

## CRITICAL THEORY CLUSTER



### CRITICAL THEORY CLUSTER INTRODUCTION

Over the past three decades, the term “critical theory” has come to designate, particularly in the United States, a type of study that cuts across disciplines to examine the premises, concepts, and categories that structure academic discourse in areas such as literary studies, art history, film studies, history, philosophy, and political theory, to name just a few. Critical theory is therefore not limited to a particular field or even to specific content; it is involved wherever methods, concepts, and social formations are not simply taken for granted but subjected to systematic and rigorous critical reflection.

Some 60-80 students in relevant fields at Northwestern University participate in Northwestern’s Interdisciplinary Cluster in Critical Theory. The cluster provides a thorough introduction to critical theory through inter-departmental course offerings. Exposure to critical theory is highly recommended for students of literature, philosophy, politics, culture, the visual arts, gender and race studies, rhetoric, and society in our post-colonial, post-modern world.

The Cluster offers possibilities for accreditation in the form of the Interdisciplinary Graduate Certificate in Critical Theory. It offers a number of forums and venues for intellectual exchange between graduate students and faculty with related interests in different departments and programs. It promotes reading groups, workshops, a number of other opportunities for graduate students, and a coherent program of interdisciplinary coursework at Northwestern.

Northwestern also offers the Paris Program in Critical Theory, which affords up to five advanced graduate students, from a wide variety of disciplines, a unique opportunity to spend one year in Paris familiarizing themselves with French and European theoretical research.

Northwestern’s Weinberg College also offers an undergraduate minor in critical theory. For more information about the undergraduate minor contact Michael Loriaux (mloriaux@me.com). For information about the graduate cluster, contact co-directors Penelope Deutscher (p-deutscher@northwestern.edu) or Peter Fenves (p-fenves@northwestern.edu).

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Peter Fenves  
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Samuel Weber  
Director, graduate Paris  
Program in Critical Theory



Michael Loriaux  
Director, undergraduate Paris  
Program in Critical Theory,  
Literature and Media;  
Advisor- Critical Theory Minor

# CRITICAL THEORY CLUSTER 2013-2014

## CLUSTER FACULTY COMMITTEE

### Affiliated Faculty Members (Cluster Faculty Committee):

Mark Alznauer	Anna Parkinson
Nick Davis	Laurie Shannon
Penelope Deutscher (Co-Director)	Lars Toender
Peter Fenves (Co-Director)	Samuel Weber
Barnor Hesse	Alex Weheliye
Cristina Lafont	Barry Wimpfheimer
Michael Loriaux	Rachel Zuckert
Charles Mills	

More information is at:

<http://www.wcas.northwestern.edu/criticaltheory>

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## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

### Conference Funding

Limited conference funding (to a maximum of \$300) is available to 3-4 students each year (subject to budgetary limits).

How to apply: send an email to, [criticaltheory@northwestern.edu](mailto:criticaltheory@northwestern.edu)

### Funding of Reading Groups

The main source of funding for reading groups (facilitating the purchase of books, and sometimes one or more visiting speakers to your group) at Northwestern University is the Kaplan Institute for the Humanities.

Kaplan is also a partial source of funding of other activities such as conferences. Students seek such funding from Kaplan with the co-sponsorship of faculty.

It often will make sense to begin your reading group, establish viability and interest, and then submit an application for funding in the same or a related area. Many NU and CT reading groups take place without funding.

### Instructions for Kaplan funding are available at:

<http://www.humanities.northwestern.edu/programs/index.html>  
under "co-sponsorships" and "research workshops".

### Initiating or joining a reading group:

At the beginning of the year, the CT cluster holds an organizational meeting at which graduate students express interest in new areas for reading groups, and their email addresses and suggested topics are then circulated on the CT google group list. Interested students thus make contact with each other.

# SOME CURRENT READING GROUPS AND CONTACTS

## **Gilles Deleuze and Félix Guattari's *What Is Philosophy?***

Contact: DavidJohnson2013@u.northwestern.edu

## **Paul of Tarsus reading group/research workshop:**

Contact: virgilbrower3@yahoo.com

(has read texts from Agamben, Badiou, Schelling, Locke, Deleuze, Nietzsche, and often has guest speakers)

## **Contemporary Marxist Theory:**

Contact: ianhartman2012@u.northwestern.edu

e.g., has read Bernard Stiegler's *For a New Critique of Political Economy* (currently dormant, with interest in a restart in 2013-2014)

## **Aesthetic Theory:**

Was active through 2012-2013

Contact: Hannah Linda Wohl <HannahWohl2011@u.northwestern.edu>

(A group initiated through Sociology, has worked on: Burke, Kant, Lyotard, Schiller, Hegel, Heidegger, Nietzsche etc)

## **Aesthetics Reading Group:**

Contact: eric.hengstebeck@gmail.com

The group started up again Oct. 21, 2013, 9:30am at The Unicorn Café. Has previously worked together on Rancière, and has been working its way through Hegel's Aesthetik. PDFs of each meeting's reading are available from Eric.

