The Dante Debate
2.00-3.00 pm, Sunday 22 April 2012
Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, Glasgow
FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

The first LDA Dante Debate discusses sin and evil, taking Dante’s Hell as a starting point for comparison with and discussion of our views today.

THE PANEL:

SARAH BROADIE, Wardlaw Professor of Moral Philosophy at the University of St Andrews, specializes in Classical Philosophy, and metaphysics and ethics, modern and ancient.

TOM HALPIN, Chief Executive of Sacro, previously Deputy Chief Constable of Lothian & Borders Police, Divisional Commander for North Glasgow.

CRAIG MURRAY, Advocate at Compass Chambers, Edinburgh, and Board member of The Howard League for Penal Reform Scotland.

ROBERT WILSON, Lecturer in Italian at the University of St Andrews, co-organiser of the Lectura Dantis Andreapolitana, researches and teaches on Dante.

YOU... Anyone attending the discussion may participate – ask any questions, or share their thoughts on the subject.

Presented by the Lectura Dantis Andreapolitana (LDA), in collaboration with Sacro, The Howard league for Penal Reform, and Glasgow Museums
What is the worst thing someone could do?

Which sin would you place at the bottom of Hell?

Dante’s imagining of hell is a conical hole in the ground divided into 9 circles, each corresponding to a sin. The sins are in order of seriousness, with the worst at the bottom. The damned are punished for eternity in the circle corresponding to their worst sin. Some of Dante’s circles are subdivided into smaller sections, the 7th circle is subdivided into 3 parts, the 8th into ten, and the 9th into 4. At the bottom we find Satan, Judas, Brutus and Cassius.

But how did Dante decide which sins are more serious than others. Why is gluttony worse than lust, why is fraud worse than violence? What are the underlying principles in Dante’s Inferno? How does it compare to our views now?

This is what we will be discussing in the first LDA Dante Debate. Come along and join in

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Continue the discussion…

You can continue this discussion on-line – check out ‘Dante and You’, and other LDA events, on the Lectura Dantis Andreapolitana website: www.st-andrews.ac.uk/lectura/

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