

DIVYADAAN
Journal of Philosophy & Education

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**FUNCTIONAL COLLABORATION AS THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF ‘LONERGAN’S METHOD’
Part 1: For What Problem is Functional Collaboration the
Solution?**

Michael Shute

ABSTRACT

The proliferation of specializations of subjects and fields in the contemporary academy has produced a problematic fragmentation of effort which undermines the university’s effectiveness in providing direction for the meeting of practical challenges. How are subjects and fields of study to be effectively integrated? For thirty years Bernard Lonergan worked on this problem in his own field of theology and arrived at a solution he named functional specialization that has broad implications for all subjects and fields. This essay examines the roots of Lonergan’s solution. A second essay will present the solution itself and discuss how it might be implemented.

A SUMMA ‘FOR’ THE GENTILES
I. The Quest for a ‘Common Space’ in Thomas Aquinas

Dolreich Pereira

ABSTRACT

Examining the title of Aquinas’ *Summa contra Gentiles*, the article reviews some controversial questions: was the work meant for the Gentiles, or for the members of Aquinas’ Order who worked on Muslim soil? Who exactly were the Gentiles? Did Aquinas accept the challenge of an encounter with those who not only did not believe as Christians do, but did not also share a language ‘in common’ with them? If so, would not the title ‘Summa *for* the Gentiles’ be more appropriate? The results of the inquiry might help eliminate many false paths.

THE MIMETIC THEORY OF RENÉ GIRARD
Law of Universal Gravitation for Cultural Anthropology and
Religion

Agostino Guccione

ABSTRACT

Mimetic Theory is the outrageous proposal made by René Girard to understand the world through a single, universal principle. In areas as varied as literary criticism, cultural anthropology, philosophy and theology, Mimetic Theory allows researchers to connect a large amount of data that has confirmed the central hypothesis of Girard's theory, i.e., that the process of hominization, the foundation of society, authority and power, and the birth of the culture itself, find their common origin in *mimetic desire* that rules human relationships through *imitation*, and in the *victimary mechanism* that springs from it.

AT THE SCHOOL OF NAṢR ḤĀMID ABŪ ZAYD
The Qurʾān and Contemporary Hermeneutic Theories

Jean-Marie Amalebondra

ABSTRACT

The article is a comparative study seeking to apply contemporary hermeneutic theories to the Qurʾān, relying especially on the linguistic approach of Naṣr Ḥāmid Abū Zayd. It deals briefly with the redaction of the Qurʾānic text and with the relation between the text and the contemporary reader. It renews the call of Abū Zayd who called Muslims to confront contemporary Islam with both its contemporary intellectual development and the modern world and its values.