



# RELIGION *and* DEMOCRACY

## Monday, 15 December 08

10:00-10:15 Welcome addresses

Zoltán Csepregi (Dean of the Lutheran Theological University)  
Péter Losonczi (West Hungarian University, Szombathely & Institute for Philosophical Research-HAS, Budapest)

Political Theory and Philosophy

Session 1 / Political Philosophy (Chair: Maeve Cooke)

10:15-10:45: Theo de Wit (Tilburg University)

Politics without dénouement, religion without guarantee

10:45-11:15: Gábor Gángó (Institute for Philosophical Research-HAS, Budapest)

Hannah Arendt and the problem of private religion

11:15-11:45: Patrick Loobuyck (University of Antwerp)

How far can we go beyond secularization? Notes on Habermas's view on the post-secular society

Discussion

LUNCH/Reception

Session 2 / Political Theory I (Chair: János Kis)

13:00-13:30: Sebastiano Maffettone (LUISS University, Rome)

Public Reason and Post-Secular Reason

13:30-14:00: András Láncki (Corvinus University, Budapest)

Democracy and moral relativism

SHORT BREAK

Session 2 / Political Theory 2

14:10-14:40: Maeve Cooke (University College Dublin)

Do religious arguments threaten democratic legitimacy? A critical discussion of Habermas' views on religion and democratic deliberation

14:40-15:10: Eszter Kollár (LUISS, Rome)

Accommodating pluralism through public justification: moral vs. pragmatic considerations

Discussion

COFFEE BREAK

Session 3 / Philosophy of Religion (Chair: Gábor Gángó)

15:45-16:15: Walter Van Herck (University of Antwerp)

Community and symbols

16:15-16:45: Balázs M. Mezei (Péter Pázmány Catholic University, Piliscsaba)

Religion after Auschwitz: Jonas, Metz, and the place of religion in liberal democracy

16:45-17:15: Peter Jonkers (Tilburg University)

Can freedom of religion replace the virtue of tolerance?

Discussion

## Tuesday, 16 December 08

Religion, Theology, Democratic politics

Session 4 / Religion, Politics and Theology (Chair: Aakash Singh)

9:30-10:00: Daniela Kalkandjieva (University of Sofia)

Eastern Orthodox Christianity and democracy

10:00-10:30: András Csepregi (Lutheran Theological University, Budapest)

Genuine democracy or elitist democracy? Christianity and democracy in the thought of István Bibó and Dietrich Bonhoeffer, with respect to the process towards mature democracy in Hungary.

Discussion

COFFEE BREAK

Session 5 / Political Theology and the Problem of Democracy (Chair: Walter Van Herck)

11:00-11:30: Aakash Singh (LUISS University, Rome)

The varieties of political theology

11:30-12:00: Péter Losonczi (West Hungarian University, Szombathely & Institute for Philosophical Research-HAS, Budapest)

Politics, idolatry and "the sacred": democratic and prophetic politics

Discussion

COFFEE BREAK

12:30-13:30: Panel discussion / Closing remarks

Moderator:

Daniele Santoro (LUISS University, Rome)

Panel:

Ágnes Heller (New School of Social Research, New York)

Sebastiano Maffettone (LUISS University, Rome)

Maeve Cooke (University College Dublin)

András Láncki (Corvinus University, Budapest)

Walter Van Herck (University of Antwerp)

Closing remarks:

Daniele Santoro (LUISS University, Rome)

Contact

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## Challenges and Prospects

Co-organized by the Lutheran Theological University and the Center for Ethics and Global Politics (LUISS University, Rome) in cooperation with the Institute for Philosophical Research of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Budapest)

**DATES: 15-16 December 2008**

**VENUE: Lutheran Theological University Budapest (H-1141 Budapest, Rózsavölgyi köz 3)**