

SEMINAR



The Refutation of Political Fascism



Richard Dien Winfield

**Distinguished Research Professor of Philosophy
University of Georgia Scholar**

Hybrid | Speaker In-Person

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Date: 17th July, 2026
Time: 3:30 pm– 4:30 pm



A-220, R&D Building,
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RICHARD DIEN WINFIELD

A philosopher and Distinguished Research Professor of Philosophy at the University of Georgia, widely recognized for his work on foundation-free systematic philosophy, inspired by G. W. F. Hegel. His writing focuses on extending the Hegelian project to address contemporary debates about logic, nature, mind, ethics, aesthetics, and religion. He has written 25 books, including *Reason and Justice*; *The Just Economy*; *Systematic Aesthetics*; *The Just Family*; *Law In Civil Society*; *Rethinking Capital*; *The Just State*; *Conceiving Nature After Aristotle*, *Kant and Hegel*; *Universal Biology*; *The Living Mind*; *The Intelligent Mind*; and *Modernity, Religion, and the War on Terror*. In 2018 and 2020 Winfield ran unsuccessfully for the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate on a Job Guarantee Social Rights Agenda, for which he argued in his book, *Democracy Unchained*. He is married to Sujata Gupta Winfield, an immigration law attorney.

THE REFUTATION OF POLITICAL FASCISM

Abstract–

The essay addresses the theoretical and practical predicament resulting from the failure of the Enlightenment to legitimate freedom. It begins by exposing the indefensibility of the Enlightenment project and the weakness of subsequent holist defenses of Enlightenment ideals. Next the essay analyzes the anti-Enlightenment challenge of Nietzsche's deconstruction of rationality as will to power and unveils the weakness of the Nietzschean challenge. The essay then turns to examine Carl Schmitt's deconstruction of politics, showing how it presents the ultimate theoretical stand of political fascism. All of Schmitt's major theses on the concept of the political, political theology, sovereignty, and invocation of emergency rule and dictatorship are laid bare and refuted.

The essay will appear in the forthcoming volume *Philosophical Investigations Contesting the End of Humanity*, to be published by Palgrave Macmillan later this summer.