“Political theology” has become one of the most widely used concepts within theology, law, political science and philosophy. Despite its overwhelming success, however, it remains highly contested. One could rightly ask whether “political theology” is best understood as a systematic discipline in its own right or as an interpretative category of political events and doctrines that only became pertinent at a certain point in history. In this seminar, we shall pursue the latter option. In fact, “political theology” seems to correspond to a way of envisaging the processes of history in terms of the intricate exchange between the political and the theological domain. To this view, theology continues to exert a profound influence on our political practices though more often than not without our knowledge.

In this seminar we shall attempt to critically engage with such a conception of “political theology”. This engagement is premised on a two-fold objective: 1) to study paradigmatic figures within a history often construed along the lines of “political theology”; 2) to clarify the possible methodological problems involved in such a historical construction. Participants are thus invited to reflect upon the basic presuppositions of something like a “political theology”, its conditions of possibility and its historical rootedness. Interdisciplinary approaches are encouraged.

The seminar is organized as a Ph.D.-course and doctoral students from all faculties are welcome.

Room: TBA.
Program

9.00-9.15: Welcome and introduction
9.15-10.00: Lecture: Associate Professor, Florian Wöller, Faculty of Theology (UCPH): “Two Cities in History? Constructing Augustine’s Political Theology with De ciuitate Dei”.

10.00-10.15: Coffee break
10.15-11.45: Ph.d. Paper Session
   10.45-11.15: Søren Frank Jensen, University of Copenhagen: King David in Post-Reformation Biblical Interpretation
   11.15-11.45: Vivien Giet, Université de Namur: Messianism and Ecology: A Benjnimian Perspective

11.45-12.45: Lunch Break
12.45-13.30: Lecture: Professor, Agata Bielek-Robson, University of Nottingham: “The Apocalyptic within Political Theology Today (Jacques Derrida)”.

13.30-13.45: Coffee break
13.45-14.30: Lecture: Associate Professor, Amnon Lev, Faculty of Law (UCPH): “Of God and Monarchs: Friedrich Julius Stahl and the Problem of Political Theology”.

14.30-14.45: Coffee break
14.45-15.45: Ph.d. Paper Session
   14.45-15.15: Jonathan Harmat, Copenhagen Business School: Prophetic Politics: The Role of Affect in Political Theology
   15.15-15.45: Esben Korsgaard Rasmussen, University of Copenhagen: Idolatry, Power and Sacred History in Hobbes’s Leviathan

15.45-16.30: Discussion and concluding remarks
18.00: Dinner for participants