



**Institute for Religion &
Critical Inquiry**



Negative Political Theology seminar
23 – 26 July 2017

IRCI Rome Campus Seminars

2017

Negative Political Theology (23 – 27 July)

Cosmopolitanism and National Identity (16-18 March)

The Enigma of Suffering (3-6 January)

2016

Atheism and Christianity: Moving Past Polemic (20-22 September)

Conceiving Change in the Church: An Exploration of the Hermeneutics of Catholic Tradition (13-16 September)

The Rise of the Christian Intellectual in the Second Century (27-29 July)

2015

Laudato Si': The Greening of the Church? (22-24 September)

Negative Political Theology Seminar

ACU

23 - 26 – July 2017

**Held at the Rome Campus of
Australian Catholic University/Catholic University of
America**

Via Garibaldi, 28, 00153 Roma, Italy

**Convenor
David Newheiser**

Welcome

On behalf of my colleagues in the Institute for Religion and Critical Inquiry I welcome you to the ACU/CUA Rome Campus for the seminar entitled "Negative Political Theology."

The IRCI Rome seminar series commenced in September 2015, when the Campus was opened. The series provides an opportunity for the Institute to bring together leading scholars to address and explore key issues in their respective fields of study. The seminars are a practical expression of our ongoing commitment to innovative, high quality, international research collaboration in the disciplines of philosophy and theology.

This particular seminar is the second in a series of six that will be held annually in connection with the internally funded grant project titled "Atheism and Christianity: Moving Past Polemic." I take this opportunity to thank David Newheiser for all the work he has undertaken to develop the project and to bring together this wonderful program for the seminar. My thanks also go to Professor Wayne McKenna, the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research) at ACU, for his ongoing support and sponsorship of the IRCI Rome Campus seminars.

Over the next three days I trust this seminar will provide the opportunity to establish new connections and to enrich existing ones. I extend to all participants my very best wishes for lively and engaging discussions and deliberations as you explore issues pertinent to a topic that is clearly of urgent significance.

David Runia

Director,

Institute for Religion and Critical Inquiry, ACU

July, 2017

Time	Sunday 23 July
4:30pm	Welcome Tea Courtyard, Rome Campus
5:00pm	Introductions
6:30pm	Welcome Reception Terrace, Rome Campus
7:30pm	Dinner at Rome Campus

Time	Monday 24 July
10:30am	<p>Session 1</p> <p>Martin Kavka, <i>A Mystic Conception of History: Negative Political Theology in Jacob Taubes</i></p> <p>Respondent: Rick Elgendy</p>
11:45am	Morning Tea
12:00pm	<p>Session 2</p> <p>Denys Turner, <i>How to Deceive by Way of The Truth: Marx, The Christian, and the Ideological</i></p> <p>Respondent: Sarah Coakley</p>
1:15pm	Lunch
3:30pm	<p>Session 3</p> <p>Stephan van Erp, <i>Nulla Proportio in Concordantia: Catholic Political Theology and the Mystery of Consensus</i></p> <p>Respondent: Andrew Prevot</p>
4:45pm	Afternoon tea
5:00pm	<p>Session 4</p> <p>Karen Kilby, <i>Suffering, Mystery and Politics: A Theological Exploration</i></p> <p>Respondent: Linn Tonstad</p>
6:15pm	<p>Reception</p> <p>Terrace, Rome Campus</p>
7:30pm	Dinner at Rome Campus

Time	Tuesday 25 July
10:30am	<p>Session 5 Kathryn Tanner, <i>What Makes Negative Theology Political? Negative Political Theology as Skepticism about Historical Progress</i></p> <p>Respondent: Eric Gregory</p>
11:45am	<p>Morning tea</p>
12:00pm	<p>Session 6 David Newheiser, <i>Desacralising Political Theology: Dionysius the Areopagite and Giorgio Agamben</i></p> <p>Respondent: Mark Jordan</p>
1:15pm	<p>Lunch</p>
3:30pm	<p>Session 7 Vincent Lloyd, <i>What Love is not: Lessons from Martin Luther King, Jr.</i></p> <p>Respondent: William Cavanaugh</p>
4:45pm	<p>Afternoon tea</p>
5:00pm	<p>Session 8 Amy Hollywood, <i>Dystopia, Utopia, Atopia</i></p> <p>Respondent: Rowan Williams</p>
6:15pm	<p>Reception Terrace, Rome Campus</p>
7:30pm	<p>Dinner at Rome Campus</p>

Time	Wednesday 26 July
10:30am	Session 5 Ted A. Smith, <i>The Mark of Cain</i> Respondent: Alda Balthrop-Lewis
11:45am	Morning tea
12:00pm	Open discussion
1:30pm	Free time
7:30pm	Closing Dinner Pizzeria Emma, Via Monte della Farina, 28/29

