

The conference is cosponsored by  
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Berlin  
Monday-Wednesday  
July 18–20  
2022



## Political Theology in Jewish and Christian Contexts: Reception Histories and Controversies with Carl Schmitt

Carl Schmitt's *Political Theology*, written in 1922, is present in almost every discussion of the place of the theological within the politics of our secularized societies. Political theology — whether in the configuration offered by Schmitt or beyond — has become a paradigm with which some of the most urgent challenges of our age are approached: states of emergency, the crisis of liberalism, and the complex relations between modernity and religious traditions. The 100th anniversary of Schmitt's influential work is an opportunity to inquire into the genealogy of political theology and trace its diverse and conflictual applications in answering urgent contemporary questions. The attempt is not to embrace Schmitt, whose anti-Semitism and notorious involvement with the Nazi regime continue to shadow his thought, but rather to critically think political theology in all its variety.

**Please join us for three public events** that will address the legacy of political theology. The discussions will examine the history and philosophy of political theology from the interwar period to the present.

**Monday, July 18, 7:30 p.m.**

Humboldt University of Berlin, Senate Hall in the Main Building (Unter den Linden 6, 10117)

Chair: **Karma Ben Johanan** (Humboldt University of Berlin)

**Christoph Schmidt** (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

**Carl Schmitt and the Dialectics of Theology and Secularization, or: the Two Bodies of the Subject**

**Agata Bielik-Robson** (University of Nottingham)

**Carl Schmitt's Cryptotheologies**

**Tuesday, July 19, 7:30 p.m.**

Humboldt University of Berlin, Senate Hall in the Main Building (Unter den Linden 6, 10117)

Chair: **Stephan Steiner** (Katholische Akademie Berlin)

**Christian Polke** (University of Göttingen)

**In the Long Shadow of Carl Schmitt: Protestant Theology and the Drama of the German Past**

**Leora Batnitzky** (Princeton University)

**The Absence of Redemption: Galut, Martyrdom, and Deferment in Twentieth-Century Jewish Political Theology**

**Wednesday, July 20, 6:00 p.m.**

Humboldt University of Berlin, Tieranatomisches Theater (Philippsstraße 13, Campus Nord, Haus 3, 10115)

Chair: **Shai Lavi** (The Van Leer Jerusalem Institute; Tel Aviv University)

**John Milbank** (The University of Nottingham)

**From Schmitt to Agamben: The Theme of Divine Government**

**Vivian Liska** (University of Antwerp; The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)

**German-Jewish Critical Modernists vs. Carl Schmitt**

Admission is free, with pre-registration  
at Humboldt University of Berlin:  
[lidia.jerkiewicz@hu-berlin.de](mailto:lidia.jerkiewicz@hu-berlin.de)

Live at  
Katholische Akademie  
in Berlin YouTube  
and [www.vanleer.org.il](http://www.vanleer.org.il)