Dante 1321-2021
A Man for All Seasons

An exploration of Dante, his life and work both in their historical context and their continuing relevance for us today.
Organised and presented by Alessandro Scafi (Warburg Institute), John Took (UCL) and Tabitha Tuckett (UCL).
From 12 January to 18 May 2021 - Tuesday evenings from 7.00 to 8.30 pm

Introduction

1. Dante: His World, His Life and His Work. 12 January 2021

Part 1: The Divine Comedy

2. Introduction to the Commedia. Preliminary considerations: issues in the area of theology, anthropology, ethics and eschatology. 19 January 2021

3. Inferno. Darkness, despair and a song of descents. 26 January 2021

4. Purgatorio. Sorrow, striving and a song of ascents. 2 February 2021

5. Paradiso. Humanity, transhumanity and a rapt resolution. 9 February 2021

Part 2: Dante as poet, philosopher and theologian

6. Dante as the poet and philosopher of being and becoming. Dante and the ‘existential point of view’. 23 February 2021

7. Dante as a poet and philosopher of love. Patterns of love-understanding in the Vita nova, the Fiore, the Rime, the Convivio and the Commedia. 2 March 2021

8. Dante as a philosopher and theologian. A complex humanity: philosophy and theology from the Convivio and the Monarchia to the Commedia. 9 March 2021

Part 3: Special topics and areas of concern

9. Dante, language and literature
Language, literature and a consummate humanity. 16 March 2021
10. The Dantean polarities. Soul and body, nature and grace, free will and destiny. 23 March 2021

11. Dante, princes and popes. Political catastrophe and a radical solution. 30 March 2021

12a. Botticelli and the 1481 printed edition of the Commedia. 4 May 2021 (to be confirmed) (5pm – to be confirmed)

12b. Dante and Islam. A cultural intersection. 4 May 2021

13. Last word. Dante, a man for all seasons. 11 May 2021

Part 4: A special event

14. A cause for celebration 18 May 2021