Participant	Academic Affiliation	Email contact
Alda Balthrop-Lewis	ACU	alda.balthrop-lewis@acu.edu.au
William Cavanaugh	De Paul	WCAVANA1@depaul.edu
Sarah Coakley	Cambridge	sc545@cam.ac.uk
Rachel Davies	ACU	rachel.davies@acu.edu.au
Rick Elgendy	Wesley Theological Seminary	rick.elgendy@gmail.com
Eric S. Gregory	Princeton	gregory@princeton.edu
Amy Hollywood	Harvard	ahollywood@hds.harvard.edu
Robyn Horner	ACU	robyn.horner@acu.edu.au
Christiaan Jacobs-Vandegeer	ACU	Christiaan.JacobsVandegeer@acu.edu.au
Mark Jordan	Harvard	mjordan@hds.harvard.edu
Martin Kavka	Florida State	mkavka@fsu.edu
Karen Kilby	Durham	Karen.kilby@durham.ac.uk
Vincent Lloyd	Villanova	vincent.lloyd@villanova.edu
Charles Lockwood	ACU	chip.lockwood@gmail.com
James McLaren	ACU	james.mclaren@acu.edu.au
David Newheiser	ACU	david.newheiser@acu.edu.au
Andrew Prevot	Boston College	prevota@bc.edu
David Runia	ACU	david.runia@acu.edu.au
Ted A. Smith	Emory	ted.smith@emory.edu
Kathryn Tanner	Yale	kathryn.tanner@yale.edu
Henning Tegtmeier	KU Leuven	henning.tegtmeier@kuleuven.be
Linn Tonstad	Yale	linn.tonstad@yale.edu
Denys Turner	ACU/Yale	denys.turner@yale.edu
Stephan Van Erp	KU Leuven	Stephan.vanerp@kuleuven.be
Rowan Williams	Cambridge	rw488@cam.ac.uk

Practical Matters

Hotel address: Via Garibaldi, 27, 00153 Roma

Campus address: Via Garibaldi, 28, 00153 Roma

Please note that the walk from the hotel to the Campus is uphill, approximately a quarter of the way up the Janiculum Hill. Although a relatively short distance the walk does involve a climb, part of which is at a steady incline. There is also no designated footpath on the side of the road.

Because of road works currently being undertaken in the Via Garibaldi, it may be necessary to take a detour when walking from the hotel to the Campus.

Some nearby places of interest

- Fontana dell'Acqua Paola
- Museo della repubblica Romana e della memoria Garibaldina
- Piazza Garibaldi (including the Vittoriano Monument)
- Orto Botanico
- San Pietro in Montorio (including Tempietto del Bramante)
- Villa Pamphili
- Santa Maria in Trastevere

Some suggestions for food in Trastevere:

- Cave Canem (Piazza di. S. Calisto, 11).
- Da Enzo (Via dei Vascellari, 29).
- Fatamorgana (Via Roma Libera, 11) for gelato.
- La Boccaccia (Via di Santa Dorotea, 2) for pizza by the slice.

Also worth considering:

Emma Pizzeria (Via del Monte della Farina, 28). It is across the Tiber River, about a 15 minutes walk from the hotel.

The Location

The Rome Campus lies within the Aurelian walls, approximately one-third of the way up the Janiculum Hill. Although the Janiculum is particularly well known as the place where Garibaldi and his supporters fought to defend the newly established Republic of Rome in 1849 the site of the Campus also has some notable points of interest. Gió Ponti was involved in the design of the current building, which was built for the Sisters of Notre Dame de Sion in 1962-63. Within the confines of the previous structures and largely thanks to the work of Mother Marie Augustine and Mother Maria Agnesa the site was a place of refuge for Jews during WWII. Whole families were accommodated within the convent from October 1943 until the liberation of Rome in June 1944 (source: Notre Dame de Sion archives).

In the gardens is one other notable feature, which most likely dates from the first century CE. It is a funerary relief of a man and a woman and an inscription. Dr Alan Cadwallader of ACU has recently identified the relief and epitaph as *CIL* 6.16019, an item recorded in the seventeenth century but subsequently thought to be lost as the Janiculum Hill area was urbanised. Their apparent 'loss' was attested as recently as 1993, by Valentin Kockel in his work on Roman gravesites from the turn of the era. According to Dr Cadwallader, the relief and inscription belong together, making them quite unusual. It is likely that the original setting was a nearby grave structure, possibly situated in the vicinity of the Via Aurelia. The inscription suggests an interesting social history: they have Greek names (Anteros and Apollonia); they were ex-slaves who had belonged to different households and subsequently established their own household (source: A. Cadwallader, "A Note on *CIL* 6.16019 in Light of its Rediscovery," *forthcoming*).

Notes

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