

## THE POLITICS OF BEGINNINGS

### HANNAH ARENDT TODAY

At a moment when many suggest that the end of an era has been reached, and when struggles against climate change, exploitation, neocolonialism, patriarchy, and racism proliferate, what role can Arendt's account of political beginnings play in the conceptualization of a new time? Arendt has been celebrated as a key theorist of politics, freedom, and judgement. Yet she has also been questioned when it comes to her understanding of the social question, the public-private divide, or the persistence of structures of systemic injustice. Is her work then still timely for understanding how to begin anew? This conference will test the wide influence and perseverance, the attraction but also the criticism, of Arendt's thought by recentering her approach to political beginnings. Arendt's attempts to understand political beginnings animate her work. From her doctoral dissertation on Augustine to her posthumous book, *The Life of the Mind*, beginnings are omnipresent in her oeuvre. Conceiving Arendt's attempts as an open legacy, digging up the plurality and worldliness, the tragic and agonistic character of beginnings, the conference aims to investigate how and why political beginnings are set off 'not by the strength of one architect but by the combined power of the many'.

With

Fina Birulés  
Adriana Cavarero  
Anne Eusterschulte  
Simona Forti  
Rodolphe Gasché  
Eva Geulen  
Bonnie Honig  
Rahel Jaeggi  
Thomas Khurana  
Thomas Meyer  
Samuel Moyn  
Diego Rossello

An ICI event in cooperation  
with the Center for Post-Kantian Philosophy (University of Potsdam)

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# The Politics of Beginnings

**Hannah** Conference  
Organized by Facundo Vega  
15 – 16 February 2023  
In English  
**Arendt Today**

**WEDNESDAY**  
**15 February 2023**

**14:00 Welcome and Introduction by Facundo Vega**

**Panel 1: 14:00**

**Samuel Moyn**  
**Hannah Arendt among the Cold War Liberals**

**Rahel Jaeggi**  
**Arendt on Revolution**

**Eva Geulen**  
**Revolution between Beginning and Founding**

**15:30 Coffee break**

**Panel 2: 16:00**

**Fina Birulés**  
**The World at Stake.**  
**Hannah Arendt**

**Thomas Meyer**  
**A New Beginning?**  
**Experiences with Hannah Arendt**

**Anne Eusterschulte**  
**The Politics of 'Willing':**  
**Hannah Arendt's Critique of Fatalism**

**THURSDAY**  
**16 February 2023**

**Panel 3: 16:00**

**Thomas Khurana**  
**The First Right.**  
**Arendt on the Naturalization and Politicization of Subjective Rights**

**Diego Rossello**  
**From Animal Labor to Animal Citizenship in Arendt and**  
**Critical Animal Studies**

**Simona Forti**  
**Hannah Arendt and the Principle of Anarchy**

**17:30 Coffee break**

**Panel 4: 18:30**

**Bonnie Honig**  
**'Constant Mutual Release?'**  
**Toward an Arendtian Politics of Forgiveness**

**Rodolphe Gasché**  
**The Vulgate of Philosophy, and its Prospects**

**Adriana Cavarero**  
**Hannah Arendt:**  
**Interacting Pluralities and Political Emotions**