Time and Redemption

Jewish, Christian, and Muslim Perspectives

A Symposium at Lund University, 25–26 May 2026

Centre for Theology and Religious Studies, Helgonavägen 3 (Room B251)

This symposium brings together scholars of theology, philosophy, history, and political theory to explore the intricate relationships between time and redemption in Jewish, Christian, and Muslim thought. Pondering the prophetic, apocalyptic, and messianic strands within each tradition, the symposium aims to examine how time is conceptualized not merely as chronological progression but as a sacred horizon charged with divine justice and transformative hope. Redemption will be considered in its broadest sense – encompassing theological dimensions such as salvation and eschatology, as well as political and social movements towards liberation, emancipation, and revolution. Participants will investigate how redemptive narratives shape historical consciousness, inspire political action, and animate visions of a just future across the three traditions and beyond. Critical attention may also be brought to how the same narratives are often used – or abused – to prevent liberation or hamper genuine redemption. In an era marked by crisis and longing for transformation, this dialogue invites renewed engagement with ancient paradigms of hope and their enduring relevance in a fractured world.

The symposium is jointly organized by the research program *At the End of The World: A Transdisciplinary Approach to the Apocalyptic Imaginary in the Past and Present* (2023–28) at Lund University (funded by Riksbankens Jubileumsfond) and the project *Experimenting with Tradition: The Life and Afterlife of 20th-Century Jewish Intellectual Culture in the Baltic Sea Region* (2024–28) at Södertörn University (funded by Östersjöstiftelsen).

AT THE END OF THE WORLD | A Transdisciplinary Approach to the Apocalyptic Imaginary in the Past and Present

LUNDS UNIVERSITET

SÖDERTÖRN UNIVERSITY | STOCKHOLM

Programme

Mon 25 May

13.30–14.30	*Lunch & Welcome*
14.45–15.00	Jayne Svenungsson & Ulrika Björk: *Symposium Opening*
15.00–15.30	Agata Bielik Robson (Warsaw): *Introduction: On Time and Redemption*
15.30–17.00	Anoush Ganjipour (Paris): *The Master of Time: On the Messianic Sovereignty in Islam*
17.00–17.30	*Coffee & Tea*
17.30–19.00	Sarah Hammerschlag (Chicago): *Resisting Redemption: Susan Taubes and the Imagination of No Future*
19.00	*Reception*

Tue 26 May

9.30–11.00	Demaine Solomons (Stellenbosch): *The Time of the Oppressed: Apocalyptic Hope and Black Redemption in South African Theology*
11.00–11.30	*Coffee & Tea*
11.30–13.00	Zahiye Kundos (Berlin/Leipzig): *On The Subtle Spatiotemporal Structure in Kanafani's 'Returning to Haifa'*
13.00–14.30	*Lunch*
14.30–16.00	Benjamin Pollock (Jerusalem): *'No Human Being shall be called King of the Children of Israel': Martin Buber on Theocracy, Present and Future*
16.00–16.30	*Coffee & Tea*
16.30–18.00	Christine Svinth-Værge Põder (Copenhagen): *Post-apocalyptic Negotiations: Utopia, Ideology and Eschatology in Debates about the Religious-Social Movement after the First World War*
19.30	*Symposium Dinner:* Mat & Destillat (www.matochdestillat.se)

Speakers

Anoush Ganjipour is a permanent researcher on philosophy at the Centre National de Recherche Scientifique (Centre Jean Pépin-École Normale Supérieure, Paris). He is a specialist in Islamic thought and comparative philosophy. His last monography focuses on Islamic political theology: *L'ambivalence politique de l'islam: pasteur ou Léviathan ?* (2021) He has recently edited the following books: *Politique de l'exil. Giorgio Agamben et l'usage de la métaphysique* (2019) *Monothéismes et politique: modernité, sécularisation, émancipation* (2022).

Sarah Hammerschlag is the John Nuveen Professor at the University of Chicago Divinity School. She is the author of *The Figural Jew: Politics and Identity in Postwar French Thought* (2010), *Broken Tablets: Levinas, Derrida and the Literary Afterlife of Religion* (2016), and co-author of *Devotion: Three Inquiries in Religion, Literature, and Political Imagination* (2022). She is the editor of *Modern French Jewish Thought: Writings on Religion and Politics* (2018) and *Critical Terms for Religious Studies*, *Second Edition* (2025). In 2025, she was named co-editor of the Brandeis Library of Modern Jewish Thought.

Zahiye Kundos is a scholar of modern Arabic and Middle Eastern Studies. She specializes in the Nahḍa, modern Arabic intellectual, cultural, religious, and literary history. She is also an essayist and public intellectual engaged with contemporary debates on matters of interest to Palestinian and Muslim cultures and societies. Her forthcoming book with Mohr Siebeck publishing house, *Experiencing Islam in Modernity: From 'Abduh to Mahfouz*, examines how iconic Arabic figures have narrated their experiences of being Muslim through journalistic essays, autobiography, and the novel. Zahiye is currently a research associate at the Simon Dubnow Institute in Leipzig, where she is working on her new project on motherhood.

Benjamin Pollock is the Sol Rosenbloom Professor of Jewish Philosophy and the Director of the Franz Rosenzweig Minerva Research Center, at the Hebrew University. He works especially in German-Jewish philosophy, with interests in post-Kantian metaphysics and skepticism, Bible translation and interpretation, political philosophy and theology, and the forms of philosophical writing. He is author of *Franz Rosenzweig and the Systematic Task of Philosophy* (2009) and *World Denial and World Redemption: Franz Rosenzweig's Conversions* (2014), and is currently working on a project on the theology and poetics of the Buber-Rosenzweig Bible translation.

Demaine Solomons is a scholar of Systematic Theology and Ethics and the Adjunct Director of the Beyers Naudé Centre for Public Theology at Stellenbosch University. A Mandela Rhodes Scholar, his work explores how Black liberation theologies, Black consciousness, and existential philosophies offer resources for thinking about justice in contemporary South Africa. His research explores how reconciliation continues to operate as a powerful yet contested moral symbol in post-apartheid public life. He writes at the intersection of theology, social ethics and political critique, attentive to the lived realities of communities shaped by inequality and historical trauma. His scholarship seeks to recover the transformative edge of liberationist thought while opening new pathways for public theology in South Africa and beyond.

Christine Svinth-Værge Põder is Associate Professor for Systematic Theology at the Faculty of Theology, University of Copenhagen since 2013. She is the author of *Doxologische Entzogenheit: Die fundamentaltheologische Bedeutung des Gebets bei Karl Barth* (2009). Since then, she has specialised in German Protestant theology of the early twentieth century, in particular the Luther Renaissance and dialectical theology, and in Reformation theology. Currently, her research focuses on political theology and Luther reception in the Weimar era in light of the cultural and intellectual impact of the First World War.