## **Kant Reading Group:**

Contact: C-Clarke2011@nlaw.northwesern.edu

The group will start with reading *The Metaphysics of Morals*. Meets from 2-3:30pm Wednesdays in Scott Hall 235.

## **Agamben's Homo Sacer Series:**

Contact virgilbrower3@yahoo.com and WilliamCaldwell2019@u.northwestern.edu

Meets Mondays 11:30am: the group is reading the Homo Sacer series in its integrality, (new members invited to join in at any stage)

## **Research Workshops:**

Critical theory students currently run two workshops sponsored or co-sponsored by the Kaplan Institute.

# SOME CURRENT READING GROUPS AND CONTACTS (continued)

## **2013-14 Kaplan Institute Research Workshops : The After-Life of Phenomenology**

Vitalism and materialism. In the work of Gilles Deleuze one finds an encounter orchestrated between the phenomenology of Edmund Husserl and Maurice Merleau-Ponty and the vitalism of Henri Bergson, opening a path toward a new form of materialism, which Deleuze calls “transcendental empiricism.” This Deleuzian empiricism, in turn, has been taken up in the last decade by Michel Serres, Quentin Meillassoux, and others. Thus a line can be traced from Bergson to Deleuze to today’s new empiricists and “speculative materialists,” which passes directly through phenomenology.

Planned for 2013/2014: Souleymane Bachir Diagne (Columbia) and Donna Jones (UC Berkeley) will be coming on December 5th to talk about phenomenology in the work of Bergson and Senghor. Paul Livingston (U New Mexico) is coming February 10th to talk about Badiou and phenomenology. Debbie Goldgaber (Northeastern Illinois) will give a talk on Derrida in late November. And the After-life of Phenomenology Workshop will collaborate with the Paul of Tarsus Research Workshop will collaborate to bring Jeffrey Bell (South-eastern Louisiana) at some point later in the year to speak on Meillassoux, Deleuze, and Spinoza. And we plan to line up speakers on Latour, Foucault, and Malabou for the winter and spring quarters.

For further information and participation contact David Benjamin Johnson  
DavidJohnson2013@u.northwestern.edu or Hannah Kovacs hannahjkovacs@gmail.com

## **Critical Theory Research Workshop**

The Critical Theory Research Workshop is an interdisciplinary forum beyond the classroom for students, graduate and undergraduate, to share and develop their interests in critical theory. Its startup, and funding arose through initiative from three undergraduates, Rafael Vizcaino, Annabel We, and Joyce Fan, who applied successfully for sponsorship to the Kaplan Institute in 2012 with co-sponsorship from French, German, and Comparative Literary Studies. Graduate students offer and are invited to lead bi-weekly sessions with discussion of individual theorists, often with a proposed reading. Annual events have also included workshops with visiting speakers, Lisa Guenther, Vanderbilt University, author of *Solitary Confinement: Social Death and its Afterlives* and Lynne Huffer, Emory University, author of *Mad for Foucault*. Previously discussed authors have included Butler, Deleuze, Fraser, Bataille, Derrida, Benjamin, Rorty, Arendt, Adorno, Horkheimer, Badiou, Rancière, and many more. Contact: choffman@u.northwestern.edu

## **Dissertation Work in Progress group (Critical Theory Cluster)**

Graduates in their 3rd/4th year and above participate in a fortnightly cross-disciplinary dissertation work in progress group. Contact, annaterwiel2014@u.northwestern.edu

# OVERSEAS STUDY

## The Paris Program in Critical Theory

The Northwestern University Paris Program in Critical Theory was inaugurated in fall of 2001, under the directorship of Samuel Weber, Avalon Professor of the Humanities at Northwestern University, who brought the program with him from UCLA. It affords up to five highly qualified advanced graduate students from a wide variety of disciplines a unique opportunity to spend one year in Paris familiarizing themselves with French and European theoretical research.

