

For Immediate Release: January 15, 2024

VST CONFIRMS DR. HARTMUT ROSA AS 2024 G. PETER KAY LECTURER

VANCOUVER, BC. January 15, 2024. The Vancouver School of Theology is pleased to announce sociologist and political scientist Dr. Hartmut Rosa as the keynote speaker for the 2024 G. Peter Kaye lecture and workshop on March 1st and 2nd.

Hartmut Rosa (Ph.D., Humboldt University of Berlin) is the Professor of General and Theoretical Sociology at Freidrich-Schiller University in Jena and the Director of the Max Weber Centre for Advanced Cultural and Social Studies at Erfurt University.

Prof. Rosa studied political science, philosophy, and German studies at the University of Freiburg, graduating with honours in 1993. Four years later he graduated summa cum laude from the Humboldt University of Berlin after writing his Ph.D. dissertation on political philosophy according to Charles Taylor. He has held teaching and research positions internationally, including at the universities of Mannheim, Essen, Augsburg, the FMSH/EHESS in Paris, Harvard, and the New School University in New York. Prof. Rosa has served on numerous boards and councils, including his current position on the board of the Martin Buber Society of Fellows at the University of Jerusalem.



Prof. Rosa's research interests include Resonance-Theory, normative and empirical foundations of critical social theory, political and philosophical communitarianism and civil society, and temporal sociology of social acceleration. His books have been translated into 15 languages and he has won a plethora of awards for his work, including the Tractatus Award for Philosophical Essays. His most recent book is a co-publication with Andreas Reckwitz: *Late Modernity in Crisis: Why We Need a Theory of Society* (2023).

On March 1st Prof. Rosa will give a public lecture in-person and online titled '**Give us a hearing heart**'. **The Listening Society and Its Enemies** and on March 2nd he will lead an in-person workshop based on an upcoming book titled **Democracy Needs Religion: On a Peculiar but Resonant Relationship**.

The overarching title of Prof. Rosa's lecture and workshop is **The Listening Society: Religion, Music, and Democracy in Resonance**.

Abstract

The predominant modern way of being and acting in the world can be termed a mode deafness and muteness—and of aggression: It is based on a mode of dynamic stabilization, which structurally requires incessant growth, acceleration and innovation in order to reproduce the institutional status quo. In this way, modern sensibilities are geared towards control and availability—with the obvious problems of political, ecological and psychological disaster. Against this, the workshop will seek to develop a different mode of being in the world, which can be called a resonant mode. Resonance takes its cue actually from music—its core elements are listening and responding. Resonance does not start with something we do, but with something we perceive, or allow to happen. Here, responsibility is literally turned into respons-a-bility. It implies a medio-passive (and medio-active) way of relating to the world. Such forms of mediopassivity and respons-a-bility are, of course, not just developed in theological theories but also enacted and embodied in religious rituals and practices. Nevertheless, there can be no doubt that religious authorities and dogmas can easily play out the other way and become resonance killers of the worst sort. Thus the challenge is to work out and define the dividing lines in this Janus Face of Religion.

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About the G. Peter Kaye Lecture series

The G. Peter Kaye Lecture series was established in 1987 by the Vancouver Foundation in honour of its well-respected former Board Chairperson Gilbert Peter Kaye. Peter Kaye came to Vancouver from England in 1933, during which time he was employed by the Yorkshire and Pacific Securities Company Ltd., where he eventually became the President of the company. He also served as Headmaster at Shawnigan Lake School on Vancouver Island.

Peter Kaye led the Vancouver Foundation as its first full-time Executive Director from 1959 to 1977, and following his retirement he was appointed Chairman of the Board of Directors. During his tenure, the Vancouver Foundation became the largest charitable fund in Canada. Peter Kaye also served as VST's Chancellor and Chair of the Board of Governors until 1984.

For the past 37 years the G. Peter Kaye Lecture series has brought to campus "scholars of international reputation chosen for their ability to make a serious intellectual contribution to theological enquiry in a way that nourishes the spiritual life of the church and the wider community."

About VST

VST's core mandate is to educate and form thoughtful, engaged, and generous Christian leaders for the church in the 21st century. VST is a leading theological school, viewed as a change agent and innovator for the church.

VST is an affiliated college of the University of British Columbia and ranked in the top 100 schools globally and the top 10 of most improved theological schools. A recipient of a prestigious Pathways for Tomorrow grant from the Lilly Endowment, VST is redefining the critical role of theological field education in preparing clergy.

VST is accredited by the Government of British Columbia, and in North America by ATS (Association of Theological Schools). The Vancouver School of Theology celebrates its foundational relationships with the Anglican Church of Canada, Presbyterian Church in Canada (through St. Andrew's Hall), and United Church of Canada. VST also welcomes students from many Christian communions, other faith traditions, and Indigenous communities. The Indigenous Studies Program at VST is central to the school's identity and commitments. The Vancouver School of Theology recently celebrated its 50th Anniversary in 2021. VST, through its predecessor schools has been teaching theology in Vancouver since 1893.

The Vancouver School of Theology acknowledges that the land on which they are located is the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territory of the xwməθkwəyəm (Musqueam) People.

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