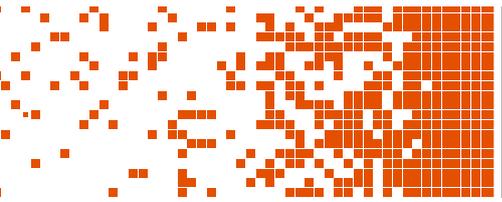


18–20 September 2019, University College Stockholm



# The end of the West as we know it?

## Church, populism, and Human rights

The former Swedish prime minister Carl Bildt claimed that the election of Donald Trump meant the end of the west as we know it. Together with Brexit and the global surge of right wing populism, this has changed the conversations in politics, philosophy, and theology. 20th century perspectives such as Habermas' faith in the rational public discourse or Fukuyama's "end of history" no longer seem viable. Migration, digitalization, extremism, climate change, and perhaps also secularization are putting a growing pressure on liberal institutions, including Human rights. Is this a result what Alasdair Macintyre has called the inevitable failure of the enlightenment project, or are there ways to renew and restore this project?

The University College Stockholm invites papers that engage these important topics. The conference will include keynotes and paper sessions under the following sub-headings:

- Public discourse beyond Gutenberg: digitalization, polarization, and the culture wars
- Making democracy work: civil society and the challenges of pluralism and atomization
- The churches, populism, and extremism: historical and contemporary perspectives
- "The vulnerable west": protectionism, the fear of islam, and vulnerability
- Human rights in a post-Christian world: the religious and philosophical foundations of Human rights

Keynote speakers include Patrick J. Deneen and Catherine Keller.

**Patrick J. Deneen** is Professor of Political Science and holds the David A. Potenziani Memorial Chair in Constitutional Studies at the University of Notre Dame. His latest book *Why Liberalism Failed?* has been described as one of the most important political books of 2018. It has inspired many conversations, and been commented on by among others David Brooks in the New York Times, and former president Barack Obama.

**Catherine Keller** is George T. Cobb Professor of Constructive Theology in the Theological School and Graduate Division of Religion of Drew University. She has published many influential books such as *The Face of the Deep* and *Cloud of the Impossible*, the former deemed "a brilliant and landmark text". Keller's work is widely discussed and her latest book *Political Theology of the Earth* has been received with much interest.

 Uniting Church in Sweden



University College  
Stockholm

Enskilda Högskolan Stockholm / University College Stockholm  
Åkeshovsvägen 29 · SE-168 39 Bromma, Sweden  
Tel: +46-(0)8-564 357 00 · info@ehs.se · [www.ehs.se](http://www.ehs.se)

## Registration

For general practical questions, please contact: Joel Halldorf [joel.halldorf@ehs.se](mailto:joel.halldorf@ehs.se) or Joseph Sverker [joseph.sverker@ehs.se](mailto:joseph.sverker@ehs.se).

For registration, please contact: [info@ehs.se](mailto:info@ehs.se) Write your first and last name, organization/company, city, country and your e-mail address. Also, information about any dietary requests, and if you want to join the conference dinner (further information about the dinner will follow).

## Venue

University College Stockholm, Åkeshovsvägen 29, Bromma (15-20 minutes with subway from Stockholm Central Station) <https://goo.gl/maps/dNgoTgUEVs72>

## Call for paper

It is an interdisciplinary conference and we invite papers from a wide variety of disciplines that in various ways have a clear relevance for the conference theme as described above. Abstracts of no more than 300 words should be sent by April 1, 2019 to:

[joel.halldorf@ehs.se](mailto:joel.halldorf@ehs.se) and [joseph.sverker@ehs.se](mailto:joseph.sverker@ehs.se)

Abstracts are to be headed with the applicant's name, professional affiliation and the title of proposed paper.

***The conference is arranged by Uniting Church in Sweden (Equmeniakyrkan) and University College Stockholm (Enskilda Högskolan Stockholm)***



**University College  
Stockholm**

Enskilda Högskolan Stockholm / University College Stockholm  
Åkeshovsvägen 29 · SE-168 39 Bromma, Sweden  
Tel: +46-(0)8-564 357 00 · [info@ehs.se](mailto:info@ehs.se) · [www.ehs.se](http://www.ehs.se)