During the Fall quarter, the Program Director leads a weekly research seminar on a question of current concern in contemporary critical theory. The seminar can also serve as a forum for work in progress. The particular topic of the seminar will be determined in consultation with participating students. Some past Paris seminar topics have been: The Politics of Friendship; Animality-Humanity; Theological Economy; Theories of the Event; Singularity; Europe; The Death Penalty. The Program Director will also endeavor to make the Program a focal point for international exchanges by inviting French and European scholars to participate in informal discussions, both in Paris and, whenever possible, at Northwestern. Students and visiting scholars will continue to present their research in the seminar in Winter and Spring quarters.

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO: <http://www.parisprogram.northwestern.edu/>

Applications should be submitted electronically by March 1, 2014 to:  
Dominique Licops: [d-licops@northwestern.edu](mailto:d-licops@northwestern.edu)

## Other Funding Opportunities

Dual PhD Programs with Institut d'Études Politiques de Paris (Sciences Po) and École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales

- Graduate students affiliated with the critical theory cluster may be eligible for the innovative dual PhD programs that Northwestern has established with the Institut d'Études Politiques de Paris (Sciences Po) and the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales <http://www.ehess.fr/fr/>.

These programs are described at:

- <http://global.northwestern.edu/programs/dual-phd-program-institut-detudes-politiques-sciences-po>
- Proficiency in French is required, but can be acquired with support from the French Interdisciplinary Group.

For further information: email Professor Michael Loriaux at: [mloriaux@mac.com](mailto:mloriaux@mac.com)

# OVERSEAS STUDY (continued)

## Other Funding Opportunities (continued)

Extensive funding is available from the D.A.A.D. for graduate study in Germany. Students interested in German philosophy, critical theory in the German tradition, political theory, comparative literature, *Germanistik*, critical theatre studies (*Theaterwissenschaft*), aesthetics, and intersections of philosophy, political, and aesthetic theory may be specially interested in a period of study at the Goethe Universität, Frankfurt am Main, which has a long and famous affiliation with the Frankfurt tradition in critical theory. A number of NU's CT graduate students have incorporated studies at the University of Frankfurt as part of their graduate program. D.A.A.D. funding is available for a number of programs of study in Germany, beginning with D.A.A.D. summer grants. These are often used for summer programs of intensive language study, and provide an excellent foundation to subsequent longer funding (such as one-year stays).

Northwestern contacts for these links:

Philosophy and Political Science - Cristina Lafont: [clafont@northwestern.edu](mailto:clafont@northwestern.edu)  
(Professor Lafont is also a particularly good contact for information and support relating to D.A.A.D. funding)

Comparative Literary Studies - Germanistik: Peter Fenves [p-fenves@northwestern.edu](mailto:p-fenves@northwestern.edu);  
Anna Parkinson, [a-parkinson@northwestern.edu](mailto:a-parkinson@northwestern.edu)

Critical Theatre Studies/Theaterwissenschaft - Sam Weber: [sweb21@comcast.net](mailto:sweb21@comcast.net)

Students can also include courses taken at the University of Frankfurt towards their Graduate Certificate in Critical Theory, under a new program called the Graduate Certificate in Critical Theory (Goethe University of Frankfurt am Main exchange program). For further information, particularly concerning the administrative process and requirements, please contact [m-alznauer@northwestern.edu](mailto:m-alznauer@northwestern.edu)

## Goethe University of Frankfurt am Main exchange program

Graduate Certificate in Critical Theory (Goethe University of Frankfurt am Main Exchange Program): In conjunction with the Exchange Program, we have introduced an optional variation on the already existing Graduate Certificate in Critical Theory: the Graduate Certificate in Critical Theory (Goethe University of Frankfurt am Main Exchange Program). 5 courses are currently required for the existing NU Graduate Certificate in Critical Theory. To complete the Graduate Certificate in Critical Theory (Goethe University of Frankfurt am Main Exchange program), two of the five courses will be completed through work undertaken at the Goethe University of Frankfurt am Main. The student will

- i.) undertake the work required for one MA course at U Frankfurt (with graded paper), and
- ii.) participate for one semester in the doctoral colloquium of the student's sponsoring professor at Goethe University of Frankfurt am Main or that of an appropriate colleague at Goethe University. The remaining 3 courses will be completed at Northwestern University.

## Domestic Fellowship Opportunity:

The Critical Theory cluster administers one sponsored fellowship annually for the School of Criticism and Theory at Cornell University. The sponsored fellowship covers tuition, accommodation and domestic airfare. You do not need to be an affiliate of the cluster to apply. For more information: [www.wcas.northwestern.edu/criticaltheory/sct2013.html](http://www.wcas.northwestern.edu/criticaltheory/sct2013.html).

