THE 2019 TELOS CONFERENCE

THE TELOS-PAUL PICCONOE INSTITUTE, IN COLLABORATION WITH DEUTSCHES HAUS AT NEW YORK UNIVERSITY, PRESENTS

POLITICAL THEOLOGY TODAY
AS CRITICAL THEORY OF THE CONTEMPORARY:
REASON, RELIGION, HUMANISM

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15, TO SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2019

NEW YORK CITY

THE 2019 TELOS-PAUL PICCONOE INSTITUTE CONFERENCE WILL HOST A FORUM OF SCHOLARS AND THINKERS FROM A VARIETY OF DISCIPLINARY BACKGROUNDS TO DISCUSS POLITICAL THEOLOGY AS CRITICAL THEORY OF THE CONTEMPORARY, THE REAPPEARANCE OF FAITH IN CIVIC LIFE, AND THE WAYS IN WHICH FAITH IS RESHAPING POLITICS AND CULTURE TODAY.

Keynote Speakers: WAYNE HUDSON and REV. EUGENE RIVERS
ADRIAN PABST · RUSSELL BERMAN · DAVID PAN · TIM LUKE
JOSEPH BENDERSKY · MARIA PICCONOE · MARCIA PALLY
JAY GUPTA · KENNETH D. JOHNSON · GREG MELLEUISCH

FOR MORE DETAILS, VISIT THE TELOS-PAUL PICCONOE INSTITUTE WEBSITE AT WWW.TELOSINSTITUTE.NET
TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE, PLEASE R.S.V.P. TO DEUTSCHESHAUS.RSVP@NYU.EDU
Across the globe the liberal logic of capitalism and technocracy has seemingly triumphed, and with it a culture of secularism, now the dominant ideology of the liberal establishment that prefers progress to tradition, an individualized identity to a sense of shared belonging, and free choice to common purpose. As much as this regime has produced wealth, it has also generated inequality and dissatisfaction. The populist insurgency that is sweeping the West is in large part a repudiation of this secular politics, opening the space for a post-liberal political theology. A resurgence of religion is underway that marks the failure of the secularization thesis and the need for alternative cultural resources, beyond positivism, to understand the place of humanity within the cosmos. Is this our new “Great Awakening”?

To attend the conference, please RSVP to deutschehaus.rsvp@nyu.edu

Conference Locations

*Please note:* the conference will be held at two locations:

The **Friday** events will be held at the **John D. Calandra Italian American Institute**, 25 West 43rd Street, 17th Floor, New York, NY 10036. The Calandra Institute is located in midtown Manhattan and is close to major subways stops. It is three blocks from Grand Central Station, two blocks from the Bryant Park subway stop, and three blocks from the Seventh Avenue/42nd Street subway stops. For more information about the Calandra Institute, visit their website at https://calandrainstitute.org.

The **Saturday** and **Sunday** events will be held at **Deutsches Haus at New York University**, 42 Washington Mews, New York, NY 10003. Deutsches Haus is located in the Washington Mews, just north of Washington Square Park in Greenwich Village. The nearest subway stop is West 4th Street/Washington Square, which can be reached on the A, C, and E trains as well as the B, D, F, and M trains. From the West 4th Street station, walk north on 6th Ave. until you reach Waverly Place. Turn right on Waverly Place and walk three blocks east, passing Washington Square Park on your right, until you reach University Place. Turn left on University Place and walk half a block north until you reach Washington Mews. For more information about Deutsches Haus, visit their website at http://as.nyu.edu/deutschehaus.html.
**Conference Schedule**

**Friday, February 15, 2019**

**Registration**
4:30 PM to 5:00 PM  
John D. Calandra Italian American Institute  
25 West 43rd Street, 17th Floor  
New York, NY 10036

**Welcome**
5:00 PM to 5:15 PM  
John D. Calandra Italian American Institute  
Anthony Tamburri (John D. Calandra Italian American Institute), Mary Piccone (Telos Press Publishing), Russell A. Berman (Stanford University), and David Pan (University of California, Irvine)

**Plenary 1**
5:15 PM to 6:30 PM  
John D. Calandra Italian American Institute  

**Moderator:** Adrian Pabst (University of Kent)  

**Interpretation and Decision: The Political Theology of Walter Benjamin and Carl Schmitt**  
David Pan, University of California, Irvine

With Russell Berman (Stanford University), Wayne Hudson (Charles Sturt University), Marcia Pally (New York University), and Eugene Rivers (Boston, Mass.)

**Drinks Reception**
6:30 PM to 7:30 PM  
John D. Calandra Italian American Institute
Welcome
8:45 AM to 9:00 AM
Deutsches Haus, 42 Washington Mews, New York, NY 10003
Juliane Camfield (Director, Deutsches Haus) and Adrian Pabst (University of Kent)

First Keynote Presentation
9:00 AM to 10:15 AM
Deutsches Haus, Auditorium

Moderator: Adrian Pabst (University of Kent)

Rethinking Political Theology
Wayne Hudson, Charles Sturt University

Coffee/Tea
10:15 AM to 10:45 AM
at Deutsches Haus

Plenary 2:
Political Theology, Civilization, and Ideology
10:45 AM to 12:30 PM
Deutsches Haus, Auditorium

Moderator: Tim Luke (Virginia Tech)

Can the Neutral Secular Liberal State Sustain Itself? The Challenge of the “Böckenförde Paradox”
Joseph Bendersky, Virginia Commonwealth University

Political Theology as Civilizational Apocatastasis: On the Political Right’s “Return” to Religion
Dustin J. Byrd, Olivet College

Politics, Theology, Immediate Experience, and the “Other Condition”
Greg Melleuish, University of Wollongong

