of current methods. It is a scientific, collaborative, cyclical and global approach oriented to progress in housing.

I will also be doing a presentation at an Australian *Housing Theory Symposium* in June, 2016, entitled *Housing Research for "The Long View."*

C. Moloney (2016). "Engineering future progress: an examination of functional collaboration in engineering." Presented at WCMI 2016, the 31st Annual Fallon Memorial Lonergan Symposium, Los Angeles, CA, March 31-April 2, 2016.

Philip McShane

The Allure of the Compelling Genius of History (Axial Publishing, 2015): a book that weaves together Christology, *Method* and *Insight*;

The continued effort to promote Lonergan studies through website series:

(a) 18 essays titled *Lonergan Gatherings*,

(b) 6 essays, so far, titled *HOW*, inviting questions leading to an implementation of Lonergan's second canon of hermeneutics.

Also, consultative availability by phone and e-mail.

Terrance Quinn

The (Pre-) Dawning of Functional Collaboration in Physics. World Scientific Press: Hackensack, NJ and Singapore. To appear.

Invitation to Generalized Empirical Method in the Sciences. World Scientific Press: Hackensack, NJ and Singapore. To appear.

"Lonergan's Core Shift in Theological Method," *Divyadaan: Journal of Philosophy and Education*. To appear, 2016.

Raymaker, John, with Ijaz Durrani. *Empowering Climate-Change Strategies with Bernard Lonergan's Method*. University Press of America, 2015

The book addresses the climate change crisis through scientific, historical, and spiritual lenses. Using Lonergan's functional specialization method. The authors analyze the data which, cycling through the eight specialties, they use to rebut the claims of those who deny climate change conclusions.

William Zanardi. *The Education of Liberty: Reviving Speculative Philosophy of History* (Austin: Forty Acres Press, 2016). 260 pp.

The book follows up clues from Lonergan (largely in *Topics in Education*) on the possibility of writing general history. It is not an exercise in doing one of the specialties but an extended description of the need for and promise of functional specialization.

William Zanardi and Clayton Shoppa

Crackling the Case: Exercises in the new comparative Interpretation. (Austin: Forty Acres Press, 2014).

What Is an Environment? A Study in the New Comparative Interpretation. (Austin: Forty Acres Press, 2015). 244 pp. It's available on Amazon.

One purpose was to reach an audience beyond readers already familiar with Lonergan's works. "Environment" is a topic crossing multiple fields.

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