

THE TELLOS PAUL PICCONE INSTITUTE

THE 2015 TELLOS CONFERENCE

**THE TELLOS-PAUL PICCONE INSTITUTE, IN COLLABORATION
WITH DEUTSCHES HAUS AT NEW YORK UNIVERSITY, PRESENTS**

**UNIVERSAL HISTORY,
PHILOSOPHICAL HISTORY,
AND THE FATE OF HUMANITY**

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 13, TO SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2015

NEW YORK CITY

**THE 2015 TELLOS CONFERENCE WILL CONSIDER THE PROJECT OF UNIVERSAL
HISTORY, ITS HISTORICAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL BASIS, ITS VIABILITY IN AN AGE OF
GLOBALIZATION, ITS RELATION TO UNIVERSAL VALUES AND HUMAN RIGHTS, AND
THE ASPECTS OF MODERNITY THAT WOULD NEED TO BE ADDRESSED BY UNIVERSAL
HISTORY, SUCH AS SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, CAPITALISM, ECOLOGY, AND MASS MEDIA.**

SPEAKERS

**JOSEPH BENDERSKY · RUSSELL BERMAN · CHRISTOPHER COKER
JAY GUPTA · WAYNE HUDSON · JONATHAN ISRAEL
ULRIKE KISTNER · TIM LUKE · GREG MELLEUSH
ADRIAN PABST · DAVID PAN · MARIA PICCONE**

**FOR MORE DETAILS, VISIT THE TELLOS-PAUL PICCONE INSTITUTE WEBSITE AT WWW.TELOSINSTITUTE.NET
TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE, PLEASE R.S.V.P. TO DEUTSCHESHAUS.RSVP@NYU.EDU**

CONFERENCE SUMMARY

The 2015 Telos Conference

February 13–15, 2015

New York, NY

Universal History, Philosophical History, and the Fate of Humanity

The 2015 Telos-Paul Piccone Institute conference will consider the philosophical, historical, and political significance of universal history in the contemporary world by focusing on three problem areas: the possibility of universal history, the alternatives to universal history, and the value of universal history. What would be the historical and philosophical basis for universal history today? How would universal history deal with the problem of human diversity? What is the relationship between universal history and values? This conference will address the issues surrounding the place of universal, philosophical, “big” and world history both at the current point of time and in the past, in the West and other civilizations. It will also examine those characteristics of modernity that would need to be addressed by universal history, such as economics and technology, capitalism and industrialization, global transportation and communication. We will discuss these issues, as well as related aspects, e.g., religious visions of history, the role of history in cultural identity, global agricultural ecologies, and the universalizing effects of epidemics.

To attend the conference, please R.S.V.P. to deutscheshaus.rsvp@nyu.edu

Conference Location

The conference will be held at Deutsches Haus at New York University, 42 Washington Mews, New York, NY 10003. Deutsches Haus is located in the historical setting of the Washington Mews, just north of Washington Square Park in the Heart of Greenwich Village. For additional information about Deutsches Haus, visit their website at <http://deutscheshaus.as.nyu.edu/page/home>.

By Subway

The nearest subway stop is West 4th Street/Washington Square subway station, at the intersection of West 4th St and 6th Ave. The stop 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. The entrance to Deutsches Haus will be on your left.

FRIDAY SCHEDULE

Introduction

5:15–5:30 PM

Juliane Camfield (Deutsches Haus) and David Pan (Executive Director, Telos-Paul Piccone Institute)

Session 1: Varieties of Universal History

5:30–7:00 PM

Auditorium

Moderator: David Pan, University of California, Irvine

Carbon History: Reconsidering the Anthropocene as a New Universal History

Tim Luke, Virginia Tech

The Value of Universal History:

Human Personality and the Development of the International Community
in the Thought of Luigi Sturzo

Matthew Bagot, Spring Hill College

Emanationist History and the Problem of Unity

Jonathan Adjemian, York University

Secularization and “Universal History”

