

Never again July 22?

Saturday September 19th at The 22 July Centre in the government quarter in Oslo

Roundtable discussion brief

Time: 11.00 – 12.30

Chairs: Nina Hoel & Paul-François Tremlett

Participants: Peter Skov-Jakobsen (Bishop of Copenhagen), Atle Sommerfeldt (Bishop of Borg), Elisabeth Thorsen (Senior Minister in Oslo Cathedral), Aud Valborg Tønnesen (Dean, Faculty of Theology, UiO), Bård Vegard Solhjell (Member of Parliament, SV).

The roundtable will open with an introduction of each participant – please provide a brief biography so that the chairs can prepare a proper introduction (please send your bio to nina.hoel@teologi.uio.no before Friday 18th).

Theme: Interrogating Evil: Responsive and critical engagements with Church, ideologies and personhood after July 22

In the context of Norway, the tragic events of July 22 opened up a portal to critically reflect on the nature of evil. Breivik's manifesto draws on a complex nexus of ideological positions, from Christocentric superiority to Odinistic ancestry/purity and Islamophobia to create his vision of a 'good' society. The roundtable seeks to explore the relationship between Christian ideologies and evil, as informed by the context of July 22, and, as a consequence, the demand for responsive and critical engagements in society as a whole. In particular, we would like the roundtable participants to provide some thoughts/critical reflections on (some of) the following questions:

- What can we learn from July 22 as it pertains to the nature of evil? And, does this bring to bear on the Church's self-understanding or the Christian ideologies embedded/embody within the Church?
- What can be inferred about Breivik's perspectives vis-à-vis the hierarchies underlying contemporary Christian practices (e.g. liturgies, symbols, rituals)?
- What can we learn about human personhood and propensity for evil in the context of July 22? And, relatedly, with respect to societal dynamics (wherein Christian ideologies form a backdrop), how are notions of personhood configured in ways that is responsive to what it means to be fully human after July 22?
- What are the various ways in which 'we' can act with a critical and responsive voice in interrogating evil after July 22?

We would like each participant to prepare a **5 min** contribution. After participants have shared their contributions the chairs will facilitate a discussion based on the themes/issues raised, then we will open up for questions from the audience.

Best wishes,

Nina and Paul