

# **Will and Reason: Negotiating the Medieval in Modern International Relations**

Department of International Politics  
Aberystwyth University

September 1-3, 2010

*Wednesday, September 1, 2010*

## **Welcome/Introduction: 5.00-5.15**

*Mike Foley, Head of Department*

## **Roundtable: 5.15-6.30**

### **International Relations and the Harvest of the Middle Ages**

*William Bain  
Andreja Zevnik  
Nicholas Rengger*

*Thursday, September 2, 2010*

## **Session 1: 9.45-12.00**

Chair: *William Bain*

Individuality, Authority and the International: Medieval and Modern Reflections  
*Nicholas Rengger*

Numbers of Power, Lines of Transition: The Decay of Metaphysics and the Loss of International Order'  
*Catherine Pickstock*

The Medieval Structure of Modern Politics  
*John Milbank*

## **LUNCH: 12.00-1.30**

## **Session 2: 1.30-3.30**

Chair: *Kamila Stullerova*

Saving the Innocent, Then and Now: Vitoria, Dominion, and World Order  
*William Bain*

Humanitarian Intervention in a World of Sovereign States: The Grotian Dilemma  
*James Muldoon*

**COFFEE/TEA: 3.30-4.00**

**Session 3: 4.00-6.00**

Chair: *Simona Rentea*

'Fabulous retroactivity': international law as the child of imperialism, even if a child with Oedipal propensities

*Peter Fitzpatrick*

The *ius commune* Origins of International Law

*Joseph Canning*

*Friday, September 3, 2010*

**Session 4: 9.30-11.30**

Chair: *Andreja Zevnik*

Images of Europe: Citizenship and the Languages of Statecraft

*Janet Coleman*

Connections Between non-European Traditions and Modern Concepts of World Order

*Antony Black*

**COFFEE/TEA: 11.30-12.00**

**Session 5: 12.00-1.00**

Concluding Discussion

**LUNCH: 1.00-2.00**

## Workshop Participants

**William Bain** is Senior Lecturer in International Political Theory in the Department of International Politics, Aberystwyth University. He is the author of *Between Anarchy and Society: Trusteeship and the Obligations of Power* (OUP 2003) as well as several articles that explore the politics and ethics of trusteeship, international administration, and post-conflict reconstruction. He is also editor of and contributor to *The Empire of Security and the Safety of the People* (Routledge 2006). His main areas of research and teaching are international relations theory, particularly the English School/international society approach, international ethics, and the history of ideas. At present, he is working on a project that is provisionally entitled *The Political Theory of World Order: God, Man, and the Common Good*. Dr Bain is also Associate Editor of *International Relations*.

**Antony Black** is emeritus professor in the History of Political Thought at the University of Dundee. He has recently published a comparative study of the political thought of ancient Egypt, Mesopotamia, Iran, India, Israel, China, Greece and Rome, *A World History of Ancient Political Thought* (OUP 2009). He has also made a comparative study of the political thought in the West and in the Muslim-ruled world from their origins to the present, which is entitled *The West and Islam: Religion and Political Thought in World History* (OUP 2008). Previously, he worked on medieval and early modern European political thought, and on theories of community. Publications in this area include *Guilds and Civil Society in European Political Thought from the Twelfth Century to the Present* (Cornell 1984), *Political Thought in Europe, 1250-1450* (Cambridge 1992), and *Monarchy and Community: Political Ideas in the Later Conciliar Controversy, 1430-1450* (Cambridge 1970).

**Janet Coleman** is Professor of Ancient and Medieval Political Thought, Government department, London School of Economics and Political Science (retiring end of September 2010). She has been at LSE since 1987. In future, she will continue to research and write as a Global Distinguished Professor, Faculty of Arts and Science, Classics, New York University, USA, for 8 weeks each year. At NYU she focuses on themes related to ancient Greek democracy and Roman republicanism and their later European legacies. Some of these interests were already revealed in her two volumes: *A History of Political Thought from Ancient Greece to Early Christianity*; *A History of Political Thought from the Middle Ages to the Renaissance* (Blackwell, Oxford, 2000, reprinted 2004). She is co-founder and co-executive editor of the international journal *History of Political Thought*.

