**Queer Political Theologies**

Organized by Ricky Varghese, David K. Seitz, and Fan Wu

Friday, May 5, 2017, Jackman Humanities Building, Rm. 100A

University of Toronto

Convened by Ricky Varghese, David Seitz, and Fan Wu

This event is free and open to the public and the venue is wheelchair accessible.

For further information, please contact: [qpt2017@gmail.com](mailto:qpt2017@gmail.com)

The convenors would like to thank the University of Toronto’s Women & Gender Studies Institute, the Centre for Comparative Literature, the Mark S. Bonham Centre for Sexual Diversity Studies, Trinity College, and the Reynolds Fund at the Toronto School of Theology for their indispensable support in helping to organize this event.

**DESCRIPTION**

This colloquium uses the idiom of political theology – the notion that so-called “secular” political forms of life simultaneously inherit, reconfigure, and extend profoundly spiritual, psychical and visceral investment in authority as *sacred* – as a departure point for a more wide-ranging conversation about the political, the theological, and the *queer*. From the outset, it might be prudent to state the intention of this colloquium: we are not queering the political theological as in putting in the work – as signified by the verb "to queer" – to make out of something a set of queerly-informed postulates. Rather, the assumption this set of conversations hopes to build on is the notion that the queer as an ontological, ethico-political, historical, and materialist category worthy of exploration might in itself emerge from the meeting of the political and the theological. A further assumption will be that both the political and the theological, themselves categories deeply invested in both detailing out and defining the terms on which subjectivity and modernity come to understand one another, are always already in a queer relation with and formation to one other.

**PROGRAM**

**8:45AM TO 5:45PM**

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**INTRODUCTORY REMARKS AND GRAB COFFEE**

**9:00AM TO 10:20AM**

**PANEL A: TEXTUAL/LINGUAL THEOLOGIES** (Chair: Dina Georgis, University of Toronto)

***Reading and Writing the Multitude: Toward a Queer Intertextual Praxis***

Ella Wilhelm, University of Toronto

***notes towards a minor abstraction***

Francisco-Fernando Granados, OCAD University

***“Overidentifying Much?”: Erring towards Sexes and Genders***

Trish Salah, Queen’s University

**10-MINUTE BREAK**

**10:30AM TO 11:50AM**

**PANEL B: PERFORMATIVE THEOLOGIES** (Chair: John Paul Ricco, University of Toronto)

***Memoria Passionis: Toward a Queer Theology of Memory***

Robert Timmins, University of Toronto

***No Homo: Not* Not Gay *and the Question of Performance***

Bradshaw Stanley, Brown University

***Church meets “Sodomites”: Curated Stories of Political-Theological Violence in Western Christianity***

Charles J. Fensham, University of Toronto

**10-MINUTE BREAK**

**12:00PM TO 1:20PM**

***The Lonely Letters (Or, Blackness and Mysticism)***

A keynote by Ashon Crawley, UC Riverside,

with an introduction by Rinaldo Walcott, University of Toronto

**1:30PM TO 2:20PM**

**LUNCH**

**2:30PM TO 3:50PM**

**PANEL C: SENSUAL THEOLOGIES** (Chair: Dana Seitler, University of Toronto)

***Notes Towards an Erotic Monadology of Angels***

Alexa Winstanley-Smith, Yale University

***Recognition without Measure: on what only Love can see***

Carter West

***Poverty and Abundance: A Trinitarian Vision of Anthropology and Politics***

Philip Cleevely, St. Philip’s Seminary

**10-MINUTE BREAK**

**4:00PM TO 5:20PM**

**PANEL D: MELANCHOLIC THEOLOGIES** (Chair: James Cahill, University of Toronto)

***Stills and Stillness: watching* Danny *and* Jonas**

Christien Garcia, McMaster University

***Queer Theory’s Melancholic Rituals***

Kris Trujillo, UC Berkeley

***Symptomatic Breathing: What Breathing Indicates (or not), from Samuel Delany to Renee Gladman***

Jean-Thomas Tremblay, University of Chicago

**10-MINUTE BREAK**

**5:30PM TO 5:45PM**

**WRAP UP: RICKY VARGHESE, DAVID SEITZ, FAN WU**