

# creatio ex nihilo

open & relational theologies

# philip clayton

Creatio ex nihilo expresses the infinite difference between God and creation, which is the starting point. That this paradox, creation, should actually occur expresses the impossible possibility: that the finite and contingent would not only exist but also participate in its infinite source; indeed, that it would even somehow effect, even produce, the evolving divine experience.

# michael lodahl

Creatio ex nihilo serves the (negative) role of eliminating what has been generally believed to be an unacceptable scenario for the worshipping community (whether synagogue, church, or mosque): the notion that there is anything that exists outside of the creative will, or beyond the ultimate purview, of God the Creator.

# catherine keller

The creatio ex profundis only comes into contradiction with an ex nihilo that reduces creation to a unilaterally and extrinsically effected singularity.

# marit trelstad

Strictly speaking, nothing doesn't exist according to physics. Therefore, creatio ex potentia (creation from potential) is more accurate than creation out of nothing.

Classical and process theisms can affirm some similar concepts about God (ground of existence and creative potential) as creatio ex nihilo.

# monica coleman

Creatio ex nihilo reaffirms the tendency for (Christian) communities to organize around authoritative power, thus reinscribing divine sanction of colonial activity.

Creatio ex nihilo effectively reduces conversation between Christianity and non-Christian faith traditions around creation narratives and their mythic embodiment of core values and divine-world relations.

# richard rice

Creation is the natural, but  
not necessary, expression of  
divine love.

creation is ex nihilation

how do you respond to the buddhist view that  
whether-the-world-is eternal-or-not is not profitable  
for spirituality - John Q.

creatio ex nihilo can be understood as a synthesis of the divine and  
Heideggerian and existentialsim - Peter D.

want to defend CEN but accept the  
constraint that this is the only sort of  
world that could give rise to the sort of  
creaturely values we know. So this  
constraint seems to coexist w/ God  
from eternity -Chris S.

what's religiously at stake?

Derek - Genesis is primarily about ethics...redemption myth. Connected to Barth's 'das Nichts'

what matters is the truth as it is, not as we would like it to be -  
Dennis

CEN is the ontological act predictive of absolutely everything that is determinate, including the nature of God. All creativity in time presupposes CEN - Robert N.

science says not such thing as nothing...ok but how do we know that the current state of things is how it has always been? - @theimageoffish

no coincidence that defenders of CEN are male.  
CEN is unbiblical, authoritarian, & incompatible  
with full human flourishing - @donnadb.  
(multiple Re-tweets)

In a Derridian sense: does CEN displace desire for  
certainty onto the transcendent plane?  
@stephenmk

CEN is an apophatic formula that indicates 'out of neither  
conceivable source' : God or coexistents. It interprets breshit  
as absolute beginning. - Kurt A.R.

we are co-creators; God can be pleasantly surprised  
by us. - ?

Is potentiality 'something'? Or, as a contrast to actuality, is  
creation out of potentiality really creation out of not actuality  
- OR creation out of 'not' (i.e. nothing)? -Andrew S.

Even if God creates out of nothing, there may be  
limitations on what and how God can create - Atle S.  
Rice's descr. of creation as expression of divine  
love seems more like divine magnanimity or  
condescension than love. Troubling @AHWayne

a dialectical approach to creation in which God creates space within Godself allows for real otherness and real continuity. @CurtisHoltzen

For thinkers such as Luther, CEN does not address protology; rather it serves as a biblical image for articulating other crucial themes (e.g. justification by grace through faith apart from works)

What is Pro & Contra CEN arguments are just experiential gender categories we try to project onto a historical absolute? @theimageoffish