



Northwestern Critical Theory
WEINBERG COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

#### THE CRITICAL THEORY CLUSTER (CTC)

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 80-100 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 interdepartmental 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 graduate student accreditation in the form of the Interdisciplinary Graduate Certificates 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, several 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.

Among the activities regularly organized by the cluster are: welcome and end of year events for new graduates, faculty-graduate book dialogues, annual "Critical Theory in Critical Times" workshops, doctoral dissertation workshops, annual events organized by Northwestern's Cornell University School of Criticism and Theory fellowship awardee, visiting speakers including lectures and a workshop with our Max Kade visiting Professors, and an annual tri-university fall doctoral institute rotating between Northwestern University, the University of Frankfurt and the École Normale Supérieure, Paris.

Northwestern's Weinberg College also offers an undergraduate minor in Critical Theory along with undergraduate reading groups, often conducted in conjunction with graduate students. For more information about the undergraduate minor contact José Medina (jose.medina@northwestern.edu). For information about the graduate cluster, contact the Director, Cristina Lafont and/or one of the Associate Directors, Penelope Deutscher or Peter Fenves.



CRISTINA LAFONT Director clafont@northwestern.edu



ALEJANDRA USLENGHI Associate Director a-uslenghi@northwestern.edu



#### CRITICAL THEORY FACULTY COMMITTEE



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RACHEL ZUCKERT Professor, Philosophy r-zuckert@northwestern.edu

#### CRITICAL THEORY CLUSTER READING GROUPS

ON-GOING READING GROUPS

BIOPOLITICS | CONTACT: BAILEY FLYNN BAILEY.FLYNN@NORTHWESTERN.EDU

IN SEARCH OF EPISTEMIC JUSTICE | CONTACT: MICOLBEZ2027@u.NORTHWESTERN.EDU

THE EPISTEMOLOGY OF PROTEST: SILENCING, EPISTEMIC ACTIVISM AND THE COMMUNICATIVE LIFE OF RESISTANCE | BY JOSÉ MEDINA | MAY 12, 2023 CONTACT: BIPIN SEBASTIAN, BIPINSEBASTIAN2024@U.NORTHWESTERN.EDU

MARX'S CAPITAL READING GROUP | CONTACT: BERNARDOBARZANA2025@U.NORTHWESTERN.EDU



#### PAST READING GROUPS

2021 - 22

ANTONIO GRAMSCI READING GROUP | CRISTOPH MENKE'S CRITIQUE OF RIGHTS | CANDICE DELMAS' A DUTY TO RESIST: WHEN DISOBEDIENCE SHOULD BE UNCIVIL | PRAXIS AND REVOLUTION READING GROUP (ON JAY BERNSTEIN'S AND EVA VON REDECKER'S WORKS) | JASON FRANK'S THE DEMOCRATIC SUBLIME | NADIA URBINATI 'S ME THE PEOPLE: HOW POPULISM TRANSFORMS DEMOCRACY

#### 2020-21

PEDAGOGIES AND SCHOLARSHIPS OF CARE | SYLVIA WYNTER AND W.E.B. DU BOIS | WENDY BROWN | RADICAL DEMOCRATIC THEORY | EOS READS FOR BLACK LIVES | CRITICAL PUBLIC HUMANITIES | AFTERLIVES OF EXTRACTIVISM: THE PROTEST OF THE PASS IN SOUTH AFRICA AND THE DOCUMENTARY GESTURE READING GROUP | BLACK TRANS FEMINISM AND TRANS - LATINX CITIZENSHIP READING GROUP | DECOLONIZING THE UNIVERSAL, DECOLONIZING THE UNIVERSITY

2019-20

21st-Century Critical Prison Studies Reading Group | Disability and Disablement Reading Group

2018 - 19

ADORNO READING GROUP | CAPITAL READING GROUP | CRITICAL THEORY STUDIES: TRAUMA | DERRIDA READING GROUP | ERUPTIONS OF MEMORY (CRITICAL THEORY IN GLOBAL SOUTH MELLON GRANT PROJECT) FRANZ FANON READING GROUP (ONE-TIME IN PREPARATION FOR DECOLONIAL AESTHETICS WORKSHOP

