



### Prof. Dr. Michael Northcott,

is Guest Professor in the Faculty of Theology at the University of Heidelberg in 2018, and Emeritus Professor of Ethics in the University of Edinburgh. He researches and teaches at the interdisciplinary nexus of religion, ecology, and ethics, and is currently working on a research project on economic ethics and religion in the anthropocene. His recent funded research projects include a three year investigation of church-based pro-environmental activities in the UK and North America (2013-16), and ecology and religion in Southeast Asia (2008-11). He is an elected member of the board of the International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture. He has published over 80 peer reviewed papers in journals and edited collections and written and edited a number of books.

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#### Past lectures:

July 13, 2018 - **MEP Sven Giegold**

**Staat und Religion: Wollen wir weiter miteinander gehen?**

Zur Religionspolitik der Grünen

May 8, 2018 - **Prof. Dr. Ulrike Auga:**

**Menschenrechte und Geschlecht.**

Zum religiösen, kulturellen, politischen und sozialen Diskurs in nationalstaatlicher und globaler Perspektive

February 16, 2018 - **Prof. Dr. Joachim Fischer:**

**Philosophische Anthropologie –**  
ein Paradigma zwischen Konstruktivismus  
und Realismus

Watch at: <https://youtu.be/N0AQmWf8vb4>

## *The Magic of Money and the Divine Ecology of Love in the Anthropocene*

**Monday, July 9, 6:15 p.m.**

### Prof. Dr. Michael Northcott

Guest Professor in the Faculty of Theology  
at the University of Heidelberg  
Emeritus Professor of Ethics  
at the University of Edinburgh

**Public lecture  
at the Protestant Institute for  
Interdisciplinary Research e.V. - FEST**



## The Magic of Money and the Divine Ecology of Love in the Anthropocene

The monetisation of human, and human-Earth, relations has reached a new zenith in the last thirty years of exponential growth in digital money creation. This has occurred in tandem with the dawn of the epoch of the Anthropocene in which humans have become a dominant geological force. The monetisation of life fosters a new instrumentalising discourse in which humans, other animals, and whole ecosystems, become biopolitical ‚resources‘.

In the Papal Encyclical *Laudato Si': On Care for Our Common Home* (2015), Pope Francis contrasts the ‚magical‘ monetisation of

human, and human-Earth, relations with the divine ecology of love which upholds cosmic and creaturely being.

In eighteenth and nineteenth century Europe, romantic poets and philosophers sought to resist the monetisation of life with the idea of the natural ‚sublime‘, and to protect sublime landscapes, and cultural artefacts, from industrial economic development.

The key question to be addressed in this lecture is how, and whether, a neo-romantic ‚ecology of love‘ may resist and revise the growing inequality between peoples, and growing asymmetry between humans and the Earth, which are the dark side of exponential money creation.

### Select Publications by Michael Northcott:

*The Environment and Christian Ethics*  
(Cambridge University Press 1996)

*An Angel Directs the Storm:  
Apocalyptic Religion and American Empire*  
(I B Tauris 2004)

*A Moral Climate: The Ethics of Global Warming*  
(Orbis Books 2007)

*Theology After Darwin*, edited with **R. J. Berry**  
(Authentic Media 2009)

*A Political Theology of Climate Change*  
(Eerdmans 2013)

*Systematic Theology and Climate Change*, edited  
with **Peter Scott**  
(Routledge 2015)

*Place, Ecology and the Sacred: The Moral  
Geography of Sustainable Communities*  
(Bloomsbury 2015).

