

Call for papers  
**Cosmologies of the End**

7<sup>th</sup> European Workshops in International Studies, Brussels, 1-4 July 2020

**Organisers:**

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*“The time that remains is very short...Those who use the things of the world should not become attached to them. For this world as we know it will soon pass away.”* 1

Corinthians 7:29-31

Inhabiting the planet in the twenty-first century means facing fears of disintegration and collapse. From climate change to the rise of far-right movements, from the intensification of global inequalities to the multiplication of crises under a global capitalist system, we are told, time and again, that the end of the game is near, that we are approaching an apocalyptic point of no return (Beckett, 1958). If one were to accept and critically engage with these anxieties, then the challenge of envisioning alternative ways of inhabiting the end requires the exploration of an art of living together in the time that remains. Such effort also entails the need to imagine the future in its alterity for new ways of living ethically and politically together to emerge. *How can we conceive of such an art? And how could this art enable us to (re)activate ethical subjectivities and political praxis in order to carve up new beginnings?* (Agamben, 2005).

This workshop aims to explore the conditions of possibility as well as the consequences of inhabiting damaged worlds and the building of cosmologies of the end. Dwelling in these worlds is often presented as an experience of estrangement, rife with insecurity and disconnection. Yet, anxieties of dissolution are productive; they beget new modes of reasoning that seek to bind and integrate. Cosmologies, conceived as particular historical ontologies, are spatio-temporal orders that revolve around a specific process and/or principle of inception. They are actively constructed in and through our political practices and produce particular styles of life (Davidson, 2005; Stengers, 2010). Exploring these cosmologies, this workshop is conceived as a space to critically reflect on the opportunities encapsulated by catastrophic visions of the end of time(s) and how they could help us reconfigure modes of being together in estrangement. This workshop seeks to problematise what it means to embrace the ruins as a universal condition (Tsing, 2015), in order to envision novel spatio-temporal as well as ethical and political configurations that take up the challenges of decay and transformation. We welcome papers that engage with different modes of living and experiencing cosmologies of the end, and the ways in which these can help create the conditions of possibility for a (re)politicisation of the time that remains.

We encourage submissions on the following themes:

- Ethics
- Materialism (broadly understood)
- Messianic and eschatological conceptions of politics
- Cosmologies
- Critical contributions to environmental studies
- Political theology
- Literature and/or pop culture imagining alternative worlds, e.g. sci-fi
- Aesthetics of the end
- Contemporary art practices addressing the end
- Prophets of the end of time(s)
- Violence of the end time(s)