

It was indeed a most successful public event in the Order Project series on 'Moral and Social Order'. It brought together an international and interdisciplinary audience (philosophers, historians, theologians, literary and poetry scholars) who engaged in a lively and broad ranging discussion of Gerard Manley Hopkins's poetry, its original style, its vivid descriptions of nature, and poignant personal and religious reflections.

Anthony Kenny gave an insightful presentation of what is less understood about Hopkin's work, that is the intellectual context in which his writing took shape. We were taken through his philosophical development, and brought to see how his encounter with medieval thinker Duns Scotus influenced his poetry. Scotus' original analyses of form, matter and potentiality all coloured Hopkins' verse, which frequently treated themes of individuality and the relationship between the particular and universal in the order of nature.

An exceptional talk indeed, and a wonderful evening all in all.