



University
of Victoria



Protestant Ghosts of Neoliberalism

Daromir Rudnyckyj

Thursday, September 15

5:00-6:00 p.m. PT

David Turpin Building A110

Join via Zoom at uvic.ca/csrs/events

Neoliberalism, the notion that market mechanisms can be applied to all dimensions of human life, is often thought to be an objective way of ordering the world. In this sense, it is sometimes imagined as free of historical or cultural influences and simply a rational way to organize social life. However, is this really the case? This paper argues that, in fact, neoliberalism is the historical heir of a set of dispositions that are particular to Protestant religious traditions. The paper traces five Protestant “spectres”, or ghosts, that animate neoliberalism to illustrate the ways in which neoliberalism is an historical outcome of a particular set of religious practices.

Daromir Rudnyckyj is Professor of Anthropology at UVic and President of the Society for the Anthropology of Religion. His research addresses globalization, capitalism, religion, finance, development, and Islam.

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