

# THE TELOS

## PAUL PICCONE

# INSTITUTE

**THE 2016 TELOS CONFERENCE**

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

# BEYOND NOSTALGIA: ETHICS, POLITICS, AND THE CRITIQUE OF MODERNITY

**SATURDAY, JANUARY 16, TO SUNDAY, JANUARY 17, 2016**

# NEW YORK CITY

WITH THE CRITICAL PROBLEMS POSED BY MODERNITY IN MIND, IS IT POSSIBLE TO GENERATE FRESH AND COGENT PERSPECTIVES CONCERNING THE RELATION OF ETHICS TO POLITICS? THE 2016 TELOS-PAUL PICCONE INSTITUTE CONFERENCE WILL HOST A SERIES OF MULTIDISCIPLINARY, TOPICAL, AND THEORETICAL DISCUSSIONS THAT RECONSIDER ETHICS AND POLITICS IN LIGHT OF THE CRITIQUE OF MODERNITY.

**SPEAKERS**

JOSEPH BENDERSKY · RUSSELL BERMAN · ARYEH BOTWINICK

PAUL GOTTFRIED · JAY GUPTA · WAYNE HUDSON · TIM LUKE

GREG MELLEUSH · ADRIAN PABST · MARCIA PALLY · DAVID PAN

MARIA PICCONE · SAMUEL TADROS · MUSTAPHA TLILI

FOR MORE DETAILS, VISIT THE TELOS-PAUL PICCONE INSTITUTE WEBSITE AT [WWW.TELOSINSTITUTE.NET](http://WWW.TELOSINSTITUTE.NET) TO ATTEND THE CONFERENCE, PLEASE R.S.V.P. TO [DEUTSCHESHAUS.RSVP@NYU.EDU](mailto:DEUTSCHESHAUS.RSVP@NYU.EDU)

# CONFERENCE SUMMARY

## **The 2016 Telos Conference**

January 16–17, 2016

New York, NY

## **Beyond Nostalgia: Ethics, Politics, and the Critique of Modernity**

The 2016 Telos-Paul Piccone Institute Conference will host a series of multidisciplinary, topical, and theoretical discussions on the relation of ethics to politics in light of the critique of modernity. Critics of modernity have pointed to various forms of skepticism, alienation, indeterminacy, and abstraction that contribute to a sense of ethical crisis. They point to a sense of uprootedness from the stability and meaning-conferring powers of cultures, traditions, and communities. From the brutal and atavistic program of “global jihad,” to the troubling rise of various forms of crypto-fascism in Europe, one everywhere sees the effects of a spiritual, economic, and political alienation in the actions of those who take ethical life to have been severed from political life. With the critical problems posed by modernity in mind, is it possible to generate fresh, cogent, and non-extremist perspectives concerning the relation of ethics to politics?

*To attend the conference, please RSVP to [deutscheshaus.rsvp@nyu.edu](mailto: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.

# SATURDAY SCHEDULE

## Introduction

9:00–9:15 AM

Juliane Camfield (Deutsches Haus), Maria Piccone (Publisher, Telos Press), and Jay Gupta (Mills College)

## Plenary: Ethical Solidarity in Political Difference

9:15–10:45 AM

### Auditorium

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

The Politics of Virtue

*Adrian Pabst, University of Kent*

Mourning, Solidarity, and “Transversal Grief”: How Judith Butler Misreads Paris

*Russell Berman, Stanford University*

Global Philosophy and Global Ethics

*Wayne Hudson, Charles Sturt University*

A Moral Core in a Political Realist: A Centennial Reappraisal of Carl Schmitt’s  
*Die geistesgeschichtliche Lage des heutigen Parlamentarismus* in the Context of  
Contemporary Politics

*Joseph Bendersky, Virginia Commonwealth University*

## Session 1: Democracy Now

11:00 AM–12:45 PM

### Auditorium

**Moderator:** Greg Melleuish, University of Wollongong

Politics and Ethics of Global Social Movements

*Thomas Ponniah, George Brown College*

When Online Political Trickery and Gamesmanship Morph into Standard Practice:  
Computer Networking and Social Media Issues in Electioneering and Voting

*Jo Ann Oravec, University of Wisconsin at Whitewater*

The Folly of a Virtual Public: Civic Engagement and the Common Good in a Virtual Age

*Kyle Nicholas, University of Notre Dame*

The Kurdish Question in Turkey: The Black Holes of Democracy

*Pekka Sulkunen, University of Helsinki*

Can Centralization Solve the Global Democratic Deficit?

*Rochelle Duford, Binghamton University*

# SATURDAY SCHEDULE

## Session 2: States of Nature

11:00 AM–12:45 PM

Seminar Room (for registered conference participants only)

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

Caring for the Low-Carbon Self and Community: The Shifting Politics Behind the Ascetics of Adaptation and Ethics of Efficiency in Times of Rapid Climate Change

*Tim Luke, Virginia Tech*

Evaluating Enlightenment: Progressive Critiques of Modernity in Rationalization and Ecology

*Lukas Szrot, University of Kansas*

Comparative Understandings of the Human Political Actor: An Entryway into the Critique of Totalizing, Modernist Monopolies over Ethics and Politics

*Andrew Wender, University of Victoria*

Is Renaturalization of Modernity Possible? Leo Strauss's Criticism of Modernity and Max Horkheimer's and Theodor W. Adorno's Wrestling with Nature

*Natalia Zimnowodzka, Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Polish Academy of Sciences*

Slavery, Aristotle, and the Racial Historicity of the Human

*Sara-Maria Sorentino, University of California, Irvine*

## Lunch

12:45–1:45 PM

## Session 3: Philosophies of Right: Ethical Theory and Praxis

1:45–3:15 PM

Auditorium

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

The Ethical Life of the State: Sovereignty as the Apotheosis of Self-Consciousness in Hegel's *Philosophy of Right*