### Critical Theory student comments:

*The Critical Theory Cluster has helped organize and support an interdisciplinary dissertation writing group for several grad students including myself, which has been very helpful for my work. Also, CT provides a great resource for connecting with other grad students to form reading groups. I participated in a great Deleuze reading group this Fall and I see groups tackling interesting texts every week. CT is a good source of funding to aid research and the CT program in France offers an exceptional opportunity to work with French critical theory scholars and to master a second language. Finally, the workshops and conferences that CT puts on are among the best on campus.*

Charles Clarke, PhD Political Science candidate

*When considering my options for graduate study, Northwestern's Critical Theory Cluster vaulted the university's program to the top of my list. . . the chance to develop as a sociologist in Northwestern's excellent sociology department, while continuing to grow as a scholar of critical theory was quite influential in my decision to attend NU. The Cluster's interdisciplinary network of faculty and students has provided me an instant community of scholars who act as invaluable mentors and resources for my critical theory interests. With its numerous diverse reading groups and fantastic opportunities to learn and conduct research abroad, the Critical Theory Cluster has already, and will, undoubtedly, continue to profoundly shape my graduate experience. . . The opportunity to study with the Paris Program and the community of theorists right here at Northwestern allows me to plan my sociological research agenda with critical theory at the fore. I am confident my graduate work will be all the richer thanks to my engagement with the Critical Theory Cluster.*

Jane Pryma, PhD Sociology candidate



# ACCREDITATION: THE INTERDISCIPLINARY GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN CRITICAL THEORY

## IPCT Certificate Program Requirements

To obtain the IPCT certificate, declare your cluster affiliation to [p-fenves@northwestern.edu](mailto:p-fenves@northwestern.edu). You then complete five courses, at least two of which must be introductory seminars, such as those listed below, or appropriate substitutes.

- *Critical Theory and Literary Studies*. Poststructuralism, cultural studies, and postcolonial theory in literary analysis and theory. The influence of psychoanalysis, Marxism, structuralism, semiotics, and post-structuralist thought on contemporary textual analysis. Cultural critique and context-centered methodologies.
- *Critical Theory and Philosophy*. Themes may include the origins of critical theory in Kant, Hegel, Marx, and Nietzsche; the contemporary re-emergence of critical theory in the work of the Frankfurt School; and/or the poststructuralist thinkers such as Derrida and Nancy.
- *Critical Theory and the Study of Politics*. The concepts of progress and power in politics and in the study of politics: the sources of modern political critique in the Frankfurt School and phenomenology; the critique of positivism in the social sciences; the critique of sovereignty, identity, and race; empire and post-colonial politics.

The remaining three courses must be chosen from a list of seminars designated annually. When you have completed the requirements, send an email to [p-fenves@northwestern.edu](mailto:p-fenves@northwestern.edu), with your transcript attached, identifying the five courses from the approved lists, and where necessary giving information about any claimed substitutions with a short justification.

\* Please note that no more than two courses from the student's degree program may be counted towards the graduate certificate. On review, exceptions to this condition may be made for some cross-listed courses.

## LIST OF 2013-2014 COURSES

LIST OF 2013-2014 COURSES counting towards the Interdisciplinary Certificate in Critical Theory (ICCT). This list represents a selection of relevant courses. Students can petition the cluster director to have other courses, **including 300-level classes, count towards the IPCT certificate.**

### List of 2013-2014 Courses

#### Fall

ENG 401: The Poetics of Time and the Problem of History  
FRE 494: Interdisciplinary, Theoretical, & Critical Approaches  
Gender 405: Advanced Feminist Theory  
GER 403: Germ. Lit., Crit. Thought, and New Media 1900-45  
PHIL 414: Seminar in German Post-Kantian Ethics  
COMM\_ST 415: Seminar in Rhetorical Criticism: Crowds, Mobs, Multitude and the Politics of Disorder

Susannah Gottlieb  
Chris Bush  
Mary G Dietz  
Peter Fenves  
Mark Alznauer  
Dilip Gaonkar



# ACCREDITATION: THE INTERDISCIPLINARY GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN CRITICAL THEORY

## LIST OF 2013-2014 COURSES (continued)

AF AM ST 401 Conceptual Methodologies Barnor Hesse  
\*ART 372-0 - Art Theory and Practice Seminar:  
Worlding and Research in Art Today Carolyn Christov-Bakargiev  
(Note this is a special opportunity: Carolyn Christov-Bakargiev was the curator of the 2012 Documenta, and will be visiting Northwestern 2013-2016 in fall of each year, and offering a critical theory intensive course at 300-level, open to graduate students from other depts).

