

# THE TELOS PAUL PICCONE INSTITUTE

IN COLLABORATION WITH THE JOHN D. CALANDRA ITALIAN AMERICAN  
INSTITUTE, QUEENS COLLEGE/CUNY, AND THE INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR  
CRITICAL THEORY AT NEW YORK UNIVERSITY, PRESENTS

## FORMS OF WAR

FRIDAY, MARCH 31, TO SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 2023

## NEW YORK CITY

EVERY WAR FORCES US TO RECONSIDER THE CHARACTER OF  
WAR AND THE FORMS THAT IT CAN TAKE. AT THE 2023 TELOS-  
PAUL PICCONE INSTITUTE CONFERENCE WE WILL HOST A FORUM  
OF SCHOLARS AND THINKERS TO CONSIDER THE RELATIONSHIP  
BETWEEN CONFLICT AND INSIGHT IN WAR AS WELL AS HOW  
THE CONCEPTUALIZATION OF CONFLICT AFFECTS THE OUTBREAK,  
PROGRESS, AND OUTCOME OF WARS.

### SPEAKERS

JOSEPH W. BENDERSKY • RUSSELL A. BERMAN • ARYEH BOTWINICK  
MARK G. E. KELLY • TIMOTHY W. LUKE • ADRIAN PABST • DAVID PAN  
FLORINDO VOLPACCHIO • DAVID A. WESTBROOK • XUDONG ZHANG

FOR MORE DETAILS, VISIT THE TELOS-PAUL PICCONE INSTITUTE WEBSITE  
[WWW.TELOSINSTITUTE.NET](http://WWW.TELOSINSTITUTE.NET)

# **C**ONFERENCE SUMMARY

## **The 2023 Telos-Paul Piccone Institute Conference**

March 31 to April 1, 2023  
New York, NY

# **Forms of War**

Co-sponsored by the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute, Queens College/  
CUNY, and the International Center for Critical Theory, New York University

Every war forces us to reconsider the character of war and the forms that it can take. In the first place, the insight that leads to a war is one about the nature of a conflict. War only begins once the parties determine that there is an otherwise irresolvable conflict about the basis of order. The course of a war also results in a practical insight into the form of a postwar order. Peace and stability cannot arrive until all come to an agreement about the new understanding of order. This intertwining of practical and theoretical gains means that the time of war is also a time of shifting manifestations of the forms by which war is fought, as well as the forms of order to be established by the outcome of the war. The course of a war will be decided by our understanding of the kind of world we want to live in, the risks we are willing to take to establish such a world, and our belief in its practical possibility. A war will necessarily change in form depending upon where we are in the movement from the conflict of competing ideas to the victory of a particular conception of order. Since the result of the conflict would be an establishment of sovereignty based on some understanding of order, the conflict is not just a material one but also a theoretical and spiritual one about the metaphysical basis of order. In the process of war, insight leads to conflict, and conflict leads to insight.

### **Conference Location**

The conference will be held at the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute at 25 West 43rd St., 17th Floor, New York, NY 10036. The Calandra Institute is located in midtown Manhattan and is close to major subway 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>.

# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

**Friday, March 31, 2023**

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## **Registration**

8:45 AM to 9:00 AM

**John D. Calandra Italian American Institute**

25 West 43rd Street, 17th Floor

New York, NY 10036

## **Welcome**

9:00 AM to 9:15 AM

Anthony Julian Tamburri, Calandra Institute

Xudong Zhang, International Center for Critical Theory, New York University

Adrian Pabst, University of Kent

## **Session 1: War and Theology**

9:15 AM to 10:45 AM

**Moderator:** David Pan, University of California, Irvine

Potent Source for World Peace

*Aryeh Botwinick, Temple University*

Contemporary Warfare: Seeking Sanctification between Transcendence and Immanence

*Andrew Wender, University of Victoria*

Are We in a Spiritual Alternative to War? Can We Escape It? Should We?

*Casey Spinks, Baylor University*

## **Session 2: Great Power Conflict**

11:00 AM to 12:30 PM

**Moderator:** Marcia Pally, New York University

Protracted War in the Age of “Land and the Sea”

*Xudong Zhang, International Center for Critical Theory, New York University*

The Second Coming of the Tianxia Empire?