Stephanie Frank, University of Chicago

Wine and Cheese

7:00–8:00 PM

SATURDAY SCHEDULE

Session 2: The Meaning of Universal History

9:00–10:30 AM

Auditorium

Moderator: Tim Luke, Virginia Tech

Cathedrals Built on Flowing Water:
Religion, Civilization, and Postmodern Theocracy
Robert Wyllie, University of Virginia

Overcoming, Crossing Over, and Going Beyond:
How Anthropological Urges Compel Universal Histories
Kasina Entzi, Indiana University, Bloomington

Incorporating a More Nuanced Understanding of Indigenous Epistemologies
into Universal History
Brent Ranalli, The Cadmus Group

Jaspers' Concept of Universal History in the Context of His Time and Ours
Kenneth Rasmussen, Santa Monica College

Session 3: History Into the Future

9:00–10:30 AM

Seminar Room

* Attendance limited to registered conference participants

Moderator: Russell A. Berman, Stanford University

Horror Beyond Death:
The Disappearance of Humanity and the Fate of History
François Debrix, Virginia Tech

Archaic Revivals and Shamanism in the Liberal Global Imaginary
Roger K. Green, Metropolitan State University of Denver

The Reasons for the Re-Writing of History in the Context of Writing a Universal History
Friedrich von Petersdorff, Independent Scholar

Beyond the Great Demotions
Lukas Szrot, University of Texas at Arlington

SATURDAY SCHEDULE

Session 4: Universal History and Political History

10:45 AM–12:15 PM

Auditorium

Moderator: Joseph Bendersky, Virginia Commonwealth University

A World Safe for Property:

Three European Civil Wars and the Making of Capitalism

Kevin S. Amidon, Iowa State University

Looking Beyond the Westphalian Nation-State:

Challenging the Modernist Vision of History with Alternative Political Orders and Worldviews

Andrew M. Wender, University of Victoria

Napoleon's Pragmatic Philosophy and the Universal Self-Consciousness of British Modernity

Noah Ziggy Gentele, Yale University

What's Lost to Historical Competition?

Séan Quinn, University of Wollongong

Session 5: War, History, and Politics

10:45 AM–12:15 PM

Seminar Room

* Attendance limited to registered conference participants

Moderator: Adrian Pabst, University of Kent

War as Universal History: From Heraclitus to Hegel, with a Brief Epilogue on Levinas

Christopher Coker, London School of Economics

Hegel, Adorno, Levinas: From Freedom to Peace

Aidin Keikhaee, York University

The Zionist as Universal Demon: A Conjuncture of Hatreds since the Cold War

Ernest Sternberg, University at Buffalo, State University of New York

Universal Ideology in the Great War:

Germany's Role in the Formation of Iranian Nationalism

Mohammad Rafi, University of California, Irvine

SATURDAY SCHEDULE

Lunch

12:15–1:15 PM

Session 6: History and Human Rights

1:15–2:45 PM

Auditorium

Moderator: Greg Melleuish, University of Wollongong

The Right to Have Rights

Anthony Court, University of South Africa

Rights Normativity and the Overcoming of Post-History

Ben Dorfman, Aalborg University

Universal History and International Law

Walter Rech, University of Helsinki

Normativity and Philosophical History: After Human Rights

Meili Steele, University of South Carolina

Session 7: Ethics, History, and the Problem of Language

1:15–2:45 PM

Seminar Room

* Attendance limited to registered conference participants

Moderator: Jay Gupta, Mills College

Is Linguistic Justice Translatable?

