

THEME:

During the last two decades we have been witnessing what José Casanova has characterised as “religion going public”. This has not been a trend exclusive to India or to the Muslim world. Rather, it has been visible in as diverse environments as that of the construction of the new Russian political identity or in the “post-9/11” political discourses of the United States, where public religion has traditionally vied for a place in political culture. Surprisingly, important religious manifestations also vectored the political discourse in Britain (from Thatcher through Kinnock to Blair) and, recently, even in France (Sarkozy). Partly in consequence of these phenomena an intensive debate is evolving, on the one hand, about the compatibility of the neutrality of liberal democracy in relation to religiously motivated opinions in public discourses, and, on the other hand, the conditions under which such religiously driven contributions could “go public”.

The purpose of the conference is to discuss the most important questions that characterize these debates on religion and democracy, and to consider both the challenges and the prospects of this new era which, following Habermas, one may call post-secular.

Contact

Péter Losonczi: lospeter@yahoo.com

Aakash Singh: aakashsinghrathore@yahoo.com

DATES:

15-16 December 2008

VENUE:

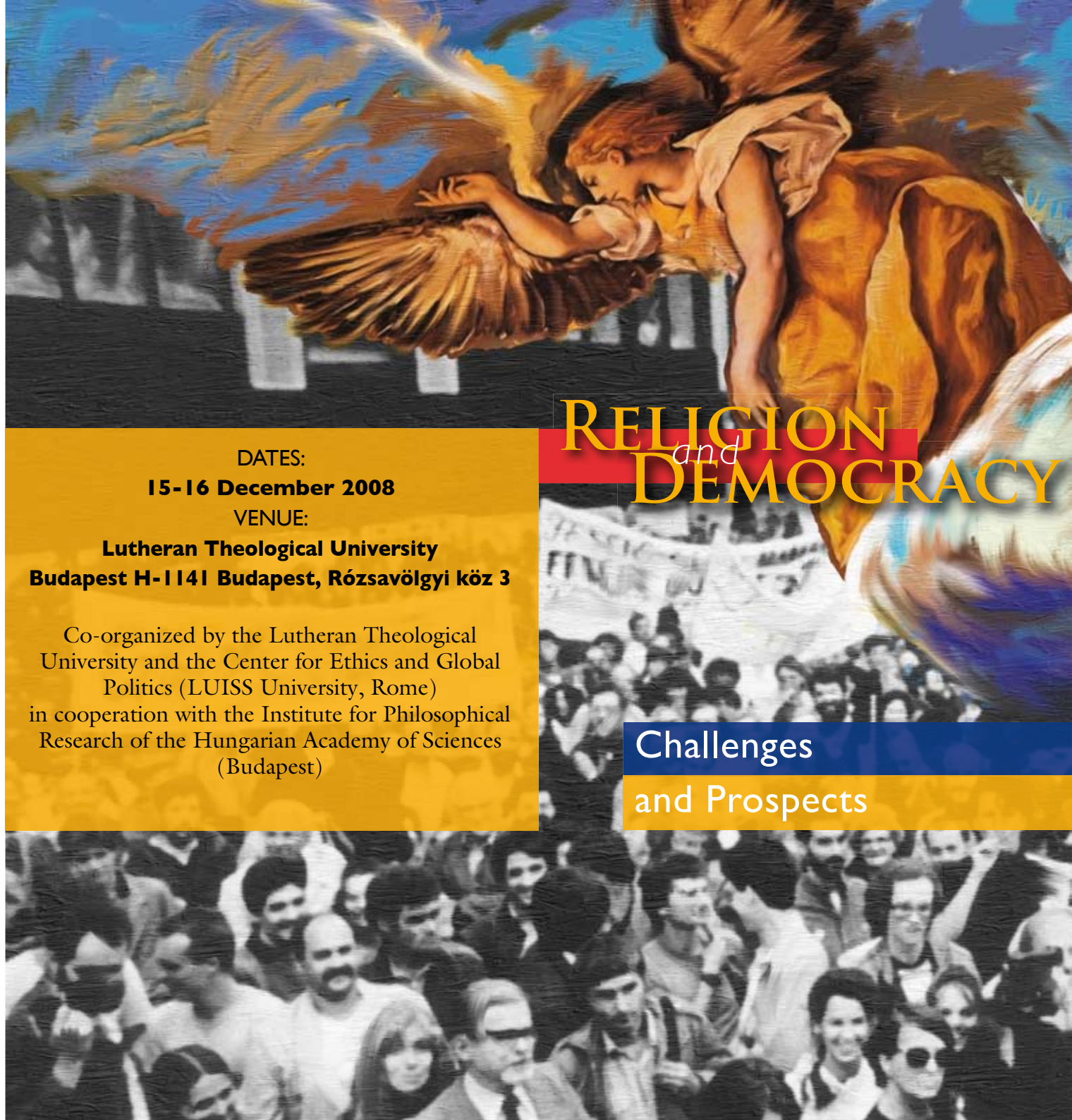
**Lutheran Theological University
Budapest H-1141 Budapest, Rózsavölgyi köz 3**