### Winter

ENG 471: Diasporic Theory and Diaspora Tropes Alex Weheliye  
Gender 490 Queer Theory Nick Davis  
GER 441: Studies in Communication and Culture: Psychoanalysis Anna Parkinson  
REL 470: Theology and the Study of Religion Christine Helmer  
PHIL 415: Studies in French Philosophy Penelope Deutscher  
GER 402/Phil 414/Pol Sci 490 : German Literature and Critical Thought/  
Seminar in German Philosophy: From Hegel to Heidegger and Beyond Christoph Menke  
COMM\_ST 525: Modes of Cultural Analysis Jan Radway  
COMM\_ST 525: Black Visual Cultures Jasmine Cobb  
AF AM ST 480: Postcolonial Studies John D. Marquez

### Spring

ENG 481: Digital Age Brian Edwards  
ENG 441: Judging Novels (Austen) Vivasvan Soni  
GER 401: Germ. Lit. and Crit. Thought 1750-1832 Samuel Weber  
FRE 490: Special Topics in Literature: The Proustian Legacy Scott Durham  
FRE 493: Topics in Literary Theory Michal Ginsburg  
COMM\_ST 525: Hypervisibilities Riley Snorton  
REL 474: Religion and Narrative Barry Wimpfheimer  
AF AM ST: 402 Memory Studies Michelle M. Wright  
PHIL 465: Seminar in Social and Political Theory:  
The Future of Democracy Cristina Lafont  
RTVF 403: Media Cultural Theory (Jeffrey Sconce)\*

(Weinberg grads are typically welcome in screen cultures courses and can usually obtain a permission number from the program assistant, Shatoria Lunsford at: s.lunsford@northwestern.edu.)

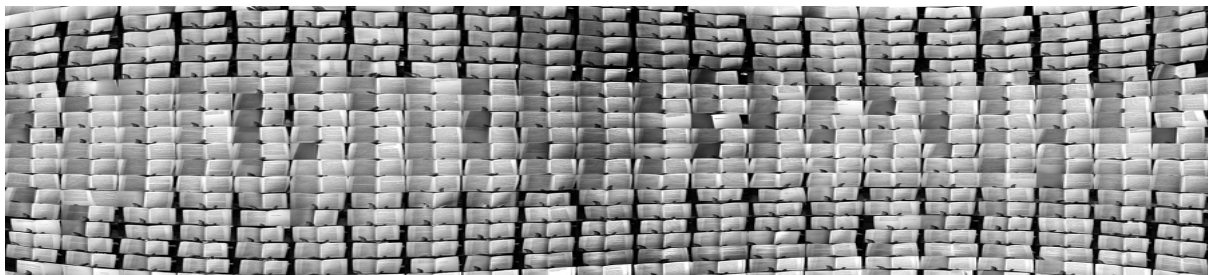
### Past Courses:

#### 2012-2013 IPCT Courses

PHIL 461: European Social Thought (Mark Alznauer)  
POLI\_SCI 461: Ancient and Medieval Political Thought (Monoson-Berns)  
POLI\_SCI 468: Problems in Democratic Theory (Honig)  
CLS 410/SPO 401: The Coordinates of Theory: North by North South (Jorge Coronado)

CLS 481/FRENCH 493: Topics in Literary Theory: Writing the Literary (Nasrin Qader)  
CLS 488: Romanticism and its Discontents (Jörg Kreienbrock)  
AF AM ST 480: Freedom, Colonialism and Democracy in the Black (S Johnson)  
COMM\_ST 415: Seminar in Rhetorical Criticism – Transnational/Discourse (Dilip Gaonkar)  
COMM\_ST 525-22: Seminar: Problems in Communication Studies:  
Introduction to Cultural Studies (C. Riley Snorton)  
COMM\_ST 525-23: Seminar: Problems in Communication Studies:  
Introduction to Rhetoric (Jasmine Cobb)  
CLS 487/ FRENCH 421: Visual Culture: Cinema, Performance Studies & Multimedia (Domietta Torlasco)  
POLI\_SCI 462: Early Modern Political Theory (Lars Toender)  
POLI\_SCI: Knowledge and Politics (Jackie Stevens)  
GER 401: Hölderlin and Schelling, poetry and thought (Peter Fenves)  
AF AM ST 420 Black Expressive Arts, Literature, and Culture (Alex Weheliye)  
CLS 413/ENG 431 Grammars of Pre-Modernity (Will West)  
CLS 481/GER 441: Singularity (Sam Weber)  
POLI\_SCI: Critical Studies in World Politics (Michael Loriaux, spring)  
POLI\_SCI 463: Late Modern Political Thought ( Mary Dietz)  
POLI\_SCI 490: Locke and the Interpretation of Texts (James Farr)  
AF AM ST 410: Black Feminist and Black Queer Theories (E.P. Johnson)  
AF AM ST 460: Black Social and Political Thought (Iton)  
AF AM ST 480: Genealogy of Racism as a Concept (Barnor Hesse)  
ENG 481: Studies in Literary Theory & Criticism: Psychoanalysis & Literature (Christopher Lane)

