

8–9 June 2021

Radical Orthodoxies

Part of IRC Project “Religious Conflicts and Coping Strategies”

The conference will be held online via zoom. Please register [here](#).



Introduction

This conference is a part of a broader project on epistemology of interreligious conflicts. Its ongoing effort is to study such conflicts, both conceptually and historically, as inter-epistemic conflicts, namely as conflicts between radically different conceptions and performances of knowledge. The project's aim is to develop theories and tools for better understanding the epistemic mechanisms of inter-religious, as well as of other inter-cultural conflicts, and for studying possible strategies of non-violent coping with such conflicts.

The present conference seeks to acknowledge and reflect on a contemporary epistemic constellation in religious, theological and scholarly discourse, which has not yet been sufficiently acknowledged as an inter-religious phenomenon, and may even appear as contradicting inter-religious discourse, since it features a contemporary form of traditionalism, a movement towards orthodoxy. We wish to contemplate the contours of a growing field of intellectual endeavors, which seek to undergird the critique of modernity, to perform postmodernism, by reactivating intellectual traditions considered to be deactivated by the rise of modernity, first and foremost through the discourse of secularism.

A common operation of these endeavors is a postmodern return to premodern knowledge traditions, which are paradigmatically seen, from a modern, secular perspective, as religious orthodoxies. However, the central thrust of these efforts is precisely to call into question the modern perspective on the premodern, including its designation as "religious", "traditional", "orthodox" and so forth. Their goal is to retap into the premodern, made irrelevant by the modern, as a source for the postmodern, contemporary and future, a complex movement of progressive return, of "radical orthodoxy".

The term itself has been explicitly used since the late 1990s by a group of interrelated projects within the contemporary discourse of Christian theology. A similar intellectual trend has become visible in the last two decades also within scholars of other religious traditions, within Jewish Studies and Islamic Studies. This conference seeks to contemplate the sense in which these different projects, which are "orthodox" insofar as they go back into their individual intellectual traditions, nonetheless share a common contemporary discursive space, as well as common socio-political concerns and causes. We therefore wish to reflect on these different intra-religious interventions as featuring an inter-religious phenomenon, and to facilitate in practice their inter-religious performance, by bringing them into conversation.

Organizers *Luca Di Blasi (University of Bern)*
 Elad Lapidot (University of Bern)

Program

Tuesday, 8 June 2021

- 14:00–14:30 Opening
- 14:30–16:00 **Knowledge**
Luca Di Blasi, University of Bern
Carmody Grey, Durham University
- 16:00–16:15 **Break**
- 16:15–17:45 **Aesthetics**
Jayne Svenungsson, University of Lund
Alison Milbank, University of Nottingham
- 17:45–18:00 **Break**
- 18:00–19:30 **Politics**
Daniel Boyarin, University of California, Berkeley
Anoush Ganjipour, University of Bern

Wednesday, 9 June 2021

- 14:00–15:30 **Hermeneutics**
Amina Wadud, Sunan Kalijaga State Islamic University/
Starr King School for the Ministry
Elad Lapidot, University of Bern
- 15:30–16:00 **Break**
- 16:00–17:30 **Memory**
Graham Ward, University of Oxford
Sergey Dolgopolski, University of Buffalo
- 17:30–18:00 **Break**
- 18:00–19:30 **Theology**
Ebrahim Moosa, University of Notre Dame
John Milbank, University of Nottingham

Registration

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