**Joseph Canning** read Classics and then History at Cambridge University, and then went on to do a PhD in Medieval History also at Cambridge. His first post was Lecturer in Medieval History at the University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia. For many years he taught at Bangor University, where he was Reader in History until 2007. He retired to Cambridge and is currently an Affiliated Lecturer in the History Faculty, where he lectures in late medieval church history. Dr Canning was also Director of the British Centre for Historical Research in Germany at the Max-Planck-Institut fuer Geschichte, at Goettingen, from 1996-2001

**Peter Fitzpatrick** is currently Anniversary Professor of Law at Birkbeck, University of London and Honorary Professor of Law in the University of Kent. In 2007 he was given the James Boyd White Award by The Association for the Study of Law, Culture and the Humanities. He has taught at universities in Europe, North America and Papua New Guinea and published many books on legal philosophy, law and social theory, law and racism, and imperialism, two of the recent ones being *Law as Resistance* (Ashgate, 2008) and with Ben Golder, *Foucault's Law* (Routledge, 2009). Outside the academy he has been in an international legal practice and was also in the Prime Minister's Office in Papua New Guinea for several years.

**John Milbank** is Professor of Theology at the University of Nottingham. He is the author of several books of which the most well-known is *Theology and Social Theory* and the most recent *Being Reconciled: Ontology and Pardon*. He is one of the editors of the Radical Orthodoxy collection of essays that occasioned much debate. His work has endeavoured to resist the idea that secular norms of understanding should set the agenda for theology, thereby offering Christianity as offering a rich and viable account of the whole of reality. At the same time he tends to insist that Christianity is itself eclectic and fuses many traditions - particularly that of biblical narrative with that of Greek philosophy. In addition he has sustained interests in developing a political and social theology - critical of the liberationist current as insufficiently theological, while retaining a left-leaning perspective. Currently he is pursuing a long-term project concerning the topic of 'gift' which involves all the above-mentioned concerns.

**James Muldoon** is Professor Emeritus at Rutgers, an adjunct instructor at the Rhode Island School of Design, and an Invited Research Scholar at the John Carter Brown Library on the campus of Brown University. A specialist in medieval legal and ecclesiastical history, he has a particular interest in the relations between Christian and non-Christian societies in the medieval and early modern world. This work has led to three books published by the University of Pennsylvania Press: *The Expansion of Europe: The First Phase* (1977); *Popes, Lawyers, and Infidels: The Church and the Non-Christian World 1250-1550* (1979); *The Americas in the Spanish World Order: The Justification for Conquest in the Seventeenth Century* (1994). He also edited two volumes of essays on religious conversion, *Varieties of Religious Conversion in the Middle Ages* (1997) and *The Spiritual Conversion of the Americas* (2004), both published by the University Press of Florida. His other recent books are *Empire and Order: The Concept of Empire, 800-1800* (Macmillan, 1999) and *Identity on the Medieval Irish Frontier* (University Press of Florida, 2003). A selection of his articles have been republished in *Canon Law, the Expansion of Europe, and World Order* (Ashgate/Variorum, 1998). At the moment, Professor Muldoon is co-editing with Professor Felipe Fernández-Armesto a series of reprints dealing with the expansion of medieval Europe tentatively entitled *The Expansion of Latin Europe, 1000-1450*. He is also developing a series of articles of eighteenth-century American perceptions of the Middle Ages and the implications of that knowledge for the American revolutionary generation.

**Catherine Pickstock** is a University Reader in Philosophy and Theology at the University of Cambridge. She is the author and co-author of several books and numerous articles in philosophical theology, including *After Writing: On the Liturgical Consummation of Philosophy*, *Radical Orthodoxy: Suspending the Material* (co-authored with John Milbank and Graham Ward), and *Truth in Aquinas* (co-authored with John Milbank).

**Nicholas Rengger** is Professor of Political Theory and International Relations at St Andrews University and the current editor of *The Review of International Studies*. He has published widely in political theory, intellectual history and international relations, and has also published in political theology and aesthetics. He is the co-editor of *International Relations in Political Thought: Texts from the Ancient Greeks to the First World War* (CUP, 2002) and *Critical International relations Theory After Twenty Five Years* (CUP 2007) and the editor of *Ethical Evaluations and Global orders* (CUP 2010). His book *Dealing in Darkness: The Anti-Pelagian Imagination in Political Theory and International Relations* is forthcoming from Polity press in 2011.

**Andreja Zevnik** is a doctoral candidate in the Department of International Politics, Aberystwyth University. She is co-chair of CRIPT (Contemporary Research in International Political Theory), a BISA Working Group, and co-convenor of the Aberystwyth Post-International Group in the Department of International Politics. Her research explores possibilities for subjectivity and law beyond Oedipus, and ideas of alternative (monist) ontology. She has published various essays on Lacanian approaches. She is also the author of

'Sovereign-less subject and the possibility of resistance' (*Millennium* 38.1), and a co-author, with Dr. Milan Brglez, of *Poststructuralist Critique of the Ethics of the Subject and the Universalism of Human Rights* (University of Ljubljana, FDV Press, forthcoming).