\* Note that cluster fellowship students, while not required to undertake a critical theory certificate, are required to take three Critical Theory related courses outside of their degree program. The choice of courses must be approved by the Director of the Critical Theory Cluster (in 2013-2014, apply to p-fenves@northwestern.edu).



# LANGUAGE STUDY FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

The Critical Theory Cluster particularly encourages language study as an often vital component of graduate student research, and training. We recommend that graduate students begin language training as early as possible. Many graduate students succeed in acquiring two languages while at Northwestern, particularly when they benefit from programs such as a study year abroad with Northwestern's Paris Program in Critical Theory or in Germany through D.A.A.D. funding- or other overseas study and training opportunities.

Why do we urge language training strenuously?

The foreign language training made available by Northwestern University is a valuable part of the financial package and conditions offered to its graduate students. It is an opportunity hard to duplicate later in an academic career, with respect to available time for language acquisition, funding, and the quality of the programs. Where you have interests and research involving the work of theorists, authors, and media produced in another language, you should begin your graduate career with the relevant language study.

This will give you access to: research in the original, access to untranslated original and secondary work, foreign conferences and debate forums. In some cases it proves vital to your placement in the appropriate academic position.

It also gives some graduate students access to additional lines of full-time research funding (for example, through the D.A.A.D.) both during your graduate career and throughout your academic life. International fellowship and grant opportunities are an increasingly important aspect of academic careers.

Language training is, of course, also a great pleasure: relaxing and stimulating. It can offset stress during your graduate coursework and dissertation writing. Given the high level of its pedagogical values, it can also give you exposure to very high quality teaching (and a graduate career is also a training in pedagogical skill). And, perhaps most importantly: it expands worlds, thought, networks and opportunities in unpredictable ways.

It need not be time consuming, and will often (ranging from quicker access to needed material in a foreign language to new fellowship opportunities) gain you time.

# LANGUAGE STUDY FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS (continued)

## Opportunities For Graduate Language Study at Northwestern

Graduate students can access courses in Northwestern's language departments, both during the academic year, and over the summer, only while they are on fellowship.

For example: a fifth student who receives funding into the sixth year is not on fellowship in summer between these years, and so cannot enroll in language courses at that time without paying the relevant fees.

Thus we strongly encourage you to take advantage of the opportunities as early as possible. Funding is also sometimes available for participation in summer language immersion institutes in the United States (such as at Middlebury College) and considerable funding is often available for overseas language training: Northwestern's language teaching faculty are often very well placed to help you plan and access these opportunities.

Options and choices: many graduate students are able to enroll in undergraduate classes through the year. At introductory and intermediate level this will be 3 or 4 x 50 minute classes each week, with very brief daily preparation. As this combines lightly and well with graduate student course work and TA duties, also adding some "cognitive diversity" to the weekly schedule, many graduate students find this an excellent option when it is possible. Many languages can be studied intensively over the summer. Some graduate students prefer this option, as it allows language study at a time when they have no other coursework obligations. We recommend both (and all available) options. Occasionally, specialist courses designed to give reading-only competency are available. They are sometimes a good choice. A period of overseas study can be an important means of consolidating your language ability. There are many funding opportunities to support these, most involve your having first acquired an introductory or early intermediate level. Again this gives reason to start relevant language training as early as possible in your graduate enrollment.



