



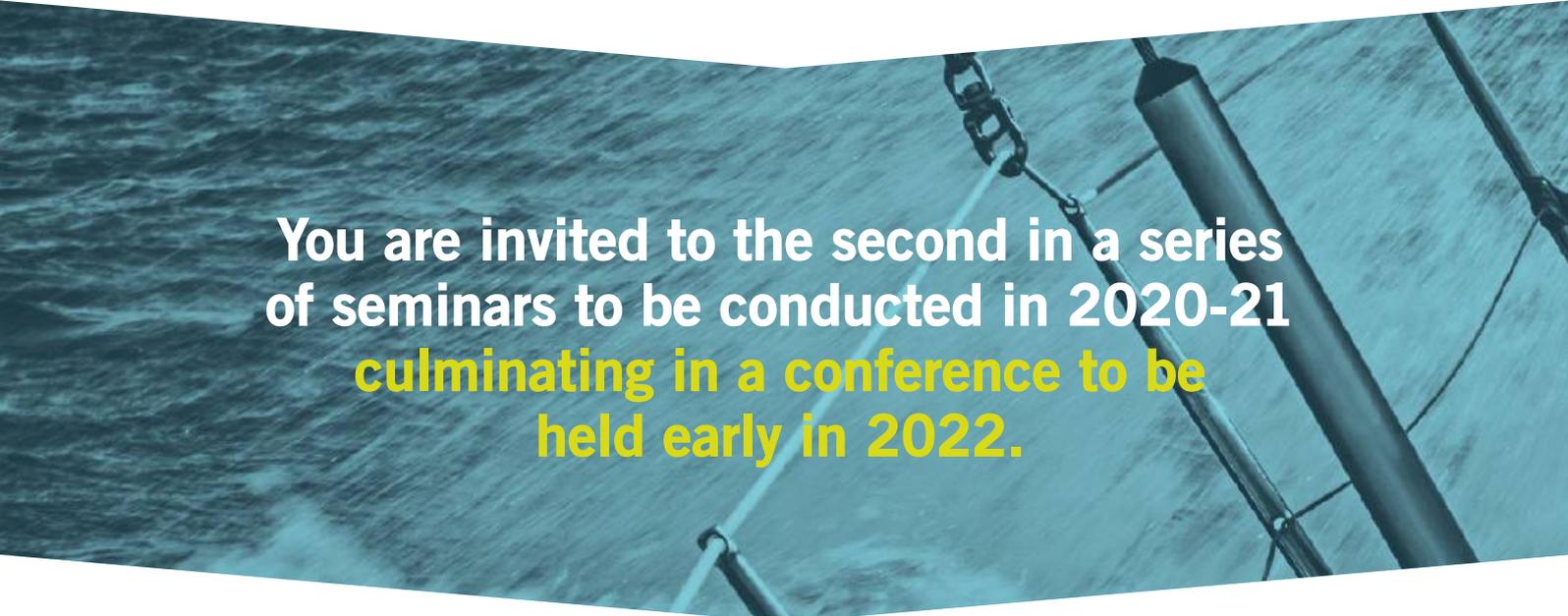
# **Bye-Bye Apocalypse:** political theology for after the ends of worlds.

Seminar series

Theologising in the shadow of a pandemic  
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**Bye-Bye Apocalypse: political theology  
for after the ends of worlds.**

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**Abstract**

In 1960, Ernst Käsemann boldly described apocalyptic as the ‘mother of all Christian theology’. It is a delineation that reflected both a significant shift in biblical hermeneutics, and a growing confidence that Christian theology had and would offer a distinctive interjection into the dominant discourse of modernity. To speak apocalyptic, to evoke an eschatological lens over and against the cosmic disturbances of our age, has most certainly mirrored a cultural anxiety that has become prevalent in the west.

Thus, our current pandemic has not ushered in an unprecedented wave of apocalyptic discourse but reframed the material conditions under view. And yet the trajectory set by such scholars as Barth, Käsemann, Metz, Moltmann, Altizer – to name a few – has deployed the apocalyptic motif as a concept of immanent hope. I want to suggest that such readings not only fail under their own interrogation of cosmic disorder, but also that these readings re-present the kingdom of God in terms of violent mimicry. By moving toward an account of apocalyptic as the end of history indeed, I will posit a political theology beyond the apocalypse, a theology for after the ends of such worlds.

**Presenter**



Janice McRandal is the Director of The Cooperative, a centre for public collaboration and theological research in Brisbane, Australia, and a research fellow of the University of Divinity. Janice’s publications include *Christian Doctrine and the Grammar of Difference: a contribution to feminist systematic theology*, and *Sarah Coakley and the Future of Systematic Theology*. Her forthcoming book is a theological and political reading of sport.

**Respondent**



Lydia Gore-Jones is Lecturer in Biblical Studies at St Andrew’s Greek Theological College. She has a special interest in Jewish and early Christian Apocalyptic literature within the context of Second Temple Judaism and early Christianity.

**Date**

Friday 20th November, 2020 | 2.00 - 4.00pm

**Location - via Zoom**

Contact: [neilo@scd.edu.au](mailto:neilo@scd.edu.au) for details

