

# THE **TELOS**

# INSTITUTE

## THE 2011 TELOS CONFERENCE:

RITUALS OF EXCHANGE AND STATES OF EXCEPTION: CONTINUITY AND CRISIS IN POLITICS AND ECONOMICS

# NEW YORK CITY

SATURDAY, JANUARY 15th and SUNDAY, JANUARY 16th, 2011

WHETHER THEY ALLOW THE CIRCULATION OF AMBASSADORS OR OF CAPITAL, EXCHANGE NETWORKS PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR GLOBAL CROSS-CULTURAL RELATIONSHIPS. THIS CONFERENCE WILL CONSIDER THE RITUALS AND PROTOCOLS THAT REGULATE POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC RELATIONS IN AREAS OF STABILITY AND THE UNDERLYING FORCES THAT COME TO THE FORE IN PERIODS OF CRISIS.

**SPEAKERS**

RUSSELL BERMAN · FRED SIEGEL · MARCIA PALLY

ADRIAN PABST · TIM LUKE · JOSEPH BENDERSKY

DAVID PAN · ARYEH BOTWINICK · JAY GUPTA

**LIMITED SEATING! DON'T MISS THIS SPECIAL EVENT!**

TO REGISTER, PLEASE VISIT THE TELOS INSTITUTE WEBSITE AT [WWW.TELOSINSTITUTE.NET](http://WWW.TELOSINSTITUTE.NET)

# **C**ONFERENCE SUMMARY

## **RITUALS OF EXCHANGE AND STATES OF EXCEPTION: CONTINUITY AND CRISIS IN POLITICS AND ECONOMICS**

Whether they allow the circulation of ambassadors or of capital, exchange networks provide the basis for global cross-cultural relationships. Though liberal democratic governments pride themselves on the rationality of their procedures, diplomatic protocols and the give-and-take of parliamentary politics attest to complex customs that lie at the heart of such practices. Similarly, recent crises have demonstrated that international financial markets cannot be reduced to a numbers game, however complex, but function on the foundation of a network of promises whose dependability is a matter of habits.

Focusing on the contemporary world, this conference will investigate the rituals and protocols that regulate political and economic relations in areas of stability and the underlying forces that come to the fore in periods of crisis. Presentations will be given from scholars in a variety of disciplines including critical theory, philosophy, literature, politics, theology, anthropology, political economy, and cultural studies.

## **DIRECTIONS**

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### **LOCATION**

The TELOS Conference will be held at the Puck Building, located at 295 Lafayette Street, on the southeast corner of Houston and Lafayette Streets in the Soho neighborhood of Manhattan. The conference will be held on the 4th floor.

### **BY SUBWAY**

6 train to Bleecker Street station. Coming from uptown, The Puck Building is visible from all exits. From downtown, walk one block south and cross Houston Street.

N or R trains to Prince Street station. Walk two blocks east to Lafayette Street and one long block north to Houston Street.

B, D, F, or V trains to Broadway-Lafayette Street station. The Puck Building is visible from all exits.

# SATURDAY SCHEDULE

8:30–8:55 AM      **Coffee**

9:00–9:15 AM      **Introduction**  
Russell Berman, Stanford University (US)

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## **Session 1: Rituals in Crisis**

Room A

**Moderator:**

Frank Adler

9:15–10:30 AM      **Blowout, Blowback, Blow-Up, and Blow Off:  
The Politics of Economic Crisis After 2001**  
Tim Luke, Virginia Tech (US)

**Rituals of Patriotic Sacrifice and Free Market Faith:  
Worker-Soldier Victims of Electoral Politics**  
Joseph Bendersky, Virginia Commonwealth University (US)

**Alchemy for a Renewed Regional Disorder**  
Anthony Court, UNISA School of Graduate Studies (South Africa)

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## **Session 2: Subjectivity in the Exception**

Room A

**Moderator:**

David Pan

10:45–12:00 PM      **Encamping the Exception: Territoriality, Transnationality, and Virtuality**  
François Debrix, Florida International University (US) and Alexander Barder, Johns Hopkins University (US)

**The Only Possible (Bio)Politics? On the Critical Theory of the Risk Pool**  
Kevin Amidon, Iowa State University (US)

**Normalizing the Abnormal: Public Trust in the State of Exception**  
Marc de Wilde, University of Amsterdam (Netherlands)

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## **Session 3: Sovereignty and Economy**

