

THE TELOS PAUL PICCONE INSTITUTE

IN COLLABORATION WITH THE JOHN D. CALANDRA ITALIAN
AMERICAN INSTITUTE, QUEENS COLLEGE/CUNY, PRESENTS

DEMOCRACY TODAY?

FRIDAY, MARCH 22, TO SATURDAY, MARCH 23, 2024

NEW YORK CITY

THE 2024 TELOS-PAUL PICCONE INSTITUTE CONFERENCE EXPLORES THE STATUS OF DEMOCRACY TODAY AS WESTERN POLITICAL ORDERS FACE INCREASING CHALLENGES. ADDRESSING DIVERGENT VIEWS ON REPRESENTATION, PLURALISM, AND POPULISM, THE PRESENTATIONS WILL POSE CRITICAL QUESTIONS ABOUT DEMOCRATIC VALUES, THE ADMINISTRATIVE STATE, PUBLIC SPHERE DYNAMICS, THE ROLE OF RELIGION, AND THE THREAT OF AUTHORITARIANISM.

Keynote Speaker: Sohrab Ahmari

SPEAKERS

JOSEPH BENDERSKY · RUSSELL BERMAN · GABRIEL NOAH BRAHM

MATTHEW J. DAL SANTO · MARK G. E. KELLY · TIMOTHY W. LUKE

BEAU MULLEN · DAVID OST · ADRIAN PABST · DAVID PAN

KIRON SKINNER · FLORINDO VOLPACCHIO · MARK S. WEINER

FOR MORE DETAILS, VISIT THE TELOS-PAUL PICCONE INSTITUTE WEBSITE

WWW.TELOSINSTITUTE.NET

CONFERENCE SUMMARY

The 2024 Telos-Paul Piccone Institute Conference

March 22 to 23, 2024
New York, NY

Democracy Today?

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

At the 2024 Telos-Paul Piccone Institute conference, we will be taking up the theme of democracy today. While the idea of democracy remains a guiding influence for many people in the world struggling against various forms of authoritarianism, the view of democracy looks less appealing within the Western democracies themselves. On the one hand, the polarization of party politics has shaken liberal confidence in democratic institutions, and both the Democratic and Republican parties in the United States blame each other for exploiting the legal apparatus to persecute political enemies. On the other hand, democratic decision-making and action have been undermined by the managerial bureaucracies that dominate within government and corporations. How serious are these threats to democracy and how might our democracies address the threats that both digitally enhanced demagoguery and managerial bureaucracy pose to their survival? Addressing divergent views on representation, pluralism, and populism, the presentations will pose critical questions about democratic values, the administrative state, public sphere dynamics, the role of religion, and the threat of authoritarianism.

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 22, 2024

Registration

8:45 AM to 9:00 AM

Welcome

9:00 AM to 9:15 AM

Main Room

Anthony Julian Tamburri, Calandra Institute

Mark S. Weiner, Telos-Paul Piccone Institute

Plenary Session 1: Popular Sovereignty

9:15 AM to 10:45 AM

Main Room

Moderator: Mark S. Weiner, Telos-Paul Piccone Institute

Relative Homogeneity as Precondition for Establishing and Maintaining Democracy:
The Böckenförde Perspective

Joseph W. Bendersky, Virginia Commonwealth University

In the Name of Democracy? The Rise and Fall of Liberal Constitutionalism

Luca Vanoni and Benedetta Vimercati, University of Milan

Democratic Backsliding in the Presentist Moment

Andrew Wender, University of Victoria

Coffee Break

10:45 AM to 11:00 AM

Parallel Session 1: Democratic Foundations

11:00 AM to 12:30 PM

Main Room

Moderator: Mark S. Weiner, Telos-Paul Piccone Institute

Democracy as Regulation

Mark G. E. Kelly, Western Sydney University

Why Democracy?

Glorianne Wilkins, University of Potsdam

Autonomy in Liberalism on the Basis of the Philosophies of Kant and Rawls

Javier Fuentes, University of Bonn

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Friday, March 22, 2024

Parallel Session 2: Tocqueville Today

11:00 AM to 12:30 PM

Gallery Room

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

Tocqueville, Christianity, and the Solution for Democratic Despotism

Juan Rivera-Castro, Boston College

The Art of Association and Functional Pluralism: Insights from Tocqueville's
Peculiar Liberalism

Abraham Martinez Hernandez, Panamerican University (Universidad Panamericana)

Democratizing or Destroying Democracy?