The Overcoming of Gnosticism: Reflections on the Benedict Option in Light of Ratzinger’s Political Theology
Rocco Sacconaghi, DePaul University

Lunch
12:30 PM to 1:30 PM
Deutsches Haus
Parallel Session 1:
Faith, Populism, and Liberal Democracy
1:30 PM to 3:00 PM
Deutsches Haus, Auditorium

Moderator: Marcia Pally (New York University)

Turmoil in Egypt: Faith, Populism, and the Apparent Inadequacies of Liberalism
Brendan Mullen

Mass Media and the Glory: For a Theologico-Political Criticism of the Functioning of Modern Liberal Democracies
Giada Scotto, La Sapienza University of Rome

Criticism of Western Liberal Democracy by the Moscow Patriarchate: Collectivist Anthropology of Russian Orthodoxy versus Western Personalism and Individualism
Marcin Składanowski, John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin

The Liberal Pathway from Democracy: The Case of Nordic Populism
Pekka Sulkunen, University of Helsinki

Parallel Session 2:
Post-secular Political Theologies
1:30 PM to 3:00 PM
Deutsches Haus, Seminar Room (for registered conference participants only)

Moderator: David Pan (University of California, Irvine)

Post-secular Antinomianism: Heretical Messianism and the Critical Theory of Faith
Asaf Angermann, Yale University

“The Cry of Mankind”: Theological and Secular Perspectives on the End of Classic Theodicy
Ludovico Battista, La Sapienza University of Rome

“Reason is Language—Logos”:
J. G. Hamann and the Possibility of Public Discourse in a Post-Secular Age
Will M. Eastham, North Park University

Pamphleteers, Preachers, and Politicos:
The Role of Ministers in Three Early Republican Elections
Samuel Ulmschneider, Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School
Saturday, February 16, 2019

Coffee/Tea
3:00 PM to 3:30 PM at Deutsches Haus

Parallel Session 3:
Color and Creed: Political Theologies in Pentecostal and Evangelical Churches
3:30 PM to 4:45 PM
Deutsches Haus, Auditorium

Moderator: Jay Gupta (Mills College)

Racial Segregation in Evangelical Churches and “The Statement on Social Justice and the Gospel”
Valerie C. Cooper, Duke Divinity School

Black Cultural Sovereignty and the Political Theology of the Black Church
Kenneth D. Johnson, Valdosta State University

Latin American-Style Dominionism:
The Crypto-Schmittian Logic of (Neo-)Pentecostal Political Theologies
Luis Aránguiz Kahn, University of Santiago of Chile

Parallel Session 4:
Interfaith Political Theology: Islam, Liberation, and Non-Western Traditions
3:30 PM to 4:45 PM
Deutsches Haus, Seminar Room (for registered conference participants only)

Moderator: David Pan (University of California, Irvine)

Lotus Sutra Politics: Creating Value through Faith in Contemporary Japan
Loren Goodman, Yonsei University/Underwood International College, Seoul

Revival of Atheist Confucianism: An Alternative Emerging New Global Theology
Shaojing Wu, Onyx Institute

The Political Allocations of the Premodern Islamic City:
Integral Ideology as a Source of Meaning and Orientation
Hamza Zeghlache, University of Ferhat Abbas, Algeria

Refreshments
4:45 PM to 5:15 PM at Deutsches Haus
Saturday, February 16, 2019

Second Keynote Presentation
5:15 PM to 6:30 PM
Deutsches Haus, Auditorium

Moderator: Russell Berman (Stanford University)

Religion and the Intellectuals: From Partisan Review to Telos
Eugene F. Rivers III, Co-founder and Director, Seymour Institute for Black Church and Policy Studies; Pastor of the Azusa Christian Community Church; Co-founder of the Boston TenPoint Coalition; and Co-chair of The National TenPoint Training Institute.

Dinner (for paid conference registrants only)
7:30 PM
Knickerbocker Bar & Grill
33 University Place, New York, NY 10003 • Phone: 212-228-8490
www.knickerbockerbarandgrill.com

Sunday, February 17, 2019

Plenary 3:
Critical Theory of Liberalism as Secular Political Theology
9:00 AM to 11:00 AM
Deutsches Haus, Auditorium

Moderator: Tim Luke (Virginia Tech)

De-sacralizing the Liberal Conception of Money
Edward Hadas, Oxford University

From the Hungarian Political Christianity of Today to a Theological Critical Theory
Márton Hoványi, Yale University

Contingent Creatures: Embodiment, Liturgy, and Cultural Formation
Austin Kopack, Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary

It Can’t Be “Democracy” When We like It and “Populism” When We Don’t: Toward a Theory of Populism as Expression of Historico-Cultural “Reason”
Marcia Pally, New York University

Political Theology of Neoliberal Governance
Kohei Nagashima, Keio University, Tokyo
Sunday, February 17, 2019

Coffee/Tea
11:00 AM to 11:30 AM at Deutsches Haus

Plenary 4:
Nature and Nihilism: The Political Theology of the “Dark Enlightenment”
11:30 AM to 1:00 PM
Deutsches Haus, Auditorium

Moderator: David Pan (University of California, Irvine)

From Dark Enlightenment to Alt-Right
Courtney Hodrick, Stanford University

Readings from the Book of Third Nature as Political Theology: The Dark Enlightenment
Tim Luke, Virginia Tech

Transhumanism and the Political Theology of Paradox
Adrian Pabst, University of Kent

Nihilism Triumphant: Why There Will Not Be a New Awakening
Peter Y. Paik, Yonsei University and University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Lunch
1:00 PM to 1:45 PM at Deutsches Haus