



The Political Theory Workshop 11/17/20 11a.m.-1p.m. via Zoom

Political Responsibility in the Thought of Karl Jaspers and Hannah Arendt: Fundaments for a Shared World

In the 20th century, the rise of fascism inside geographical European polities prompted two thinkers indigenous to the Global North to question the fundaments upon which any form of collective autonomy and flourishing could be based. It was by returning to foundational questions of political theory, including the social nature power, that Karl Jaspers and Hannah Arendt arrived at the problem of political responsibility. Their reflections on this theme coursed through such political phenomenological issues as the intersubjective, or public, constitution of truth which, in turn, facilitated more radical forms of anthropological questioning related to the role of politics in human existence. The argument, in the end, was not only that political responsibility is distinct in critical ways from moral, legal, and metaphysical forms of responsibility, but also that political responsibility constitutes the very meaning of the set of normative and institutional arrangements called freedom.

**Gregory Doukas, PhD Candidate, Political Science in conversation
with Darian Spearman, PhD Candidate, Philosophy**

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