

Department of English & Creative Writing, Department of History, Department of Politics, Philosophy and Religion, Department of Sociology, the Lancaster Institute for the Contemporary Arts, the School of Critical Studies at the University of Glasgow and the *Journal for Cultural Research*

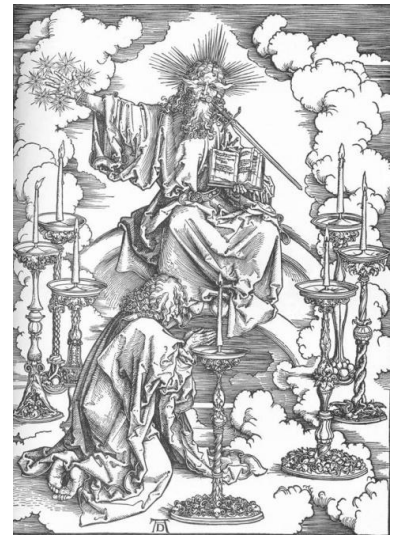
Culture, Politics, Eschatology: A Symposium

Storey Institute, 21-22 September 2012

The symposium's theme is the continuing cultural and political relevance of eschatology. In recent years, diverse contemporary commentators have attended to eschatology. The symposium takes its cue from the work of three in particular, Jacob Taubes, Giorgio Agamben and Michel Foucault. Originally published in 1947, Taubes' *Occidental Eschatology* (2009) is a classic study of the legacy of Judaeo-Christian eschatological theology for radical politics in modernity. His *The Political Theology of Paul* (2004), published posthumously from lecture notes, remains a highly influential recuperation of the radical implications of Paul's theology. Agamben's *The Time that Remains* (2005) continues Taubes' project with a stunning reading of Paul's Epistle to the Romans in relation to the messianic thinking of Walter Benjamin. His more recent *The Kingdom and the Glory* (2011), a genealogical study of the contemporary polity and its operation on an economic model, contests Foucault's own, influential analysis of the same polity and its mode of operation by recovering their theological foundations. Foucault, for his part, maintained that 'the new historicity of *raison d'etat* excluded the empire of the last days; it excluded the kingdom of eschatology. Against this theme, which was formulated at the end of the sixteenth century and is still with us today, counter-conducts develop that make it a principle to assert the coming of a time when time will end ... an eschatology in which civil society will prevail over the state'.

Please note that registration is free, but numbers are limited.

To register, contact Clare Coxhill (c.coxhill@lancaster.ac.uk).



Confirmed Speakers:**Ian Almond, Georgia State University**

<http://www.english.gsu.edu/9694.html>

Ian's research focuses on the image of Islam in literature and theory and he is interested particularly in theology and deconstruction.

Gil Anidjar, Columbia University

<http://www.columbia.edu/cu/mesaas/faculty/directory/anidjar.html>

Gil works on race, religion and political theology, focusing particularly on relations between Jews and Arabs.

Agata Bielik-Robson, University of Nottingham

<http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/theology/people/agata.bielik-robson>

Agata works on modern Jewish thought, from Spinoza to Derrida, and is particularly interested in its relationship to theology.

Ward Blanton, University of Glasgow

<http://www.gla.ac.uk/schools/critical/staff/wardblanton/>

Ward is interested in the history and legacies of the radical philosophical and cultural critiques nourished by modern critical study of the Bible.

Kathleen Davis, University of Rhode Island

<http://www.uri.edu/artsci/eng/Faculty/Davis.html>

Kathleen works at the intersection of medieval history and postcolonial criticism, and is currently working on questions of time and historical periodisation.

Philip Goodchild, University of Nottingham

<http://www.nottingham.ac.uk/theology/people/philip.goodchild>

Philip is interested in the implications of the contemporary collision of ecology and economy for philosophical and religious thought.

Susan Napier, Tufts University

<http://ase.tufts.edu/grall/faculty/napier.asp>

Susan's research focuses on 'anime' and 'manga' as vehicles to address contemporary concerns, and she is interested particularly in their configuration of the 'apocalypse'.

Yvonne Sherwood, University of Glasgow

<http://www.gla.ac.uk/schools/critical/staff/yvonnesherwood/>

Yvonne is interested in religion, politics and philosophy, particularly in relation to modernity and the opposition of the 'secular' and the 'religious'.

Scott Wilson, Kingston University

<http://fass.kingston.ac.uk/faculty/staff/cv.php?staffnum=731>

Scott's research focuses on the symbolic economy of contemporary culture, particularly in relation to the dynamics of advanced capitalism.

Confirmed Respondents:

Arthur Bradley, Andrew Dawson, Bulent Diken, Michael Dillon, Sergio Fava, Charlie Gere, Paolo Palladino, Thomas Rohkrämer and Yoke-Sum Wong.