

THE EXPERIENCE OF GOD

Belief and credal commitment sometimes seem to make less and less sense in the West. A kind of ‘cultural amnesia’ has taken hold, where formal religious adherence begins to seem almost unthinkable. This is especially so for the idea of divine revelation. Robyn Horner argues this means we need to re-evaluate how theology proceeds, focusing not so much on beliefs but on experience. Exploring ways in which the experiential might open human beings up to divine possibility, the author turns to phenomenology (especially in the French philosophical tradition) because it seeks to examine unrestrictedly what is given through involved encounter. Bringing phenomenology and poststructuralism together, Horner develops the idea of revelation as an ‘event’ wherein God interrupts and exceeds human experience, affecting and transforming it. This striking concept, named but largely unexplored by theology, articulates a notion of supernatural revelation that now starts to appear both coherent and plausible.

ROBYN HORNER is Associate Professor of Theology and Philosophy at Australian Catholic University in Melbourne. She writes at the intersections of hermeneutic phenomenology, poststructuralism and fundamental theology. Professor Horner is also the author of *Rethinking God as Gift: Marion, Derrida and the Limits of Phenomenology* (Fordham University Press, 2001) and of *Jean-Luc Marion: A Theo-Logical Introduction* (Ashgate, 2005). She is in addition the volume editor, alongside Claude Romano, of *The Experience of Atheism: Phenomenology, Metaphysics and Religion* (Bloomsbury, 2021).

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A Phenomenology of Revelation

ROBYN HORNER

Australian Catholic University, Melbourne



CAMBRIDGE
UNIVERSITY PRESS

Cambridge University Press & Assessment
 978-1-009-10043-4 — The Experience of God
 Robyn Horner
 Frontmatter
[More Information](#)



CAMBRIDGE
 UNIVERSITY PRESS

Shaftesbury Road, Cambridge CB2 8EA, United Kingdom
 One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor, New York, NY 10006, USA
 477 Williamstown Road, Port Melbourne, VIC 3207, Australia
 314-321, 3rd Floor, Plot 3, Splendor Forum, Jasola District Centre, New Delhi – 110025, India
 103 Penang Road, #05-06/07, Visioncrest Commercial, Singapore 238467

Cambridge University Press is part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment,
 a department of the University of Cambridge.

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 education, learning and research at the highest international levels of excellence.

www.cambridge.org
 Information on this title: www.cambridge.org/9781009100434

DOI: 10.1017/9781009118729

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First published 2022

A catalogue record for this publication is available from the British Library

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

NAMES: Horner, Robyn. author.

TITLE: The experience of God : a phenomenology of revelation / Robyn Horner, Australian Catholic
 University, Melbourne.

DESCRIPTION: Cambridge, United Kingdom ; New York, NY, USA : Cambridge University Press,
 2022. | Includes bibliographical references and index.

IDENTIFIERS: LCCN 2022006585 (print) | LCCN 2022006586 (ebook) | ISBN 9781009100434
 (hardback) | ISBN 9781009114967 (paperback) | ISBN 9781009118729 (epub)

SUBJECTS: LCSH: Revelation. | Experience (Religion) | Phenomenology. | Spirituality. | Theophanies.

CLASSIFICATION: LCC BT127.3 .H67 2022 (print) | LCC BT127.3 (ebook) | DDC 231.7/4-dc23/eng/
 20220216

LC record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2022006585>

LC ebook record available at <https://lcn.loc.gov/2022006586>

ISBN 978-1-009-10043-4 Hardback

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Contents

Acknowledgements *page* viii

PART I THE PROBLEM IN CONTEXT

1	Introduction to the Book	3
	Introduction	3
	The Problem of Revelation	4
	Experience	9
	Beliefs	13
	The Shape of This Book	14
2	Living in a Secular Age	20
	Introduction	20
	Secularisation	21
	‘A Secular Age’	26
	Believing and Forgetting	29
	Detraditionalisation and Individualisation	35
	Conclusion	37

