

What Now?
Political Thought at a Moment of Crisis

Department of Philosophy
The University of California at Berkeley

223 Moses Hall

September 7-8, 2017

What Now? Political Thought at a Moment of Crisis

We are facing today extraordinary and unprecedented challenges. To name the most pressing: an unchecked growth of the human population with its potential for large-scale migration, global displacement, and disruption; technological advances that are upending all our existing economic, political, and social arrangements; a merger of economic and political power that comes with a deepening gulf between the very rich and all others; the hollowing-out of democratic processes through the expanded capacity for digital surveillance, the accumulation and exploitation of large masses of data, manipulation of thought and disinformation; a rebalancing of political power across the globe accompanied by threats and counter-threats reliant on ever growing stockpiles of military hardware; and last but not least, a potential catastrophe for our natural, social, and human environment.

These developments call for sustained political thinking. The categories of traditional political thought seem no longer adequate for addressing the specific challenges of the 21st century. We must ask then: what now? What are the possibilities and requirements of political thought for this century?

Program

Thursday, Sept 7

The Need for Political Realism **9:30**
am -11:30 am

Janosch Prinz, UK: **Diagnosis, Judgment, Intervention:**
On the public value of realist political philosophy

Andrew Norris UCSB: **Being Realistic About Neoliberalism**

The Environmental Crisis **11:30 am**
- 12:30 pm

Rupert Read, UK: **This Civilization is Finished**

Can we save Democracy? **2:30**
pm – 3:30pm

Niko Kolodny, Berkeley: **Pathologies of American Democracy**

Politics and Critical Theory
4pm - 6pm

Rahel Jaeggi, Berlin: **Modes of Regression**

Judith Butler, Berkeley: **Critique, Crisis, Violence**

Friday, September 8

The Threat of the Other
11:30 am

9:30 am –

Thomas Nail, Denver:

Borders and Migrants in the 21st Century

Florian Grosser, Berkeley:

Uncommon Communities:
Coexistence in an Age of Forced Migration

Beyond Neoliberalism
pm

11:30 am -12:30

Mark Bevir, Berkeley:

Governmentality after Neoliberalism:
Networks, resilience, democracy, and resistance

China: Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow
4 pm

2pm –

Loubna El Amine, Chicago:

The Problem of *The Problem of China*

Michael Nylan, Berkeley:

Investment in Fantasy:
The case of the PRC

Plutocracy and Technology
6 pm

4pm –

Hans Sluga, Berkeley:

Plutocracy Now

David Bates, Berkeley:

A Katechon for the Cybernetic Age

