

5th Annual International
Summer School and Conference

Beyond Secular Faith

POLITICS AS THEOLOGY

25th June - 1st July, 2017
Granada- Spain



Politics and the Epistle to the Romans

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DESCRIPTION

While there is no question that Paul's Epistle to the Romans is a foundational text of Christian religion, it has not always been recognized the extent to which it is a political manifesto. Recent scholarship, however, both Christian and non-Christian, has recovered this key aspect of the Epistle, for which it must be now placed alongside Plato's Republic and Aristotle's Politics as a fundamental text of western political thought. Moreover, this new scholarship has shown how the political charge of the Epistle is capable of moving our political imagination radically beyond the limits of late-capitalist liberal polity. This seminar we will explore how Paul's vision has been taken up by a variety of recent thinkers as paradigmatic of new ways of conceiving the rule of law, the event and the universal, and how this can be a fresh provocation for theology today.

CONTENTS

Seminar 1: Romans and the Empire (Blumenfeld, Wright, Elliott)

Seminar 2: Romans and the Rule of Law (Taubes, Schmitt, Benjamin, Agamben)

Seminar 3: Romans and Universalism (Badiou, Žižek)

Seminar 4: Romans and the Theopolitical (Milbank)

METHODOLOGY

Seminar discussion; commentary of texts

EVALUATION

Participation in discussion

SHORT BIBLIOGRAPHY

Agamben, Giorgio. *The Time That Remains: A Commentary on the Letter*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2005.

Badiou, Alain. *Saint Paul: The Foundation of Universalism*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2003.

Blumenfeld, Bruno. *The Political Paul: Democracy and Kingship in Paul's Thought*. Edinburgh: T&T Clark, 2004.

Elliott, Neil. *The Arrogance of Nations: Reading Romans in the Shadow of Empire*. Minneapolis: Fortress, 2008.

Milbank, John, Slavoj Žižek, et al. *Paul's New Moment: Continental Philosophy and the Future of Christianity*. Grand Rapids: Brazos Press, 2010.

Taubes, Jacob. *The Political Theology of Paul*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2003.

Riches, Aaron. "Political Theology and Pauline Law: Notes Toward a Sapiential Legality." *Telos* 146 (2009): 140-157.

Wright, N. T. "The Letter to the Romans: Introduction, Commentary, and Reflections." In vol. 10 of *The New Interpreter's Bible: A Commentary in Twelve Volumes*, ed. Leander E. Keck. Nashville: Abingdon, 2002. Pp. 393-770.