This presentation on the history of ideas proposes an intellectual genealogy of the phrase ‘expressive individualism,’ coined by the sociologist of religion Robert Bellah and recently given high prominence by the Canadian philosopher Charles Taylor – the concept’s origins can be traced to the depiction John Milton gives of Lucifer in his poem *Paradise Lost.*

As an ethic for our time, ‘expressive individualism’ might be a toxic model. The paper is interdisciplinary and should appeal to faculty and students from all of the Arts disciplines.

*The Heythrop Journal* is an internationally acclaimed academic journal with a world-wide readership. Its contributors come from mainstream academic institutions in the UK, Europe, the USA, India, Africa and elsewhere. The journal particularly welcomes articles which combine philosophical and theological approaches that stimulate interdisciplinary dialogue.

The event is part of the Year of Mercy series in the McAnulty College of Liberal Arts.

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