

## **Much Ado about the Nothing: Political Theories about the Non-existent, or towards a Political Anthropology**

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Let's leave aside now the play of Shakespeare, it anyway lacks a definite article in its title, though due to a peculiar coincidence I'll return to the author. I will talk rather about the non-existent, as it has appeared in the history of political thinking. I'll focus on the appearance of this non-existent, at the start of the Baroque age, and its spread, through the ideas of Bruno, Bacon,

Descartes, Hobbes, Locke, Spinoza, Newton and finally Hegel and Schopenhauer, to gain final victory with our current, technologically motivated digital despotism, in which we now all live. Apart from introducing and defining the non-existent, my presentation will focus on its one peculiar feature, in which the dynamism of its spread and propagation is rooted, the basis of its growth, *the creation of new entities*: a feature through which, though is limitless and careless, which not only produces sickness in animals and men, and in any element of nature, destroying it, generating overall confusion, yet became victorious. The main question of the presentation is how Political Anthropology, as a way of seeing the world, can help to explain the peculiar situation of the non-existent, through its central terms, like liminality, trickster, imitation, schismogenesis, and the void.

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