

# THE TELOS PAUL PICCONE INSTITUTE

**THE 2019 TELOS CONFERENCE**

THE TELOS-PAUL PICCONE 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 PICCONE 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.

**SPEAKERS**

**Keynote Speakers: WAYNE HUDSON and REV. EUGENE RIVERS**

**ADRIAN PABST · RUSSELL BERMAN · DAVID PAN · TIM LUKE**

**JOSEPH BENDERSKY · MARIA PICCONE · MARCIA PALLY**

**JAY GUPTA · KENNETH D. JOHNSON · GREG MELLEUISH**

FOR MORE DETAILS, VISIT THE TELOS-PAUL PICCONE INSTITUTE WEBSITE AT [WWW.TELOSINSTITUTE.NET](http://WWW.TELOSINSTITUTE.NET)  
TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE, PLEASE R.S.V.P. TO [DEUTSCHSHAUS.RSVP@NYU.EDU](mailto:DEUTSCHSHAUS.RSVP@NYU.EDU)

# CONFERENCE SUMMARY

## The 2019 Telos-Paul Piccone Institute Conference

February 15–17, 2019

New York, NY

### Political Theology Today as Critical Theory of the Contemporary: Reason, Religion, Humanism

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 [deutscheshaus.rsvp@nyu.edu](mailto:deutscheshaus.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/deutscheshaus.html>.

# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

## Friday, February 15, 2019

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### 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

# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

**Saturday, February 16, 2019**

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## **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

# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

**Saturday, February 16, 2019**

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## **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*

# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

**Saturday, February 16, 2019**

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## **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 Zeglache, University of Ferhat Abbas, Algeria*

## **Refreshments**

4:45 PM to 5:15 PM at Deutsches Haus

# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

## Saturday, February 16, 2019

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### 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](http://www.knickerbockerbarandgrill.com)

## Sunday, February 17, 2019

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### 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*

# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

**Sunday, February 17, 2019**

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## **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