Amber Griffioen
Universität Konstanz

Divine Sacrifices?
Feminist Philosophy of Religion and the ‘God’s-Eye’ View

The so-called “view from nowhere” – sometimes also called the “God’s-eye view” – as a model of objectivity has been challenged by feminist philosophers working on questions in epistemology, philosophy of science, and moral philosophy. It has also been called into question in philosophy of religion by such scholars as Pamela Sue Anderson and Grace Jantzen. Indeed, the problems raised by the specter of the “Ideal Observer” are especially pressing for any philosophy of religion concerned with questions of theism, since its notions of ideal rationality go hand in hand with its conceptions of a perfect being. In this talk, I want to explore in more detail some of the motivations for rejecting the view from nowhere in philosophy of religion and relate them to recent work in epistemology and social philosophy. I will argue that not only might philosophy of religion’s emphasis on certain epistemic values embodied in this idealized stance contribute to epistemic vice and distorted beliefs, there might be other relevant epistemic values and ideals the pursuit of which could more productively open up the discipline and make room for alternative conceptions of the Divine.