

How should we diagnose the reasons for the present crisis of confidence in secularism? Is this a result of our failure to offer a sufficiently robust civil religion as a necessary supplement to a liberal order that is excessively individualist and rationalist? Or of the intellectual incoherence of secularism, given the permeability of the boundary between the religious and the political? Does it still appear possible and desirable to defend a separation between religion and politics, when so many indicators are firmly against this, including the rise of Christian nationalism in such places as the contemporary United States? Or is secular liberalism really just another “political theology,” as Carl Schmitt contended?



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CENTER FOR RELIGION
AND PHILOSOPHY

THE POLITICAL BIBLE II: EARLY MODERN PERSPECTIVES AND CONTEMPORARY LEGACIES

Workshop hosted by the
LMU Center for Religion and Philosophy
Prof. Dr. Robert A. Yelle, Director

June 19-20, 2026
Munich, Germany

Katholische Akademie in Bayern
Romano Guardini Bibliothek
Mandlstraße 23
80802 München



Friday, June 19

9:00-09:30	Arrival, Welcome, and Introductions
09:30-10:30	<i>Cristiana Facchini, University of Bologna</i> Against Apology: Spinoza, Jewish Polemics, and the Depoliticization of Scripture
10:30-11:00	Coffee Break
11:00-12:00	<i>Marcia Pally, New York University/ Humboldt University Berlin</i> The Political Vision of Baruch Spinoza: The Shadow of Hobbes at the Dawn of Inalienable Rights
12:00-13:00	Lunch
13:00-14:00	<i>Hannes Kerber, Boston College</i> 'Reviving a Dead Dog': The Spinoza Renaissance of the Eighteenth Century and the Challenge of Political Religion
14:00-15:00	<i>Michelle Sanchez, Harvard University</i> Marks, Signs, and Theaters: Recovering the Humanist Dimensions of Calvin's Religio-Political Thought
15:00-15:30	Coffee Break
15:30-16:30	<i>Arthur Bradley, Lancaster University</i> Dismembered: Rousseau's Sacrifices
16:30-18:00	<i>Keynote: Jonathan Sheehan, University of California at Berkeley</i> The Law of Sacrifice: Israel, Rome, and the Early Modern Political Imagination

Saturday, June 20

10:00-11:00	<i>Eckart Otto, LMU Munich</i> The Significance of the Bible in Contemporary Chinese Discourse on Modernizing Traditional Confucianism
11:00-11:30	Coffee Break
11:30-12:30	<i>Robert Yelle, LMU Munich</i> The King Never Dies? A Longue Durée History of the Struggle against Tyranny
12:30-13:30	Lunch
13:30-14:30	<i>Peter Schröder, University College London</i> Moments of Crisis: Considerations about Political Theology in Hegel and Schmitt
14:30-15:30	<i>Miguel Vatter, Deakin University</i> Bloch's Atheistic Reading of the Bible and His Mystical-Materialist Account of Dignity
15:30-16:00	Coffee Break
16:00-17:00	<i>Patrick Zoll, Hochschule für Philosophie Munich</i> Catholic Neo-Integralism: Analysis and Critique
17:00-18:00	<i>Franco Motta, University of Turin</i> State of Nature: A Political Theology of Modernity?
18:00-18:30	Closing Remarks