# Some 2013-2014 CRITICAL THEORY EVENTS

## **School of Criticism and Theory Information Session & Discussion: "The Humanities and Social Sciences in a Post-Enlightenment World"**

**Friday November 22, 12:00-2:00pm, Crowe 1-125.**

This will be both an information session and a discussion for graduate students interested in attending the 2014 School of Criticism and Theory and applying for funding through the Critical Theory Cluster. Chris Sardo (Political Science), who attended SCT in 2013 funded by the Cluster will provide an overview of his experience at the program and answer any questions. In addition, Chris and professor Dilip Gaonkar (Center for Global Culture and Communications) will lead a discussion on recent texts by Akeel Bilgrami and William E. Connolly that were presented at the 2013 SCT.

## **Aesthetics Public Lecture and Workshop: Christoph Menke**

20-21 February

Thursday, 20 February: Christoph Menke public lecture: "Thinking as Aesthetic Practice: Judgment That Hates Itself"

Friday, 21 February: Graduate Aesthetics Workshop with C. Menke

## **Critical Theory in Critical Times Conference**

2-4 May

Confirmed speakers: Amy Allen, Seyla Benhabib, Wendy Brown, Rainer Forst, Nancy Fraser, Jürgen Habermas, Rahel Jaeggi, Matthias Lutz-Bachmann, Tom McCarthy, Christoph Menke, Charles Mills

**10 April: Robert Bernasconi (Penn State), "Philosophy's Pact with Racism in pre-Apartheid South Africa: Hoernle and the Critique of Liberal Political Theory"**

**16 April: Sigrid Weigel (Berlin)**

**16 May: Avital Ronell (NYU), "Ach! The History of a Complaint"**

## **ALSO TO NOTE: AN EVENT ORGANIZED BY NORTHWESTERN'S CENTER FOR GLOBAL CULTURE AND COMMUNICATION (CGCC)**

May 22-23, 2014:

Twilight Aesthetics: Cinema and the Ends and the Passings of the Worlds; Organized by Dilip Gaonkar, CGCC (Center for Global Culture and Communication)

# CURRENTLY SCHEDULED AND UPCOMING CRITICAL THEORY EVENTS (continued)

## CRITICAL THEORY VISITORS 2013-2014

Three prominent visiting professors of special interest in 2013-14  
(Note: all courses below may be counted towards the Graduate Certificate in Critical Theory.)

### FALL

Carolyn Christov-Bakargiev visitor to Art Theory and Practice Course:  
ART 372-0 - Art Theory and Practice Seminar: Worlding and  
Research in Art Today  
Students and faculty interested in this visit should contact Lane Relyea,  
chair of Art Theory and Practice: lrelyea@northwestern.edu

### WINTER

Christoph Menke: visitor to German, Philosophy, Political Science  
Course: GER 402/PHIL 414/POLI\_SCI 490 German Literature and  
Critical Thought/Seminar in German Philosophy: Democracy, Culture,  
Capitalism: From Hegel to Heidegger and Beyond Students and faculty  
interested in this visit should contact  
Peter Fenves, chair of German, p-fenves@northwestern.edu, or  
Mark Alznauer, Philosophy, m-alznauer@northwestern.edu

### SPRING

Simona Forti: visitor to Italian, Philosophy  
Courses: Italian 350/PHIL 390: Absolute and Mediocre Demons: The  
Philosophy of Power and Evil; Italian 349: Humanity and Survival in  
Primo Levi.  
Students and faculty interested in this visit should contact  
Marco Ruffini, ruffini@northwestern.edu or  
Alessia Ricciardi, a-ricciardi@northwestern.edu

## VISITORS (continued)



Carolyn Christov-Bakargiev. The Department of Art Theory & Practice at Northwestern University is pleased to announce the appointment of Carolyn Christov-Bakargiev as the Edith Kreeger Wolf Distinguished Visiting Professor. Christov-Bakargiev will be teaching in the Department of Art Theory and Practice for three consecutive fall quarters beginning September 1st, 2013. In addition to her classes, Christov-Bakargiev will make one joint presentation for the Department of Art Theory and Practice and the Block Museum each quarter she teaches.

Christov-Bakargiev is a curator, author and researcher interested in historical avant-garde and contemporary art. Named 2012's most powerful person in the art world by Art Review's Power 100 listings, Christov-Bakargiev was artistic director of dOCUMENTA(13) from 2008-2012, which took place in Kassel, Germany, and held workshops, seminars and exhibitions in Alexandria, Egypt; Kabul, Afghanistan; and Banff, Canada. Her stewardship of dOCUMENTA(13), considered to be one of the most intellectual and significant exhibitions in the art world, renewed one of the exhibition's primal intentions to enlist culture as an agent of reconstruction, healing and dialogue. Previously she has served as Artistic Director of the 16th Biennale of Sydney (2008) and Chief Curator at the Castello di Rivoli Museum of Contemporary Art (2002-08). Christov-Bakargiev was also a Senior Curator at P.S. 1 Contemporary Art Center—a MoMa affiliate in New York from 1991-2001. Her books include *William Kentridge* (1998), *Arte Povera* (1999), and for dOCUMENTA(13) the *100 Notes–100 Thoughts* series as well as *The Book of Books* (2011–12). Previous group exhibitions include *The Moderns*, Turin (2003), *Faces in the Crowd*, London and Turin (2004), *Citta' Natura* (1997), and *Molteplici Culture* (1992).

