

The category of Caesarism describes, roughly speaking, an autocratic system of government in which the figure of the leader towers. It first appeared in nineteenth-century France, and had a great success among intellectuals from diverse backgrounds and was employed to analyse a variety of historico-political situations. Even if its formal coinage is recent, we could argue that Caesarism is part of an uninterrupted reflection on political leadership and popular sovereignty that unfolds from antiquity to the present. Conceptually speaking, it belongs to the semantic constellation of 'tyranny', 'despotism', and 'dictatorship', but also its connection with 'populism' must not be underestimated. This international conference aims to reconstruct this 'long' history of the concept of Caesarism by including contributions of scholars stemming from different fields of research and working on different epochs – from Classical Studies to History of Political Thought, from Modern European History to Political Theory. The conference will also offer the occasion to discuss some of the most recent scholarly research on the topic, by contributing to the revival of the studies on Caesarism.



International Conference at the Moritz-Stern-Institut, Georg-August-Universität Göttingen, 28th-29th June 2022.

Conference venue: Historische Sternwarte (Green Room) - Geismar Landstraße 11, 37083 Göttingen.

It is possible to attend the conference online.

For information and to register, please contact the organiser:

Dr Francesca Antonini
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The conference is generously funded by the Fritz Thyssen Stiftung.



Conceptualising Political Leadership

Towards an Intellectual History of Caesarism



Universität Göttingen
Moritz-Stern-Institut
28th-29th June 2022

Programme

28th June 2022

10:00-10:30

M. van Gelderen and F. Antonini (Moritz-Stern-Institut, Germany)

Institutional greetings and opening remarks

Morning session – chair: G. Souvlis

10:30-11:15

F. Santangelo (Newcastle University, UK)

Caesarism in Ancient Rome?

11:15-12:00

C. Nederman (Texas A&M University, US)

Papal Caesarism in Late Medieval Political Thought

12:00-12:45

C. Cuttica (Université Paris 8, France)

The ‘Caesarism’ of Early Modern Democracy

12:45-14:30 *Lunch*

Afternoon session – chair: F. Antonini

14:30-15:15

A. Storrington (King’s College London, UK)

Prussian Pharsalus: The Place of Julius Caesar in the Military Ideas of Frederick the Great of Prussia

15:15-16:00

M. Broers (University of Oxford, UK)

Napoleon, the last Emperor of the West or the First Modern Dictator? The Evolution of Napoleonic Authoritarianism

16:00-16:30 *Break*

16:30-17:15

I. McDaniel (University of Sussex, UK)

Caesarism and International Order in the Nineteenth Century

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29th June 2022

Morning session – chair: A. Storrington

9:30-10:15

J.-W. Müller (Princeton University, US)

The Caesarist City

10:15-11:00

M. Prutsch (EU Parliament)

Discourses on a ‘New Caesar’ in the Late Nineteenth Century

11:00-11:30 *Break*

11:30-12:15

A. Jordan (Moritz-Stern-Institut, Germany)

Caesarism in Nineteenth-Century British Thought

12:15-13:00

F. Antonini (Moritz-Stern-Institut, Germany)

The Parabola of Leadership: Robert Michels on Caesarism

13:00-14:30 *Lunch*

Afternoon session – chair: C. Cuttica

14:30-15:15

L. Cerasi (University Ca’ Foscari – Venice, Italy)

Caesarism and its Reverse: Corporatism and ‘Organic’ Representation in Fascist Political Thought

15:15-16:00

G. Souvlis (University of Ioannina, Greece)

Caesarism and Populism: An Antinomic Relationship

16:00-16:30

Final discussion

16:30-16:45

F. Antonini (Moritz-Stern-Institut, Germany)

Conclusions

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Accommodation: Eden Hotel, Reinhäuser Landstraße 22A, Göttingen.

Dinner: Restaurant La Locanda DUE, Reinhäuser Landstraße 22, Göttingen.

