



University  
of Victoria



# Messianic Imperialism: The Nature of a Paradox

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Thursday, January 13

5:00-6:00 p.m.

\*This lecture is online only\*

Zoom: <https://uvic.zoom.us/j/96971529046>

Far from exhibiting a secularist absence of quests for divine salvation, modernity has been replete with messianic pursuits. Some of these missions envision the creation of worldly utopias, such as perfectible political-economic systems or deliverance through technologies; some seek transcendent deliverance beyond history's apocalyptic end. Drawing together various such visions, modern imperialism has sometimes acted, paradoxically, as a vehicle that must construct a ceaseless adversary from which to offer salvation. Empire's ongoing self-justification requires that salvation be perpetually deferred, with empire's dominance a false conceit.

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