Tony Spanakos, Montclair State University

Lunch

12:30 PM to 1:30 PM

Parallel Session 3: Populism

1:30 PM to 3:00 PM

Main Room

Moderator: Marcia Pally, New York University

Red Pill Politics: On Fascism and Right-Wing Populism

David Ost, Hobart and William Smith Colleges

Partisans and Bubbles: Change in the Public Sphere, Polarization, and Democracy

Damiano Palano, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore

They're Selling Postcards of the Hanging and Negativity Won't Get You Through

Florindo Volpacchio

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Friday, March 22, 2024

Parallel Session 4: Democratic Ideals

1:30 PM to 3:00 PM

Gallery Room

Moderator: Beau Mullen, Valdosta State University

Democracy Beyond the Crisis: A New “Liberal Elitism” to Rethinking Political Representation
Antonio Campati, Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore

Exploring the Myth of Democracy—A Transition-Based View of Democracy
Chunlin Liu, Chang Jung Christian University

James Wilson, Benjamin Rush, and the Limits of Elite-Democratic Consensus
Samuel Ulmschneider, Maggie L. Walker Governor’s School for Government and International Studies

Coffee Break

3:00 PM to 3:30 PM

Keynote Address

3:30 PM to 5:00 PM

Main Room

Chair: Adrian Pabst, University of Kent

Renewing American Democracy: Lessons from the Jacksonians
Sohrab Ahmari, Compact Magazine

Dinner

5:30 PM to 8:30 PM

Kellari Taverna

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CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Saturday, March 23, 2024

Plenary Session 2: *Telos* Editors

9:00 AM to 10:30 AM

Main Room

Moderator: Mark S. Weiner, Telos-Paul Piccone Institute

The Rise of Populism in the USA

Kiron Skinner, Forum for America and the World

MAGA Mythography and Project 2025: Restoring or Ridding Democracy in America?

Timothy W. Luke, Virginia Tech (via Zoom)

The Great Transformation: Totalitarian State-Market, Corrupt Corporatism,
and the Alternative of Economic Democracy

Adrian Pabst, University of Kent

Coffee Break

10:30 AM to 10:45 AM

Parallel Session 5: Europe at a Crossroads

10:45 AM to 11:45 AM

Main Room

Moderator: Russell A. Berman, Stanford University

The European Way(s) of Democracy

Lénárd Sándor, Mathias Corvinus Collegium Foundation

Criticism of Liberal Democracy in Russian Political Discourse under Conditions
of Russia's Full-Scale Aggression against Ukraine

Marcin Składanowski, The John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin

Parallel Session 6: Democratic Norms

10:45 AM to 11:45 AM

Gallery Room

Moderator: Jay Gupta, Mills College at Northeastern University

Bouleuocracy: A Dynamical System of Governance by Deliberators

Michael Hoffman, Georgia Institute of Technology

Enemy Criminal Law and Justice Reform

Beau Mullen, Valdosta State University

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Saturday, March 23, 2024

Coffee Break

11:45 AM to 12:00 PM

Plenary Session 3: Democracy and Atheism

12:00 PM to 1:00 PM

Main Room

Moderator: Mark G. E. Kelly, Western Sydney University

Is Democracy Compatible with Christianity? Sergei Bulgakov on the Connection between Democracy and Atheism

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

Substantial Selfhood and Secular Religion: The Requirements of Democracy

Tyler van Wulven, University of Kentucky

Lunch

1:00 PM to 2:00 PM

Parallel Session 7: Israeli Democracy Today

2:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Main Room

Moderator: Tal Correm, New York University

From Kaplan Street to Gaza, and Back: Israeli Democracy at War (with Itself)

Gabriel Noah Brahm, Northern Michigan University

The Judicial Coup and October 7: The Past and Futures of Liberalism in the Jewish State

Abraham Silberstein

Parallel Session 8: Boundaries of Democracy

2:00 PM to 3:00 PM

Gallery Room

Moderator: Marcia Pally, New York University

Public Justification in Flawed Democracies

Michael Buckley, CUNY

Democracy under Siege: Empowering Its Universalist Ambition to Save Its Own Future

Federico Quadrelli, University of Kassel

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

Saturday, March 23, 2024

Coffee Break

3:00 PM to 3:30 PM

Plenary Panel in Honor of Fred Siegel

3:30 PM to 5:00 PM

Main Room

With Russell A. Berman, David Pan, Jacob Siegel (via Zoom), Leon Fink, and Kay Hymowitz