

PROGRESS AND DECLINE IN THE HISTORY OF POLITICAL THOUGHT

10th Annual London Graduate Conference in the History of Political Thought

Sir David Davies Lecture Theatre, Roberts Engineering Building
University College London

Conference Hashtag: #LondonHPT

Day 1 — Thursday, 20 June 2019

9:30-10:00 Registration and coffee

10:00- 10:30 Opening remarks
Georgios Varouxakis (QMUL)

10:30-12:00 Panel 1: Sustaining the State: Confronting Population Change in the 18th Century
Chair: Giuseppe Grieco (QMUL)

Auguste Bertholet (Lausanne)

“Depopulation as benchmark of progress and decline: The judgement of Vaudois economic reform debates on a European obsession”

Lina Weber (Amsterdam/St Andrews)

“From overspending to overpopulation: Predicting collapse in late eighteenth-century Britain”

Conor Bollins (QMUL)

“‘The Morality of the Fabric of the World’ – Hume and Wallace on Depopulation, Decline and the End of the Species”

12:00-13:00 Lunch

13:00-14:30 Panel 2: “Looking Backwards”: Using the Past to Explain the Present
Chair: Emily Steinhauer (QMUL)

Oliver Mitchell (London/Courtauld)

“Cyclical History and the Wheel of Fortune in Medieval Art and Political Thought”

Hansong Li (Harvard)

“Theorising Carthaginian Decline for Modern International Thought”

Peter Halton (Sussex)

“‘I believe machines can do everything – except make works of art’: The relationship between labour, freedom, and art in the thought of William Morris”

- 14:30-15:00 Coffee
- 15:00-16:00 Panel 3: Narratives of Progress and Democracy
Chair: Charlotte McCallum (QMUL)
- Anton Jäger (Cambridge)**
“Progressives against Progress: Populism and History in the Writings of Benjamin Flower and Thomas Watson, c.1905-c.1922”
- Hugo Bonin (Paris/Montréal)**
“Democracy Between Panacea and Poison: ‘Democracy’ in British Socialist Thought, 1881-1901”
- 16:00-16:30 Break
- 16:30-18:00 Keynote Lecture
Chair: Niall O’Flaherty (KCL)
- Richard Whatmore (St Andrews)**
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- 18:00-19:00 Drinks reception

Day 2- Friday, 21 June 2019

- 9:30-10:00 Coffee
- 10:00-11:30 Panel 4: Progress and its Antidote: Religion in the 20th century
Chair: Morgan Golf-French (UCL)
- Raúl Burgos Pinto (UCL)**
“Restoring the Christian Order: Chilean Conservatives’ Defence of Religion in the National and International Order in the 1930s”
- Jared Loggins (Brown)**
“W.E.B. Du Bois and the Religious Upheaval Against Racial Capitalism in the 20th Century”
- Alexandra Medzibrodzky (Budapest)**
“‘Godmanhood’ as an Idea of Progress in Revolutionary Russia”
- 11:30-12:00 Coffee
- 12:00-13:30 Panel 5: European Imperialism: Decline, Reform and Sovereignty
Chair: Catherine Hulse (QMUL)
- Ed Jones-Corredera (Cambridge)**
“Visions of Progress in an Age of Decline: Towards a Reconsideration of Eighteenth-Century Spanish Political Thought”

Nazmul Sultan (Chicago)

“Colonialism, Popular Sovereignty, and the Rise of Developmentalism in the Nineteenth Century”

Matilde Cazzola (Bologna)

“Not a clock but a pendulum: The Reform Acts and anxieties of historical decline in Britain”

13:30-14:30 Lunch

14:30-16:00 Panel 6: Crisis in the 19th Century: Losing Faith in the Old World

Chair: Conor Bollins (QMUL)

Maxwell Jones (Cambridge)

“Pessimism in the early nineteenth century: Schopenhauer & Leopardi on History and Progress”

Almudena Molina (Sussex)

“Hegel’s Proclamation of the Death of God as the Paradigm of the Declined and Risen State”

Maria Muñoz (Navarra)

“National Decadence” in Spanish Thought (1860-1900)”

16:00-16:30 Break

16:30-18:15 Concluding Roundtable

Chair: Stephanie Conway (RHUL)

Caroline Ashcroft (QMUL)

Angus Gowland (UCL)

Humeira Iqtidar (KCL)

Leslie James (QMUL)

18:15 Conference dinner for speakers