On the Significance of Translation for Universal History

Tsutomu Ben Yagi, Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg/Katholische Universität Eichstätt-Ingolstadt

Reconstructing Babel: Universal History, Particular Languages, and Google Translate

David Pan, University of California, Irvine

Planetary Ethics and the Fate of Humanity

Jorge Valadez, Our Lady of the Lake University

The Therapeutic Dissolution of History

Peter Paik, University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee

SATURDAY SCHEDULE

Session 8: History, Education, and Philosophy

3:00–4:45 PM

Auditorium

Moderator: Wayne Hudson, Charles Sturt University

“Little History”: The Crisis in U.S. Academic History

Joseph Bendersky, Virginia Commonwealth University

Transnational History as Historical Subject

Richard R. Weiner, Rhode Island College

History as the Laboratory of Philosophy

Peter A. Redpath, Adler-Aquinas Institute

Homo Sacer Revisited:

Sacrality and Immanence in Global Politics

Antonio Cerella, University of Central Lancashire

Session 9: Universal History and Its Other

3:00–4:45 PM

Seminar Room

* Attendance limited to registered conference participants

Moderator: Russell A. Berman, Stanford University

Universal History and its African Obstacles

Ulrike Kistner, University of Pretoria

Marrano Universalism: Benjamin contra Hegel

Agata Bielik-Robson, University of Nottingham

Universal History at the Margins:

Philosophy of History as an Antagonistic Totality

Giuseppe Tassone, University of Balamand

Negative Utopian Philosophy as the Ground for Universality

Arash Falasiri, York University

SATURDAY SCHEDULE

Roundtable:

Universal History, the West, the East, and the Rest

5:00–6:30 PM

Auditorium

Moderator: Marcia Pally, New York University

With Russell A. Berman (Stanford University), Adrian Pabst (University of Kent), Ulrike Kistner (University of Praetoria), Jay Gupta (Mills College), Christopher Coker (London School of Economics), and Wayne Hudson (Charles Sturt University)

Dinner

7:00–10:00 PM

** Dinner is limited to registered conference participants*

Farfasha

166 2nd Ave. (between 10th and 11th St.)

New York, NY 10003

www.farfashanyc.com

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Keynote Presentation: Jonathan Israel

9:00–10:00 AM

Auditorium

Chair: Wayne Hudson, Charles Sturt University

The Enlightenment Reconsidered: A Contemporary Controversy

Jonathan Israel, Institute for Advanced Study

Session 10: Messianism and the End of History

10:15–11:45 AM

Auditorium

Moderator: Marcia Pally, New York University

The Good of Liberalism: Weak Messianism

Aryeh Botwinick, Temple University

Political Thought and Morality at the “End of History”:

The Dialogue between Leo Strauss and Alexandre Kojève

Adi Armon, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Jacob Taubes on History, Eschatology, and the West

Willem Styfhals, KU Leuven, Institute of Philosophy

Suffering Violence at Your Own Hands:

Hegel on Ethical and Political Alienation

Jay A. Gupta, Mills College

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Session 11: Traditions Outside of the West

10:15–11:45 AM

Seminar Room

** Attendance limited to registered conference participants*

Moderator: Ulrike Kistner, University of Praetoria

The Impact of External Influences on the Islamic City: The Coming of the European System of Urban Regulation and Its Social and Political Allocation

Hamza Zeglache, University of Setif

The Manifestation of the Self in Ancient Chinese Autobiographical Writing

Ying Wang, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences

Which Humanity? From Cultural to Racial Ethnocentrism:

Chinese Anthropological Perspective on Universal History in the 19th Century

Maria Adele Carrai, University of Hong Kong

Why Gordon Childe Came Home to Die: The Particularity of Universal History

Greg Melleuish, University of Wollongong

Roundtable:

The Future of History: A New Universal Vision or Dissolving into Particularities?

12:00–1:30 PM

Auditorium

Moderator: Adrian Pabst, University of Kent

With Wayne Hudson (Charles Sturt University), Joseph Bendersky (Virginia Commonwealth University), Greg Melleuish (University of Wollongong), Aryeh Botwinick (Temple University), Jonathan Israel (Institute for Advanced Study), and Tim Luke (Virginia Tech)