

The Future of Ideology

The illegible age. Why we don't understand the present

Since the fall of communism politics in the Western world have become increasingly technical, pragmatic and divorced from the context of the classic ideas that came out of the French revolution. In this lecture Mark Lilla argues that we the need to rethink our basic political concepts and rediscover some old ones if we are to make sense of the present.

Commentators:

Göran Rosenberg, Swedish author and journalist. His most recent book is *A Short Stop on the Road from Auschwitz* (forthcoming Granta).

Slavenka Drakulic, Croatian novelist and non-fiction writer. Her latest book is *A Guided Tour Through the Museum of Communism: Fables from a Mouse, a Parrot, a Bear, a Cat, a Mole, a Pig, a Dog, & a Raven* (Penguin).

Moderator Henrik Berggren.



MARK LILLA

Professor of Humanities, specializes in intellectual history, with a particular focus on Western political and religious thought.

Before moving to Columbia in 2007 he taught in the Committee on Social Thought at the University of Chicago and at New York University.

A regular contributor to the New York Review of Books, he is the author of *The Stillborn God: Religion, Politics, and the Modern West* (2007), *The Reckless Mind: Intellectuals in Politics* (2001), and *G.B. Vico: The Making of an Anti-Modern* (1993). He has also edited *The Legacy of Isaiah Berlin* (2001) with Ronald Dworkin and Robert Silvers, and *The Public Face of Architecture* (1987) with Nathan Glazer. He is currently writing a book titled *Ignorance and Bliss*, and another on the history of the idea of conversion.

Photos: GR, Caroline Andersson; SD, Leonhardt & Høier Literary Agency; ML, Columbia University.

- Date:** Thursday the 12th of December, 13.00–15.30 PM including a short mingle
- Place:** Spårvagnshallarna, Birger Jarlsgatan 57A, Stockholm
- Registration:** The seminar is free of charge, but we reserve the right to charge no-shows 300 SEK. Register at www.iffs.se/seminarium/anmfokus12dec
- Contact:** For further information or cancellation at least 24 hours in advance; framtidsfokus@iffs.se
- Organizer:** The Institute for Futures Studies