

# PUBLIC THEOLOGIES IN A PLURALIZED WORLD

CONCEPTS - COOPERATIONS - CRITIQUES



INTERNATIONAL AND INTERDISCIPLINARY  
SEMINAR SERIES

13/2 TO 22/5/2023

ONLINE

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**The pluralization of religious and non-religious ways of life continues to stir up controversies across the world. Encounters between people with different commitments and diverse confessions – some religious, some non-religious – provoke stubborn clashes, striking conversations, and surprising coalitions in postsecular public squares. Public theology, then, is perhaps more needed today than ever before, both locally and globally. Yet given its genealogy in the histories of European and American Christianities, the question is whether public theology is capable of addressing public squares that are pluralizing rapidly and racially. What is the role of non-Christian minority theologies in the public square? What is the role of Christian majority theologies in the public square? Or can the binary between minority and majority be overcome by committing all public theology to the margins and the marginalized, no matter their commitments and confessions? In other words, what could and should public theology look like today? This international and interdisciplinary seminar series brings together scholars and students from across the globe to ask and answer these questions. It features defenders as well as despisers of ‘public theology’ from a wide variety of religious and non-religious backgrounds, charting new avenues for how to analyze and assess the pluralization of religious and non-religious ways of life in political spheres and public squares worldwide.**

### **COORDINATORS**

ATENEO DE MANILA UNIVERSITY: DEPT. OF PHILOSOPHY: PROF. R. E. BARBAZA  
PUC CAMPINAS: POSTGRADUATE PROGRAM IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES: PROF. G. BARSALINI; PROF. D. BARROS  
PUCPR AT CURITIBA: POSTGRADUATE PROGRAM IN THEOLOGY: PROF. R. V. SINER  
STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY: BNC/FACULTY OF THEOLOGY: PROF. D. FORSTER  
UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH: CTPI/SCHOOL OF DIVINITY: DR. U. SCHMIEDEL  
UNIVERSITY OF TUBINGEN: FACULTY OF CATHOLIC THEOLOGY: DR. S. PITTL

### **CLASS**

MONDAYS FROM 13 FEBRUARY TO 22 MAY 2023  
BRAZIL: 08:30-10:00  
UNITED KINGDOM: 11:30-13:00 (13 FEBRUARY – 20 MARCH); 12:30-14:00 (27 MARCH – 22 MAY)  
GERMANY: 12:30-14:00 (13 FEBRUARY – 20 MARCH); 13:30-15:00 (27 MARCH – 22 MAY)  
SOUTH AFRICA: 13:30-15:00  
PHILIPPINES: 19:30-21:00

### **CREDITS**

CREDITS WILL BE ADMINISTERED BY THE PARTICIPATING INSTITUTIONS. PLEASE CONTACT YOUR COORDINATOR.

## COURSE

### Concepts

- 13 February 2023 Sebastian Pittl (University of Tübingen, Germany) and Ulrich Schmiedel (University of Edinburgh, UK): *Public Theologies in the Plural: An Interactive Introduction*
- 20 February 2023 Annette Langner-Pitschmann (Goethe University Frankfurt, Germany): *Globalisation, Social Division, and Public Theology: Does Pragmatist Pluralism Help?*
- 27 February 2023 Rudolf von Sinner (Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Paraná, Brazil), Magali do Nascimento Cunha (Methodist University of São Paulo, Brazil): *Religious Diversity in the Secular State: The Case of Brazil*
- 6 March 2023 Fatima Tofighi (University of Religions and Denominations, Qom, Iran): *Toward A Democratic Notion of the Prophetic*

### Cooperations

- 13 March 2023 Esther McIntosh and Pauline Kollontai (York St John, UK): *Negotiating Childlessness in Christianity and Judaism*
- 20 March 2023 Clive Pearson and Mehmet Ozalp (Charles Stuart University, Australia): *Angry Weather: Responding to Climate Change in the Neighbourhood*
- 27 March 2023 Dion Forster and Peter White (University of Stellenbosch, South Africa): *Public Theology and African Indigenous Religions*
- 3 April 2023 Ephraim Meir (Bar Ilan University, Israel): *Buber's and Gandhi's Contribution to Civilization*  
Wolfgang Palaver (University of Innsbruck, Austria): *What Christians Can Learn from Gandhi's Concept of Nonviolence*

### Critiques

- 17 April 2023 Ana Rosa Cloquet da Silva, Douglas Barros, and Glauco Barsalini (Pontifical Catholic University of Campinas, Brazil): *Religion as an Instrument for the Closure of Imaginaries: The Activities of the Extreme Right Wing in Public Spaces and Politics in Brazil*
- 24 April 2023 Atalia Omer (Notre Dame, USA) *To join the struggle, you have to decolonize Judaism: Public Protest, American Jews, and the Rewriting of their Public Narratives*
- 8 May 2023 Maria Maricel S. Ibita (Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines): *Intersectionality, Sustainability and Public Theology*  
Remmon Barbaza (Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines): *Look at the Birds of the Air: Animality as the Possible Meeting Point in Contemporary Phenomenology of Religious Life*
- 15 May 2023 Marcia Pally (New York University, USA/Humboldt University Berlin, Germany): *White Evangelical Populism in the US: Genealogy and Impacts*  
Joanildo Burity (Joaquim Nabuco Foundation, Brazil): *Political Theology, Public Theology, and Theology of the Political: On Terrains, Actors and Discourses*
- 22 May 2023 Concluding Conversation

To join the seminar sessions, please email  
Dr Ulrich Schmiedel (ulrich.schmiedel@ed.ac.uk).