2017-18

ADORNO READING GROUP | ANIMAL STUDIES READING GROUP | CRITICAL HISTORY OF CAPITALISM READING GROUP | CRITICAL THEORY STUDIES: TRAUMA | INDIAN OCEAN EPISTEMOLOGIES READING GROUP

2016 - 17

ADORNO READING GROUP | AGAMBEN READING GROUP | AFRICAN PHILOSOPHY READING GROUP | ANIMAL STUDIES READING GROUP | THE BODY READING GROUP | BOURDIEU'S FIELD THEORY READING GROUP | MARX'S CAPITAL READING GROUP | THE LATIN AMERICAN BIOPOLITICS READING GROUP | RADIX READING GROUP

2015 - 16

HEGEL'S PHENOMENOLOGY OF SPIRIT | MARX'S CAPITAL READING GROUP | PAUL OF TARSUS READING GROUP

# THE INTERDISCIPLINARY GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN CRITICAL THEORY

#### ICCT CERTIFICATE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

To obtain the Critical Theory Certificate, declare your cluster affiliation by e-mailing crticaltheory@northwestern.edu. You then complete five courses from the approved course list. At least two of the courses must be foundational critical theory seminars, chosen from these generally defined fields:

#### CRITICAL THEORY AND LITERARY STUDIES:

Post-structuralism, cultural studies, and post-colonial 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.

#### CRITICAL THEORY IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH:

Includes postcolonial, decolonial, trans-national and intersectional approaches to critical theory. Topics may include plural epistemologies, forms of power, histories, aesthetics, and forms of critique; issues of translatability and untranslatability of core concepts; the study of violence, social justice, trauma and memory informed by critical theory in its trans-national dimensions; projects aiming to diversify critical theory's canon; and/or the study of the significance of critical theory in the global south and vice versa.

The five courses are chosen from a list of approved courses provided each academic year. The course list can be found on the Critical Theory website.

When you have completed the requirements, please fill out the online TGS Certificate Application. This application will be routed to the Critical Theory Associate Director, who will review the application. For students also pursuing a PhD or Master's, the Director of Graduate Studies of the degree program will also review the application. The application will then be reviewed by TGS who provides the final approval and notification to the student.

MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE CERTIFICATE AND APPLICATION: WWW.CRITICALTHEORY.NORTHWESTERN.EDU/GRADUATE/CERTIFICATE.HTML





### COURSES COUNTING TOWARDS THE INTERDISCIPLINARY CERTIFICATE IN CRITICAL THEORY (ICCT)

\*COURSES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE. PLEASE CHECK CAESAR FOR UP-TO-DATE COURSES. STUDENTS MAY PETITION TO COUNT COURSES NOT LISTED HERE BY CONTACTING CRITICAL THEORY WITH THE COURSE NUMBER/TITLE, DESCRIPTION, SYLLABUS (IF AVAILABLE), AND ANY OTHER HELPFUL INFORMATION ABOUT THE COURSE AS IT RELATES TO CRITICAL THEORY CONTENT.

#### AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES (AFAM)

FQ 480 Black Conceptual Methodologies (Hesse)

WQ 402 Theorizing Black Genders and Sexualities (Bey)

SQ 480 Theorizing Blackness

and Diaspora (Márquez)

#### ANTHROPOLOGY (ANTHRO)

FQ 490 Queer Pleasure and Politics (Sullivan)

#### COMMUNICATION STUDIES (COMM\_ST)

FQ 454 Making and Unmaking of Audiences and Publics (Gaonkar)

#### COMPARATIVE LITERARY STUDIES (COMP\_LIT)

FQ COMP\_LIT 413-0-32 Orientalism and Its Discontents (Kinra)

FQ COMP\_LIT 481-0-1 Voice in Phenomenology,

Psychoanalysis, and Deconstruction (Dohoney)

FQ COMP\_LIT 486-0-20 Hannah Arendt:

Poetry, Politics, and Thought (Gottlieb)

FQ COMP\_LIT SPANPORT 487-0-1

Archive Poetics: Subaltern Knowledges and Irreverent Uses (Uslenghi)

