Between 1238 and 1243, Robert Grosseteste wrote commentaries on the four treatises of the *Corpus Dionysiacum*. The *Corpus*, written by the Neo-Platonic thinker Pseudo-Dionysius the Areopagite (5th-6th century), is of paramount importance for the intellectual history of the Middle Ages. With Aristotle and Augustine, it may be considered as the third principal source of medieval thought from its early reception in the ninth century to the end of the Middle Ages. Angelology, theological language, hierarchy and analogy of being, all subjects at the heart of medieval thought, are rooted in these texts. Despite the historical importance of Dionysius’s works, Grosseteste’s commentaries have not received due consideration by scholars. Nonetheless, when we compare his writings up until c. 1240 with those after that date, not a few notable and novel elements in the latter are seen to derive from his reading of Dionysius. The difficulty to appraise Dionysius’s influence on Grosseteste is principally due to the scarcity of edited texts. This lecture will sketch the context of Grosseteste’s commentaries and the evolution in Grosseteste’s thought about topics such as theological language and Platonic ideas.

Dr. Gioacchino Curiello is British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow at Bishop Grosseteste University, Lincoln. He is currently working on the critical edition of Robert Grosseteste’s Commentary on *The divine names*. His researches focus on Neoplatonic legacy in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance.

**Coming Up (Wednesday April 29)**

Dr Jonathan Fitzgibbon (U Lincoln):

‘Remembering Regicide and Interregnum (1649-1660): The Memoirs of Bulstrode Whitelock’

For further information, please contact the convenor:

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