*David Pan, University of California, Irvine*

The Rational is the Real and the Real is a Blooming, Buzzing Confusion: Hegel on Minding Our "Oughts"

*Jay A. Gupta, Mills College*

Marxism and the Three Types of Ethics

*Satoshi Matsui, Senshu University*

The Right to Be Stateless

*Michael Lewis, Berry College*

# SATURDAY SCHEDULE

## Session 4: Political Theologies

1:45–3:15 PM

Seminar Room (*for registered conference participants only*)

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

The Impact of Separation of Religion and Politics on the Traditional Islamic Society: The Path to Power in Tunisia

*Hamza Zeglache, Université de Sétif*

Theologies of Relationality as a Frame for Economic and Political Policy: Covenant, Trinity, and Salvation as Religious Tenets and Political Proposal

*Marcia Pally, New York University*

#Blacklivesmatter as a Secular Black Political Theology: Ethical and Practical Implications of the First New Black Social Movement of the 21st Century

*Kenneth Johnson, Oakland Community Organizations*

Ulu Al Amr and the Paradox of Modernity

*Hisseine Faradj, City University of New York, Bronx Community College*

## Session 5: Secularism, Multiculturalism, Moral Relativism, and Terrorism

3:30–5:00 PM

Auditorium

**Moderator:** Tim Luke, Virginia Tech

Johann Herder, Early Nineteenth-Century Counter-Enlightenment, and the Common Roots of Multiculturalism and Right-Wing Populism

*Göran Adamson, West University, Sweden*

Does Terrorism Undermine the Credibility of Moral Relativism?

*Vicente Medina, Seton Hall University*

Coping with Popular Godlessness: Political Responses to the New Atheism

*Stuart McAnulla, University of Leeds*

Saving Mediation: The Topicality of Max Horkheimer's Post-liberal Concept of the Political

*Thorsten Fuchshuber, Université libre de Bruxelles*

# SATURDAY SCHEDULE

## Session 6: Ethics in an Age of Mass Bureaucratization, Alienation, and Anonymity

3:30–5:00 PM

Seminar Room (*for registered conference participants only*)

**Moderator:** Jay Gupta, Mills College

Small Is Ethical: The Morality of the Micropolis  
*Maja Sidzinska, San Francisco State University*

The Ethics of Freedom and Its Reification  
*Johannes Ernst Hoerning, University of Hong Kong*

Acknowledging the Unacknowledged Legislators of the World:  
Civic Poetry as a Nexus of Political and Ethical Convergence  
*Loren Goodman, Yonsei University*

Small Is Beautiful . . . and Virtuous: MacIntyre Meets Schumacher via Douglas  
*Donald Wortham, College of St. Scholastica*

## Roundtable: What is the Global Dimension of Ethical Life?

5:15–6:45 PM

Auditorium

**Chair:** Tim Luke, Virginia Tech

With Mustapha Tlili (EastWest Institute in New York), Wayne Hudson (Charles Sturt University), Adrian Pabst (University of Kent), Jay Gupta (Mills College), David Pan (University of California, Irvine), and Marcia Pally (New York University)

## Dinner

7:15–10:00 PM

*\* Dinner is limited to conference participants who registered for the dinner option. Tickets will be provided at the conference.*

### Taverna Di Bacco

175 Ludlow Street (Lower East Side)

New York, NY 10002

(212) 477-0077

[www.tavernadibacco.com](http://www.tavernadibacco.com)

# SUNDAY SCHEDULE

## **Keynote Presentation: Samuel Tadros**

9:00–10:00 AM

Auditorium

**Chair:** Russell Berman, Stanford University

**Islamism and the Crisis of Modernity**

*Samuel Tadros, Senior Fellow at the Hudson Institute*

## **Session 7: America and Europe: Race, Identity, and Ethics**

10:15–11:45 AM

Auditorium

**Moderator:** Jay Gupta, Mills College

Trump, Le Pen, and a Possible Re-Configuring of the Right

*Paul Gottfried, Raffensperger Professor of Humanities, Elizabethtown College*

What is a “Good European”?

*Samir Gandesha, Simon Fraser University*

What Is the “Ethico” in “Ethico-Political”?

*Jerry Miller, Haverford College*

Self Interest, Virtue, and the Dilemma of the American Political-Economy: Towards a  
Renewal of Ethical Care in American Civilization

*Terry Hoyt, PhD from Tulane University, 2000*

# SUNDAY SCHEDULE

## Session 8: Ethical and Political Education

10:15–11:45 AM

Seminar Room (*for registered conference participants only*)

**Moderator:** Wayne Hudson, Charles Sturt University

The Failure of the Liberal Project of Education and Making Better, More Ethical Citizens  
*Greg Melleuish, University of Wollongong*

Ignorance Studies, the Limits to Certainty, and Democratic Theory  
*Aryeh Botwinick, Temple University*

Adam Smith's Dilemma, and the Algonquian Model of Political Virtue  
*Brent Ranalli, The Cadmus Group*

Bankruptcy and Human Value:  
The Normative Assumptions of American Insolvency Law  
*Justin Storer, Lakelaw, Chicago, IL*

## Roundtable:

### The Ethical State: Is Liberal Democracy the Only Game in Town?

12:00–1:30 PM

Auditorium

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

With Samuel Tadros (Hudson Institute), Russell Berman (Stanford University), Aryeh Botwinick (Temple University), Tim Luke (Virginia Tech), Greg Melleuish (University of Wollongong), Paul Gottfried (Elizabethtown College), Joseph Bendersky (Virginia Commonwealth University)