

## EDITOR'S INTRODUCTION

The Editorial team are very happy to introduce what is now the sixth issue of *Marcel Studies*. The Journal has been growing since its first issue in 2016. We are very pleased to be able to assist those scholars around the world who are working on Marcel, or interested in his ideas, and we invite our readers to consider our Journal for bringing your work to a larger audience. Our aim is not only to promote Marcel scholarship, but we believe strongly that many of Marcel's themes continue to offer profound insights to us today as we struggle with many challenges.

The first article in this issue, by Joseph Gamache, interestingly delves into Marcel's *Metaphysical Journal*. Gamache is particularly interested in Marcel's approach to the problem of skepticism, one of his early concerns, which Gamache describes as: first-personal skepticism regarding my ability to answer the questions, *who am I* and *do I believe?* He shows how the force of this type of skepticism is developed with reference to self-interpretation and the temporality of human persons. Marcel was concerned with how to respond to such skepticism, and Gamache considers two solutions from Marcel's later work, and argues that the kind of skepticism under investigation suggests a natural opening onto faith. Gamache suggests that the life and work of Marcel, who always resisted any kind of skepticism or cynicism, is especially worthy of study and elucidation in service of the relationship between philosophy and faith.

Our second article is concerned with a theme that was dear to Marcel's heart—the nature of drama and its effect upon the spectator. Santiago Ramos considers this topic in the work of French theorist, Jacques Rancière. Ramos analyzes Rancière's formulation of the main philosophical problem regarding the concept of the spectator, as well as his tentative solution to it. Rancière's thought is then brought into dialogue with Marcel's writings on the theater which, Ramos suggests, provide a useful supplement to Rancière's account. Introducing other key ideas from Marcel, such as the notion of mystery, Ramos shows that the dialogue between Rancière and Marcel can lead to a richer, fuller understanding of the phenomenon of the spectacle, and of the ethical predicament of the spectator.

We also include four book reviews addressing the topics of religious belief and modern fiction, the nature of existentialism and its relevance for today, and the significance of technology for issues of modernity. Check out also our "News and Views" section, where we have information about recent Marcelian scholarship, including new publications of his plays, a timely reflection from Marcel on the question of technology and culture, acknowledgement of the passing of two long time distinguished supporters of the Marcel Society, along with an interview with me about Marcel's continuing relevance!

A reminder that *Marcel Studies* is an on-line peer reviewed, international Journal dedicated to furthering understanding and appreciation of the work of Marcel. We welcome submissions from a variety of backgrounds and perspectives on topics and themes that pertain to any aspect of Marcel's thought. We encourage younger scholars especially to submit their work to the Journal. The editors will make a special effort to work with younger scholars in an attempt to bring the fruits of their scholarship to a worldwide audience. The aim of our Journal is not only to promote,

but to encourage, Marcel scholarship, and, keeping in mind also that the Journal is interdisciplinary, one of our goals is to help prospective authors in a variety of fields to bring their work to publication.

Thanks to all of our readers and members of the Gabriel Marcel Society for their continued interest and support. For those wishing to become a member of the Society, please send an email to the address below.

Dr. Brendan Sweetman,  
Editor, *Marcel Studies*,  
Professor of Philosophy,  
Rockhurst University,  
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*brendan.sweetman@rockhurst.edu*

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