

# Department of History Colloquium Series presents

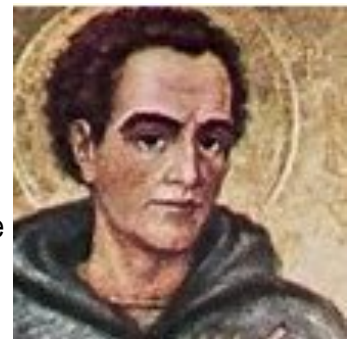
## ***A Brief Theology of Time: Augustine & the Big Bang***

**Guest Speaker:**

**Dr. Sean Hannan**  
**Humanities, MacEwan University**  
**Edmonton, AB**

**Friday, March 6, 2020**  
**3:00 p.m.**  
**B-660**

**Abstract:** The final few books of Augustine's *Confessions* take a puzzling turn away from memoir and into cosmology. Yet this turn appears less puzzling when we connect those books to his other works, such as the *Literal Meaning of Genesis*. In the process of attacking Manichaean cosmology, which assumed an infinitely long past, Augustine argues that time did indeed have a beginning. In so doing, he establishes an argument that anticipates the breakthrough reached by the Belgian priest-physicist Georges Lemaître, whose notion of the primeval atom laid the groundwork for Stephen Hawking's 'Big Bang Theory.' For Augustine, however, the cosmos began not with a mathematical singularity, but with a secret origin hidden inside the 'spring' mentioned in Genesis 2.



Dr. Sean Hannan is an Assistant Professor in the Humanities at MacEwan University in Edmonton. His research deals mostly with Augustine, the philosophy of time, and political theology. This April, Bloomsbury Press will release his book, *Reading Augustine: On Time, Change, History, & Conversion*. This summer, Dr. Hannan will be presenting on various topics: Meister Eckhart & Nicholas of Cusa at the Medieval Congress in Kalamazoo; Donatism & political Augustinianism at (another) Medieval Congress in Leeds; and the temporality of Neoplatonic eudaemonia in Athens.