Room B

**Moderator:**

Adrian Pabst

10:45–12:00 PM      **Economic Mutations in the Recent Work of Michel Foucault and Giorgio Agamben**  
Jeffrey Bussolini, CUNY (US)

**Neoliberalism and Hegemony in the New Millennium**  
Omer Moussaly, University of Quebec (Canada)

**The Changing Forms of Contracting in a Society of Transnational Networks**  
Richard Weiner, Rhode Island College (US)

# SATURDAY SCHEDULE

12:00–12:30 PM **Lunch**

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**Lunch Presentation**

Room A

**Moderator:**

Tim Luke

12:30–1:00 PM

**Liberalism and Socialism:  
The Twisted Path to Reconciliation**

Fred Siegel, St. Francis College, Brooklyn, and the Manhattan Institute (US)

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**Session 4: Community and Control**

Room A

**Moderator:**

Jay Gupta

1:15–2:30 PM

**Rules and Rituals in The Castle of Franz Kafka**

Zoltán Balázs, Corvinus University, Budapest (Hungary)

**The Politics of Municipal Policing:**

**An Application of Fuch's Anti-essentialist Network Theory**

James Chriss, Cleveland State University (US)

**Toward a Phenomenology of Justice**

Timothy Stacey, Goldsmiths University (UK)

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**Session 5: Globalization and Its Discontents**

Room B

**Moderator:**

Frank Adler

1:15–2:30 PM

**All are Free to Dance: Culture Industry and Globalization**

Hyun Hoechsmann, New Jersey City University (US)

**Instabilities and Critical Opportunities:**

**Guy Debord's Contributions to Crisis Theory**

Richard Gilman-Opalsky, University of Illinois, Springfield (US)

**Communism: Dead and Buried Utopia?**

**Communicating Communism's Identity in the 21st Century:**

**The Portuguese Communist Party Role Nowadays**

Alvaro Curia, University of Porto (Portugal)

# SATURDAY SCHEDULE

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## Session 6: Religion in the Modern World

Room A

**Moderator:**

Russell Berman

2:45–4:00 PM

### **Realising Religion: Problems of Contemporary Organisation**

Timothy Hall, University of East London (UK)

### **Sacrifice and the Economy to Come**

Brian Nail, University of Glasgow (UK)

### **What a Human Being Should Do Who Discovers the German Geist in 1951:**

#### **Susan Taubes's Response to the Crisis of Modernity**

Christina Pareigis, Zentrum für Literatur- und Kulturforschung Berlin (Germany)

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## Session 7: Toward a New Economic Paradigm

Room B

**Moderator:**

Tim Luke

2:45–4:00 PM

### **Understanding Homo Rationalis:**

#### **The Language of Power and Systems of Lies**

Klaus Solberg Søylen, Blekinge Institute of Technology (Sweden)

### **All that is Liquid Melts into Air:**

#### **Adorno, Economic Rationality, and the Possibility of Complex Equivalence**

Wes Arblaster, University of Dayton (US)

### **Monocapitalism at Play?**

Terry Rowden, College of Staten Island/CUNY (US)

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## Session 8: Rethinking Exchange

Room A

**Moderator:**

David Pan

4:15–5:30 PM

### **Non-market Motives at Work in the Market:**

#### **“New Evangelical” in Civil Society in the U.S. and overseas**

Marcia Pally, NYU (US)

### **Can Contracts be Trusted?**

#### **Economies of Gift in an Age of Global Finance**

Adrian Pabst, University of Kent (UK)

### **Trading in Freedom**

Ulrike Kistner, University of South Africa (South Africa)

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## **Dinner**

7:00–10:00 PM

## **Balade Restaurant**

208 First Ave. (between 12th and 13th Streets) in the East Village  
(212) 529-6868 · [www.baladerestaurants.com](http://www.baladerestaurants.com)

# SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:30–9:55 AM      **Coffee**

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**Session 9: Politics and Philosophy**  
Room A

**Moderator:**  
Adrian Pabst

10:00–12:00 NOON **Liberal Democracy, Negative Theory, and Circularity:**

**Plato and John Rawls**

Aryeh Botwinick, Temple University (US)

**Nietzsche or Aristotle?**

**MacIntyre's Challenge Revisited**

Jay Gupta, Mills College (US)

**Of Fools and Heretics:**

**Another Look at Wittgenstein on Conflict and Debate**

Chantal Bax, University of Amsterdam (Netherlands)

**Carl Schmitt and the Metaphysics of Decisionism**

David Pan, University of California, Irvine (US)