FQ 488 Remnants of Marx (Kreienbrock)

FQ 488 Theories of Freedom and Liberation (Menke)

WQ 481 Topics in Literary Theory (Torlasco)

SQ 488 Necropolitics from Agamben to Mbembe (Ricciardi)

#### ENGLISH (ENGLISH)

FQ 461 Hannah Arendt: Poetry, Politics, and Thought (Gottlieb)

WQ 481 Queer Theory and Queer Cinema (Davis)

SQ 431 Political Thought in

Shakespearean Contexts (Shannon)

#### Northwestern

Program in Critical Theory
WEINBERG COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

Sigmund

# 2023-24 CRITICAL THEORY CLUSTER COURSES

#### FRENCH AND ITALIAN (FRENCH)

FQ 460 Global Avant-Garde (Bush)

WQ 493 Topics in Literary Theory (Torlasco)

SQ 432 French, Francophone &

Transnational Studies (Qader)

SQ 494 Necropolitics from Agamben to Mbembe (Ricciardi)

#### GENDER AND SEXUALITY STUDIES (GNDR\_ST)

FQ 490 Queer Pleasure and Politics (Sullivan)

WQ 490 Theorizing Black Genders and Sexualities (Bey)

WQ 490 Queer Theory and Queer Cinema (Davis)

SQ 480 Afrofeminists: Black Women Challenging Color-Blindness in Europe (Larcher)

#### GERMAN (GERMAN)

FQ 402 Remnants of Marx (Kreienbrock)

FQ 441 Theories of Freedom and Liberation (Menke)

WQ 403: German Literature and Critical Thought, 1900-1945: Benjamin's

Altercation with Goethe (Fenves)

SQ 407 Proseminar/ How to Read (Weitzman)

#### HISTORY (HISTORY)

FQ 405 Orientalism and Its Discontents (Kinra)

SQ 405 Sexual Knowledges: Science, Archives, Traces (Liu)

#### MUSICOLOGY (MUSICOL)

FQ 535 Voice in Phenomenology, Psychoanalysis, and Deconstruction (Dohoney)

#### PHILOSOPHY (PHIL)

FQ 414 Seminar in German Philosophy: Marx (Brixel)

FQ 410 Theories of Freedom and Liberation (Menke)

WO 414 Seminar in German

Philosophy: Hegel (Alznauer)

WQ 467 Seminar in Critical Race Theory (Barnes)

#### POLITICAL SCIENCE (POLI\_SCI)

WQ 490 Political Theories of Membership (Stevens)

SQ 447 Critical Studies in World Politics (Loriaux)

#### SOCIOLOGY (SOCIOL)

FQ 410 Race, Racism, and Resistance (Pattilo)

FQ 476 Politics of Knowledge (Epstein)

#### SPANISH AND PORTUGUESE (SPANPORT)

FQ 455 Archive Poetics: Subaltern Knowledges and Irreverent Uses (Uslenghi)

WQ 480 Topics in Latin American Literature and/or Iberian Literature and Culture (Pinto)

SQ 450 Topics in Cultural Studies (Caballero)

SQ 480 Modern Iberian Thought (Coleman)

#### 2023-24 CRITICAL THEORY CLUSTER COURSES

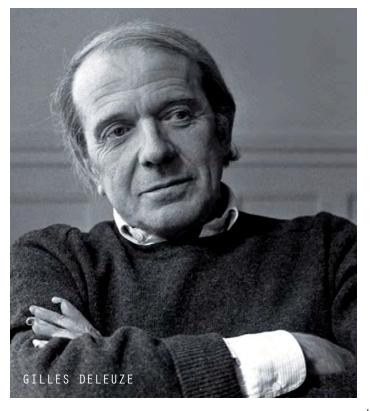


#### KAPLAN INSTITUTE RESEARCH WORKSHOPS

# CRITICAL THEORY RESEARCH WORKSHOP

The Critical Theory Undergraduate Research Workshop is an interdisciplinary, student-led forum for undergraduate students to share and develop their interests in critical theory that discusses critical, social, and political theory on a wide range of topics. Choosing a text to read and discuss for each meeting, the workshop participants seek to critique texts outside of the typical curriculum, focusing on nonwestern and decolonial ideals as well as canonical but less taught texts as interlocutors. Historically, graduate students are invited to lead sessions with discussion of individual theorists, often with a proposed reading. Annual events have also included workshops.

