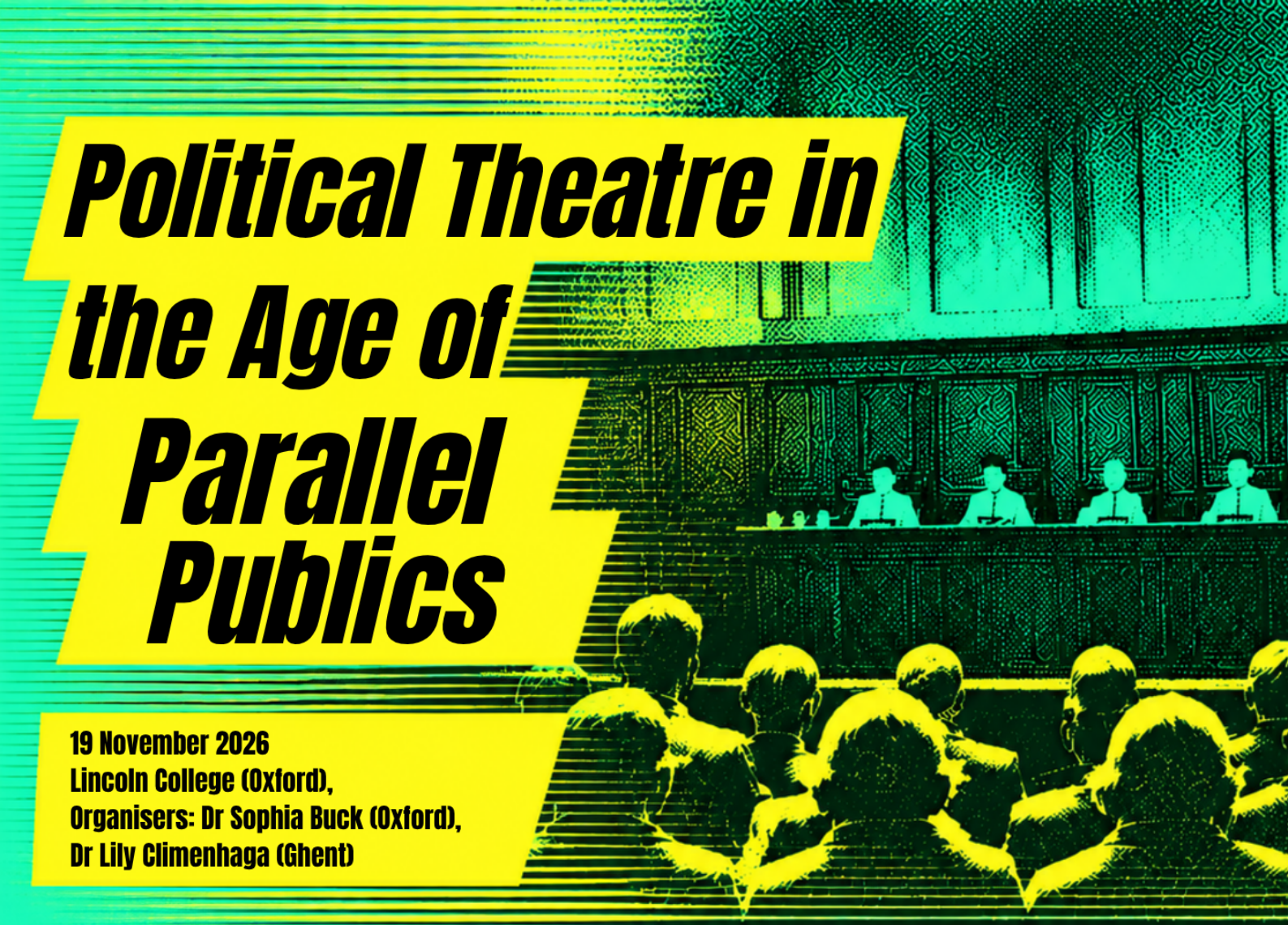
Political Theatre in the Age of Parallel Publics



