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SOPHERE

# In the Shadows of Religious Experience: Hostility, Violence, & Revenge

*\*All times are set to Central European Time (Vienna Austria)\**

Preliminary Program

October 6

13:30-14:00: Michael STAUDIGL & Jason ALVIS (Vienna), "Introduction: On secularism and its discontents, or: Why a Conference about the Dark Sides of Religious Experience?"

## Session 1: Phenomenologies of Religious Violence

(Moderator: Michael Staudigl)

14:00-14:30: Tareq AYOUB, "Heroism and Being-Towards-Death: On Martyrdom in Contemporary Shi'ism"

14:30-15:00: Nuzhat KHURSHID, "Legitimizing Transgression Within Faith. Islamic Psychoanalysis and Muslim Women's Agency"

15:00-15:30: Tanay GANDHI, "The Hindutva Body: Religious Experience and Visceral Dispositions for Violence in the Project for a Hindu Nation"

## Session 2: Revenge of the Sacred

(Moderator: Jason Alvis)

15:30-16:00: Thomas SOJER, "The conjuncture of religious revenge and attention: Looking at the "Pope's revenge" through the eyes of Simone Weil"

16:00-16:30: Eric BIEN, "The Double-sidedness of the Frown: Revenge as a Spiral of Satisfaction and Provocation"

16:30-17:00 \*\*\*\*\*BREAK\*\*\*\*\*

**17:00-18:00: KEYNOTE --- J. Aaron SIMMONS, "There are A-holes Everywhere on BS Mountain: Evangelical Conspiracism and Epistemic Violence"**

(Moderator: Jason Alvis)

### Session 3: The Politicization of Transcendence

(Moderator: Emil Salim)

18:00–18:30: Jan CERNY, “Étienne Balibar: Secularization as a Suppression or Transformation of Religious Experience?”

18:30-19:00: Tomasz NIEZGODA, “Violence as an Response. Eric Voegelin on the Ambivalence of the Experience of Transcendence”

19:00-19:30 - \*\*\*\*BREAK\*\*\*\*

### Session 4: Reassessing Political Theology

(Moderator: Olga Louchakova-Schwartz)

19:30-20:00: Michele GIULI, “George Bataille’s interpretation of the Death of God as a way to understand the postmodern human condition”

20:00-20:30: Ahmad BOSTANI, “Phenomenology of the Imagination and Anti-Secular Ideologies: Henry Corbin’s Theologico-Political Legacy Reconsidered”

20:30-21:00: Paul SLAMA, “On the ‘psycho-theological’ structure of modernity and social violence”

October 7

### Session 5: Enmity and the Politicization of Religious Truth

(Moderator: Michael Staudigl)

14:00-14:30: Osman Gazi BIRGÜL, “On the Politicization and Instrumentalization of Truth: A Hermeneutical Phenomenological Analysis”

14:30-15:00: Macej WITKOWSKI, “Philosophy, Catholicism and Judaism in inter-war Germany: Walter Benjamin and Carl Schmitt on political violence”

15:00-15:30: Barbara LORENZ, “Migration of religious narratives of hostility & violence in (post)modern conspiracy myths”

**15:30-16:30 KEYNOTE - - - Neal DE ROO, "Locating Religious Violence in the Spiritual Constitution of Experience"**

(Moderator: O. Louchakova-Schwartz)

### Session 6: Innocence, Theodicy, Guilt, and Levinas

(Moderator: J. Alvis)

16:30-17:00: Derek SAWER, “Bearing the Burden of Sacred History: Levinasian Anti-theodicy and the German Counter-Monument Tradition”

17:00-17:30: Michael BARBER, "Nietzsche and Levinas against Innocence"

17:30-18:00 \*\*\*\*BREAK\*\*\*\*

### Session 7: Denials and Possibilities of Transcendence

(Moderator: M. D. Barber)

18:00-18:30: Georg HARTENSTELLER, "Hostility and the effective direction of religious communitarianism"

18:30-19:00: Matt ROSEN, "'This is our testimony to the whole world': A Quaker Phenomenology of Peace"

19:00-19:30: Eleni LORANDOU, "Embodying the universe: reviewing religious transcendence through Merleau-Ponty's narratives of artistic engagement."

### **19:30-20:30 - SOPHERE Presidential Address - - - Olga Louchakova-Schwartz,**

**"Thinking About the Obvious: Religious Experience and the First-Person Perspective"**

(Moderator: Michael Barber)

October 8

### Session 8: Difficult Relations

(Moderator: Michael Staudigl)

14:00-14:30: Walter S. STEPANENKO, "A Relational Phenomenological Reading of Two Parables and the Atonement as Revenge Reduction: Implications for Contemporary Approaches to Religion"

14:30-15:00: Antje KAPUST: "Shifting of violence in civil societies: Religion and violence"

### Session 9: Complicating Oppositions, Transcending Binaries

(Moderator: Martin Koci)

15:00-15:30: Emil SALIM, "Violence in Empedoclean Metaphysics"

15:30-16:00: Maria GOLEBIEWSKA, "The Phenomenal Aspects of Negativity and Negating according to Søren Kierkegaard"

16:00-16:30 \*\*\*\*BREAK\*\*\*\*

### Session 10: Secular Violence, esp. in the Case of Canada

(Moderator: Jason Alvis)

16:30-17:00: : Robert Appelbaum, “Religious Violence and Space: Two Incidents from the French Wars of Religion”  
17:00-17:30: Raphael Cohen-Almagor, “*Indivisibilité, sécurité, laïcité*: The Burqa and the Niqab in France”  
17:30-18:00: Felix Ó Murchadha: “Enthusiasm, Superstition and Religious Violence”

## Session 11: The Affective States and Spaces of Violence

(Moderator: Olga Louchakova-Schwartz)

17:30-18:00: Jennifer GUYVER, “Protecting the legitimacy of state violence through laïcité: the case of Quebec”

18:30-19:00: Seraphine APPEL, “Ideological Structures of ‘Reconciliation’”

19:30-20:00: Damian BARNAT, “Religious and Secular Responses to Violence. Charles Taylor on the Moral Transformation”

20:00 Closing Remarks – End of the Conference

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