
Crisis, Conscience, Community: The 500th Anniversary of the Reformation

The John Albert Hall Lecture Series

When: Thursday, October 12 2017, 5:00 to 6:20 pm
Where: A120 David Turpin Building, University of Victoria

Dr. Carlos Eire, Yale University

Over one hundred years ago, Max Weber argued that Protestantism “disenchanted” the world and eliminated “magic” from it. Today, as we celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation and ask what effects it may still have on us, this assertion needs to be reappraised.

Did Protestants really vanquish “magic,” and, if so, what was that “magic”, exactly, or the “disenchantment” that accompanied its demise? Exploring the various ways in which Protestantism redefined the sacred might yield useful answers to such questions and allow us to appreciate more fully what the Protestant Reformation bequeathed to the world.

Carlos Eire was born in Havana and fled to the United States without his parents at the age of eleven. He is now the T. L. Riggs Professor of History and Religious Studies at Yale University. His most recent book, Reformations: The Early Modern World (2016) won the Hawkins Award from the Association of American Publishers. He is best known outside scholarly circles for his memoir Waiting for Snow in Havana (2003), which won a National Book Award for Nonfiction. All of his books are banned in Cuba, where he has been proclaimed an enemy of the state.