19 November 2026
Lincoln College (Oxford),
Organisers: Dr Sophia Buck (Oxford),
Dr Lily Climenhaga (Ghent)

The Trial as Democratic Form	Performing Antagonism	Institutions of the Future
Andy Lavender	Théo Aoilfi	Naomi Boyce
Cristina Delgado-Garcia	Katy Brown	Chokri Ben Chikha
Kfir Lapid-Mashall	Joseph Dunn-Howrie	Paula Serafini

Response: Agonistic Pluralism in 2026 – Pollyanna Ruiz

Associated events of the Cultural Programme (Schwarzman Centre)

18 November 2026, 7pm — Milo Rau – Artist talk 'Micro-Ecologies as Institutions of the Future?'

19 November 2026, 7pm — *The New Gospel* (2020) and Q&A with Milo Rau, Yvan Sagnet, Lily Climenhaga, Carol Martin

Schwarzman Centre for the Humanities
TORCH The Oxford Research Centre in the Humanities
University of Oxford
Charité
Freie Universität Berlin
MHRA Modern Humanities Research Association
Lincoln College University of Oxford

Workshop: Theatre in the Age of Parallel Publics

Date: 19 November 2026
Location: Lincoln College (Oxford), Langford Room
Organisers: Dr Sophia Buck (Oxford), Dr Lily Climenhaga (Ghent)
Contact: sophia.buck@lincoln.ox.ac.uk

09:15–09:45 Arrival, coffee, registration
09:45–10:00 Welcome & Introduction

10:00–11:30	**Panel 1**	**—**	**The Trial as Democratic Form**
	Andy Lavender (*Guildhall School of Music & Drama*)		The triple time of tribunal theatre: (Re)mediating event, trial and performance
	Cristina Delgado-Garcia (*University of Glasgow*)		Trials and tribulations: democratic practices on the contemporary British stage
	Kfir Lapid-Mashall *(University of Glasgow)*		A Perverse Penal Performance: *SHOW.TRIAL.* and Milo Rau's tribunals

11:30–12:00 Coffee break

12:00–13:30	**Panel 2**	**—**	**Performing Antagonism**
	Théo Aoilfi (*Université Bourgogne Europe*)		Breaking the Fourth Wall of Democracy: Populism, Transgressive Aesthetics and Performances of Agonism
	Katy Brown (*University of Manchester*)		Mainstreaming and Talking About the Far Right
	Joseph Dunn-Howrie (*Rose Bruford College*)		Staging Free Speech: Theatrical Censorship, Terrorism, and Prevent

13:30–15:00 Lunch

15:00–16:30	**Panel 3**	**—**	**Institutions of the Future**
	Naomi Boyce *(Freie Universität Berlin)*		Experiences of Urgency: Infrastructures of theatrical responsivity
	Chokri Ben Chikha *(Action Zoo Humain)*		Staging Truth, Challenging Power: Theatre as a Temporary Democratic Institution?: *From Human Zoos to DiGNiTy*
	Paula Serafini *(Queen Mary University London)*		Between Artwork and Institution: Boundaries and Productivity

16:30–16:45 Coffee break

16:45–17:30	**Response**	**—**	**Joint Discussion: Agonistic Pluralism in 2026**
	Pollyanna Ruiz *(University of Sussex)*		

In collaboration with the Schwarzman Centre, this workshop is framed by two events in the Cultural Programme: the artist talk 'Micro-Ecologies as Institutions of the Future?' by Milo Rau (Director of the *Wiener Festwochen*), 18 November 2026 at 7pm, and a screening of *The New Gospel*, followed by a Q&A with Milo Rau, Yvan Sagnet, Lily Climenhaga, Carol Martin, on 19 November 2026 at 7pm.

This event is supported by the OX|BER research partnership, TORCH Performance Hub, MHRA Conference Grant, Lincoln College.