Co-organized by the Lutheran Theological University and the Center for Ethics and Global Politics (LUISS University, Rome) in cooperation with the Institute for Philosophical Research of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Budapest)

RELIGION *and* DEMOCRACY

Challenges

and Prospects



10:00-10:15 **Welcome addresses**

Zoltán Csepregi
(Dean of the Lutheran Theological University)
Péter Losonczi
(West Hungarian University, Szombathely & Institute
for Philosophical Research-HAS, Budapest)

Political Theory and Philosophy

Session 1 / Political Philosophy

(Chair: Maeve Cooke)

10:15-10:45: **Theo de Wit**

(Tilburg University)

*Politics without dénouement, religion without
guarantee*

10:45-11:15: **Gábor Gángó**

(Institute for Philosophical Research-HAS, Budapest)

*Hannah Arendt and the problem of public
religion*

11:15-11:45: **Patrick Loobuyck**

(University of Antwerp)

*How far can we go beyond secularization? Notes
on Habermas's view on the post-secular society*

Discussion

LUNCH/Reception

Session 2 / Political Theory I

(Chair: János Kis)

13:00-13:30: **Sebastiano Maffettone**

(LUISS University, Rome)

Public Reason and Post-Secular Reason

13:30-14:00: **András Láncki**

(Corvinus University, Budapest)

Democracy and moral relativism

SHORT BREAK

M o n d a y , 1 5 D e c e m b e r 0 8

Session 2 / Political Theory 2

14:10-14:40: **Maeve Cooke**

(University College Dublin)

*Do religious arguments threaten democratic
legitimacy? A critical discussion of Habermas'
views on religion and democratic deliberation*

14:40-15:10: **Eszter Kollár**

(LUISS, Rome)

*Accommodating pluralism through public
justification: moral vs. pragmatic considerations*

Discussion

COFFEE BREAK

Session 3 / Philosophy of Religion

(Chair: Gábor Gángó)

15:45-16:15: **Walter Van Herck**

(University of Antwerp)

Community and symbols

16:15-16:45: **Balázs M. Mezei**

(Péter Pázmány Catholic University, Piliscsaba)

*Religion after Auschwitz: Jonas, Metz, and the
place of religion in liberal democracy*

16:45-17:15: **Peter Jonkers**

(Tilburg University)

*Can freedom of religion replace the virtue of
tolerance?*

Discussion

Religion, Theology, Democratic politics

Session 4 / Religion, Politics and Theology

(Chair: Aakash Singh)

9:30-10:00: **Daniela Kalkandjieva**

(University of Sofia)

Eastern Orthodox Christianity and democracy

M o n d a y , 1 5 D e c e m b e r 0 8

10:00-10:30: **András Csepregi**

(Lutheran Theological University, Budapest)

*Genuine democracy or elitist democracy?
Christianity and democracy in the thought of
István Bibó and Dietrich Bonhoeffer, with
respect to the process towards mature
democracy in Hungary.*

Discussion

COFFEE BREAK

**Session 5 / Political Theology and the
Problem of Democracy**

(Chair: Walter Van Herck)

11:00-11:30: **Aakash Singh**

(LUISS University, Rome)

The varieties of political theology

11:30-12:00: **Péter Losonczi**

(West Hungarian University, Szombathely &
Institute for Philosophical Research-HAS, Budapest)

*Politics, idolatry and "the sacred": democratic and
prophetic politics*

Discussion

COFFEE BREAK

12:30-13:30: **Panel discussion / Closing remarks**

Moderator:

Daniele Santoro (Luiss University, Rome)

Panel:

Ágnes Heller (New School of Social Research,
New York)

Sebastiano Maffettone (Luiss University,
Rome)

Maeve Cooke (University College Dublin)

András Láncki (Corvinus University,
Budapest)

Walter Van Herck (University of Antwerp)

Closing remarks: Daniele Santoro

(Luiss University, Rome)

T u e s d a y , 1 6 D e c e m b e r 0 8