

# FORCE OF MYTH: AUTHORITY, ILLUSION, AND CRITIQUE IN MODERN IMAGINARIES

A VIRTUAL CONFERENCE BY THE VAN LEER JERUSALEM INSTITUTE

Workshop organizers:  
**Jacob Abolafia** and **Carmen Dege**  
 Polonsky Fellows  
 at the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute  
**Tae-Yeoun Keum**  
 UC Santa Barbara

**June**  
**7-9.2021**

**Registration >**

## Day 1 | Monday, June 7

**3:00-4:15pm CET | 4:00-5:15pm Israel | 9:00-10:15am EST**

### Greetings:

**Shai Lavi** (Director of the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute)

### Keynote:

**Bernard E. Harcourt** (Columbia University/EHESS)

Myth, Critique, and Praxis

Discussant: **Matthew Longo** (Leiden College)

**4:30-5:50pm CET | 5:30-6:50pm Israel | 10:30-11:50am EST**

### Panel 1:

- **Carolyn Biltoft** (Graduate Institute, Geneva)  
Eros Goes to the Market: Lack, Desire and the Birth of Modern Economics
- **Devin Singh** (Dartmouth College)  
Sacrificial Debt: Notes on the Carceral Imaginary
- **Adam Kjellgren** (Stockholm University)  
Theories of Myth and Feminist Theory: Bridging the Breach Through Beauvoir

**6:00-7:20pm CET | 7:00-8:20pm Israel | 12:00-1:20pm EST**

### Panel 2:

- **Vasfiye Betul Toprak** (University of Virginia)  
Myths that Bind: Towards a Sociology of Political Myth
- **Fernando Wirtz** (University of Tübingen/Kyoto University)  
The Political Myth in Japan: Miki Kiyoshi and Kōsaka Masaaki
- **Jiang Yi-Huei** (UC Louvain)  
The Confucian Usage of 'Philosophical Myth' in the *Liji* and the *Xunzi*: Regulating Social Order through 'rites (li, 禮)'

**From 7:30pm CET | 8:30pm Israel | 1:30pm EST**

*Virtual reception for those who want to stay*

## Day 2 | Tuesday, June 8

**3:00-4:15pm CET | 4:00-5:15pm Israel | 9:00-10:15am EST**

### Keynote:

**Pini Ifergan** (Bar-Ilan University/the Van Leer Jerusalem Institute)

The Case for Modernity and Blumenberg's Myth Theory

Discussant: **Elizabeth Briant** (University of Georgia)

**4:30-5:50pm CET | 5:30-6:50pm Israel | 10:30-11:50am EST**

### Panel 1:

- **Isaac Ariail Reed** (University of Virginia)  
The Figure of the King: Ernst Kantorowicz as a Response to Max Weber
- **Martin Buijs** (UC Santa Barbara)  
Autonomy, Theonomy, and Ontonomy in Schelling's Philosophy of Mythology
- **Karolina Källgren** (Stockholm University)  
Myth as a Social Form, on the Function of Myth in Liberal Democracies

**6:00-7:20pm CET | 7:00-8:20pm Israel | 12:00-1:20pm EST**

### Panel 2:

- **Kevin Duong** (University of Virginia)  
Myth as Marxist Method: Sorel to Surrealism
- **Kyle Moore** (Kingston University London)  
Prejudice, Pedagogy, and Play: Kojève's Concept of Myth through a Reading of the Philosophy of Emperor Julian
- **Assaf Tamari** (Polonsky Fellow, the VLJI) and **Yael Fisch** (Oxford University/Tel Aviv University)  
The Problem of Myth for the Jews: On 'Myth' as an Analytical Category in the 'Wissenschaft des Judentums' and Beyond

**From 7:30pm CET | 8:30pm Israel | 1:30pm EST**

*Virtual reception for those who want to stay*

## Day 3 | Wednesday, June 9

**3:00-4:15pm CET | 4:00-5:15pm Israel | 9:00-10:15am EST**

### Keynote:

**Chiara Bottici** (New School)

Rethinking Political Myth, Unpacking the Founding Narratives of US White Supremacy

Discussant: **Roy Tsao** (Pratt Institute)

**4:30-5:50pm CET | 5:30-6:50pm Israel | 10:30-11:50am EST**

### Panel 1:

- **Nicole Hochner** (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem)  
Claude Lefort and the Notion of Myth
- **Jonny Thakkar** (Swarthmore College)  
Ideals as Myths: Plato, Rawls and the Social Imaginary
- **Barnabas Palfrey** (University of Cambridge)  
Metaphor and Myth: After a Disagreement between Paul Ricoeur and Jacques Derrida

**6:00-7:20pm CET | 7:00-8:20pm Israel | 12:00-1:20pm EST**

### Panel 2:

- **Ajume Wingo** (University of Colorado Boulder)  
In the Shade of Power: The Power of the Powerless
- **Charles Clavey** (Harvard University)  
Sacrifice or Fraud: The Myth of Exchange in Dialectic of Enlightenment
- **Carlotta Santini** (CNRS, Ecole Normale Supérieure Paris/University of Copenhagen)  
Three Generations of the Myth Debate: Thomas Mann, Karoly Kerényi and Furio Jesi

**From 7:30pm CET | 8:30pm Israel | 1:30pm EST**

*Virtual reception for those who want to stay*