



Invité par l'assemblée des professeurs,  
sur proposition du Pr **THOMAS RÖMER**.

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Jeudi 3 octobre 2024 à 11h

## ***A blasphemous Bible? Biblical reception in Lars von Trier's later films***

Le Pr Larsson s'exprimera en anglais, avec un support  
de cours en français. Amphithéâtre Maurice Halbwachs

Danish director Lars von Trier is a polarizing figure in cinema and he has turned challenging the viewer's taste and expectations into his personal trademark. Experimenting with form and genres, his films consistently revolve around a core set of theological themes, for instance the meaning of sacrifice or the relationship between power and freedom. In this lecture, I present von Trier's sampling of biblical traditions as a case of biblical reception. To put it briefly, I want to see which Bible appears in von Trier's movies and why. I begin with a brief introduction to the field of Bible and film and to Lars von Trier's œuvre. Using three films (*Anti-Christ* [2009], *Nymphomaniac* [2013] and *The House that Jack Built* [2018]), I show how the Bible features in the films and which Bible is used. I also suggest how biblical receptions function for each film, and I identify some common denominators in the director's usage of the Bible. Finally, I relate von Trier's biblical reception to the notion of contemporary society as "post-secular" and ask why (allegedly) secular viewers care about the director's use of the Bible and why there are controversies about the way the director subverts or reifies "Old Testament views of women".

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Image : *La Barque de Dante*, Eugène Delacroix, 1822 © Domaine public.