A Theopolitical Interpretation of the (Coming) War between China and Taiwan

*Chia-Yu Liang, University of Sussex*

Rational Assessment, Naiveté, Miscalculation:

Historical Insights into the Trio’s Deadly Role in the Outbreak of War

*Joseph W. Bendersky, Virginia Commonwealth University*

# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

**Friday, March 31, 2023**

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## **Lunch**

12:30 PM to 1:30 PM

## **Session 3: War and Liberal Democracy**

1:30 PM to 3:00 PM

**Moderator:** Adrian Pabst, University of Kent

War as Political Panacea: On the Permanent War Economy

*Mark G. E. Kelly, Western Sydney University*

The Problem of War as an Instrument of Foreign Policy for Liberal Democracy

*Alexis Carré, Princeton University*

Critical Thought, Truth, and Political Action—Between Fake News, War, and Justification:  
An Argument for Pacifism

*Rossen Roussev, “St. Cyril and St. Methodius” University of Veliko Tarnovo*

## **Coffee Break**

3:00 PM to 3:30 PM

## **Session 4: War Today**

3:30 PM to 5:00 PM

**Moderator:** Russell A. Berman, Stanford University

From Mezhyhirya to Slavyansk: Reconsidering the Origins of War  
and the Subversion of Peace in the Russo-Ukrainian War

*Carl Mirra, Adelphi University*

What’s Old is New: The Unexpected Return of Mass and National Mobilization as Decisive  
Principles in the Russo-Ukrainian War and Possible Implications for the NATO Alliance

*Stephen Trynosky, U.S. Army War College*

What We Got Here Is a Failure to Communicate:

War and (Mis-)Recognition: Is There a Critical Theory of War?

*Florindo Volpacchio, Telos-Paul Piccone Institute*

# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

**Saturday, April 1, 2023**

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## **Session 5: Changing Techniques of War**

9:00 AM to 10:30 AM

**Moderator:** Adrian Pabst, University of Kent

After 1945: From a World of Great Wars to a Planet for Special Military Operations

*Timothy W. Luke, Virginia Tech*

Faith in Our Futures: Deep Wars, Special Operations, and Social Theories

*David A. Westbrook, University at Buffalo School of Law*

*Mark Maguire, Maynooth University*

Weaponizing the Human Being per se:

Insurgency, War Neuroscience, and the Revolution in Military Affairs

*Michael K. Hill, University at Albany, SUNY*

## **Coffee Break**

10:30 AM to 11:00 AM

## **Session 6: Sources of War**

11:00 AM to 12:30 PM

**Moderator:** Timothy W. Luke, Virginia Tech

Picconeian Conflicts: The Dialectical Phenomenology of War in the View  
of Paul Piccone, from Vietnam to Iraq\*\*

*Jacob Ulmschneider, Virginia Commonwealth University*

War: Secularization and the Rebellion against the Divinely Established Order\*\*

*Matthew J. Dal Santo, St. Patrick's Seminary University*

Modern War as *Res Ipsa Loquitur*\*\*

*Faisal Ahmad Qureshi, Istanbul Zaim University*

## **Lunch**

12:30 PM to 1:30 PM

\*\* *Virtual presentation*

# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

**Saturday, April 1, 2023**

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## **Session 7: Subjective Experience of War**

1:30 PM to 3:00 PM

**Moderator:** Florindo Volpacchio, Telos-Paul Piccone Institute

Rogues, Partisans, Insurgents: Examining Jünger's *Forest Passage* through  
Schiller's *The Robbers* and Kleist's *Michael Kolhaas*

*Beau Mullen, Valdosta State University*

Ernst Jünger's *War as Inner Experience*

*Mario Bosincu, University of Sassari*

War as a Unifying Experience in Valentyn Vasyanovych's *Reflection*

*Camelia Raghinaru, Concordia University Irvine*

## **Coffee Break**

3:00 PM to 3:30 PM

## **Session 8: War as Learning Experience**

3:30 PM to 5:00 PM

**Moderator:** Joseph W. Bendersky, Virginia Commonwealth University

Learning from Defeat: Sadik al-Azm and the Arab Defeat in 1967

*Russell A. Berman, Stanford University*

The Drama of War

*David Pan, University of California, Irvine*

A New Cold War? Empire, Great Power Proxy Wars, and the Coming Civilizational Contest

*Adrian Pabst, University of Kent*