## VISITORS (continued)

Christoph Menke is Professor of Practical Philosophy within the Cluster of Excellence “The Formation of Normative Orders” and in the Department of Philosophy at Goethe University, Frankfurt am Main and has also held visiting positions at the University of Chicago, Columbia University, Johns Hopkins University and at The New School, New York

His publications include *Sovereignty of Art: Aesthetic Negativity in Adorno and Derrida* (MIT Press, 1998), *Reflections of Equality* (Stanford University Press, 2006), *Tragic Play: Irony and Theater from Sophocles to Beckett* (Columbia University Press 2009), *Power of Judgment : a debate on Aesthetic Critique* (Sternberg Press, 2010) ; *Aesthetics of Equality: 100 Notes, 100 Thoughts. Documenta Series 010* (Hatje Cantz 2011) and most recently *Force. A Fundamental Concept of Aesthetic Anthropology* (Fordham 2012). A translation of *Law and Violence* is currently in preparation.

Further publications in German include *Tragödie im Sittlichen: Gerechtigkeit und Freiheit nach Hegel* (Suhrkamp, 1996), *Philosophie der Menschenrechte. Zur Einführung* (Junius, 2007) and *Recht und Gewalt* (August, 2012); Co-edited volumes include: *Zur Verteidigung der Vernunft gegen ihre Liebhaber und Verächter* (Suhrkamp, 1993), *Philosophie der Dekonstruktion : zum Verhältnis von Normativität und Praxis* (Suhrkamp, 2002), *Menschenrechte und Bioethik* (Wissenschaftsverlag, 2004), *Theodor W. Adorno: Negative Dialektik* (Akademie, 2006). Christoph Menke’s writings on aesthetics, literature, and politics range from legal and philosophical analyses of rights in terms of paradox, to analyses of “force” understood both in terms of the politics of aesthetics and the aesthetics of politics. They include numerous publications in the area of tragedy, historical German philosophy (Kant, Hegel, Marx, Nietzsche, Adorno), and contemporary aesthetics and contemporary art practice. His work in the area of contemporary political and legal philosophy engages both the continental and analytic traditions.





## VISITORS (continued)



Simona Forti is a Professor of “History of Political Thought” at the Graduate School of Human Sciences, ‘Scuola Normale’, Pisa-Firenze-Napoli in Italy and has previously been visiting professor at the New School, New York. She is the author of *Totalitarianism: History of an Idea*, Peter Lang Verlag, Hamburg, 2014; and *The New Demons. Rethinking Evil and Power Today*, (English translation forthcoming, Stanford U.P., Stanford, 2014). *The New Demons* brings together the results of an exploration concentrated, on one hand, on the ways philosophy and literature have traditionally thought about the relationship between evil and power, and, on the other, on how this relationship should be reconceived today.

Further publications in Italian include

*Paranoia e politica*, (edited with M. Revelli) Bollati Boringhieri, Torino, 2007; *Hannah Arendt tra filosofia e politica*, Bruno Mondadori, Milano 2006; Edition of H. Arendt, *Alcune questioni di filosofia morale*, Einaudi, Torino 2006; *La filosofia di fronte all’estremo*, Einaudi, Torino 2004; Edition of and Introduction to *Archivio Arendt II 1950-1954*, Feltrinelli, Milano 2003, 2005; Edition of *Archivio Arendt I, 1930-1948*; Feltrinelli, Milano 2001; *Il totalitarismo*, Laterza, Roma-Bari, 2001, 2003, 2005; *Vida del espíritu y tiempo de la polis. Hannah Arendt entre filosofía y política*, Madrid, Ediciones Càtedra, 2001; Edition of *Hannah Arendt*, Bruno Mondadori, Milano 1999, *Vita della mente e tempo della polis. Hannah Arendt tra filosofia e politica*, Franco Angeli, Milano 1994; 1996. (Price Angiolini “Miglior Opera Prima”, 1995).

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