PART II REVELATION IN CONTEMPORARY PHILOSOPHY AND THEOLOGY

3	Revelation as a Philosophical Problem	41
	Introduction	41
	‘The Great Divorce’	43
	‘Returning’ to Religion	46
	Perhaps, Maybe	53
	Conclusion	60
4	Revelation as a Theological Problem I: Theology and Metaphysics	61
	Introduction	61

	A Radically Orthodox Response	62
	A Thomistic Response	64
5	Revelation as a Theological Problem II: The Bifurcation of Revelation	76
	Introduction	76
	Theology of Revelation after Vatican II	76
	Revelation and Tradition	85
	Conclusion	91
PART III THE EVENT OF REVELATION		
6	A Hermeneutic-Phenomenological Approach to Theology	95
	Introduction	95
	Jean-Luc Marion's Phenomenological Methodology	99
	Four Types of Saturated Phenomena	103
	The Saturated Phenomenon of Revelation: Marion and the Road to Emmaus	112
	Phenomenology and Hermeneutics	115
	Saturated Phenomena and the Primacy of the Event	120
	Conclusion	124
7	Revelation Exceeds Experience	126
	Introduction	126
	Contesting the Event	127
	Belief and Unbelief	133
	Jean-Luc Nancy: The Event as Surprise	135
	Lieven Boeve: The Event as Interruption	142
	Claude Romano: The Event as Transformation	149
	Conclusion	151
8	Revelation Affects Experience	152
	Introduction	152
	Transgressing the Horizon of the Mundane	153
	'More than a Feeling': <i>Befindlichkeit, Stimmung, Gefühl</i>	155
	The Event of the Thing	159
	The Event of the Word	162
	'Experience of God'	165
	Conclusion	173
PART IV THE EVENT IN PERSON		
9	Revelation Shapes Experience	179
	Introduction	179
	The First Time of Election	182

	<i>Contents</i>	vii
	The Second Time of Election	189
	The Immediacy of God in Experience	194
	Conclusion	196
10	The Event in Person: Revelation Transforms Experience	198
	Introduction	198
	A Hermeneutic-Phenomenological Reading of the Road to Emmaus	198
	Thinking Revelation in the Contemporary Context	204
	<i>Bibliography</i>	207
	<i>Index</i>	225

Acknowledgements

It is a privilege to be given time and the resources to write. In this spirit I offer sincere thanks to those at Australian Catholic University (ACU) who have granted me that time and those resources. I acknowledge especially my Executive Dean, Dermot Nestor, who has always given me his complete trust and unending support. Thanks also to those others in leadership – Peter Howard, Director of the Institute for Religion and Critical Inquiry, and Christiaan Jacobs-Vandegeer, Head of the School of Theology – for all they have done to support my research and for their continuing friendship. And to my colleagues and students, who form my intellectual community and offer so generously from their own wells of knowledge and understanding – thank you.

Beyond ACU, thanks to Lieven Boeve, Jean-Yves Lacoste, Jean-Luc Marion and especially Claude Romano for their hospitality and willingness to enter into dialogue over many years. Thanks to the members of the International Network in Philosophy of Religion, who have done more than they know in engaging with my work, especially Emmanuel Falque, Kevin Hart, Richard Kearney and Jeffrey Bloechl.

To Alex Wright at Cambridge University Press – thank you for seeing the possibilities and persisting with getting reviews of the manuscript in spite of the madness of the pandemic. To Patrick Masterson – sincere thanks for commenting on a draft of this project and for your friendship. And to Nikolaas Deketelaere, for your brilliant copyediting and indexing, and for the quality of your intellectual engagement with every sentence in this book – thank you.

My family and friends, of course, live with the shadow side of writing. Thank you to them all for their patience and tolerance. Thank you to my parents for their lifelong support and encouragement. Thanks especially to Julie, who never once asked why I brought my laptop to oncology appointments, who showed what it means that love expands endlessly

Acknowledgements

ix

and who has gone on ahead. And to my dearest Bosco, Emily, Tom, Ellie and Luna, who live so graciously with my frequent travel, with all the things that I forget to do at home, with my head often being somewhere else, and with what must seem, at times, like an inexplicable commitment to my work – thank you for the privilege of loving and being loved.