FOR INQUIRIES AND REQUESTS TO BE ADDED TO THE LISTSERV, PLEASE CONTACT THE FACULTY SPONSOR, JEONG EUN ANNABEL WE (JWE@NORTHWESTERN.EDU). FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE HTTPS://CRITICALTHEORY.NORTHWESTERN.EDU/UNDERGRADUATE/RESEARCH-WORKSHOP.HTML.





THE AFTER-LIFE OF PHENOMENOLOGY RESEARCH GROUP

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.

The After-Life of Phenomenology Research group was started by graduate students with interests in this trajectory.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON WORKSHOPS: CRITICALTHEORY@NORTHWESTERN.EDU



#### LANGUAGE STUDY FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

WHY DO WE URGE LANGUAGE TRAINING STRENUOUSLY?

French, German, and Spanish are three of the languages important to the critical theory tradition. The foreign language training made available by Northwestern University is a valuable part of the 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.

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. 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.

The Critical Theory Cluster particularly encourages language study as an often vital component of graduate student research and training. Language training is, of course, also a great pleasure, and a relaxing and stimulating complement to graduate coursework and dissertation writing. 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.



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-year 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. 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.



#### STUDY OVERSEAS

# 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 also makes 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: WWW.PARISPROGRAM. NORTHWESTERN.EDU. APPLICATIONS SHOULD BE SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY TO DOMINQUE LICOPS AT D-LICOPS@NORTHWESTERN.EDU





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). Five 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 (1) undertake the work required for one MA course at U Frankfurt (with graded paper), and (2) 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 three courses will be completed at NU.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PARTICULARLY CONCERNING THE ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESS AND REQUIREMENTS, PLEASE CONTACT MARK ALZNAUER AT M-ALZNAUER@NORTHWESTERN.EDU



#### FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

#### FRANCE

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. For more information on these programs: global. northwestern.edu/programs/dual-phd-programinstitut-detudes-politiques-sciences-po

Proficiency in French is required, but can be acquired with support from the French Interdisciplinary Group. For further information, contact Professor Michael Loriaux at m-loriaux@northwestern.edu.

#### GERMANY

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. 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).

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT PETER FENVES, P-FENVES@NORTHWESTERN.EDU, ANNA PARKINSON, A-PARKINSON@NORTHWESTERN.EDU, SAM WEBER, S-WEBER@NORTHWESTERN.EDU, OR CRISTINA LAFONT, CLAFONT@NORTHWESTERN.EDU

#### DOMESTIC FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY

The Critical Theory cluster administers one sponsored fellowship annually for the School of Criticism and Theory at Cornell University. Funding is provided by Northwestern's Graduate School. 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, CONTACT ALEJANDRA USLENGHI, A-USLENGHI@NORTHWESTERN.EDU.



CONFERENCE FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

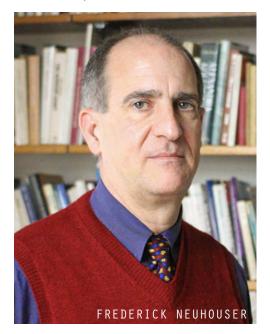
Limited conference funding (to a maximum of \$250) is available annually to five graduate students. To apply, email criticaltheory@northwestern.edu with information about the conference, its dates, relevance to the critical theory cluster, and its importance to your research. Explain your connection to the critical theory cluster (such as courses taken, participation in graduate certificate, etc.) and confirmation of acceptance of your paper. Your application is considered by a mini-committee, on a rolling basis.

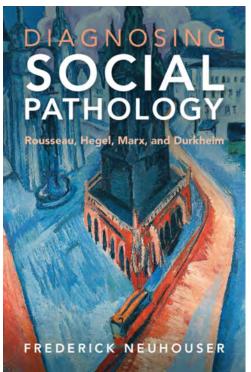
INFORMATION ABOUT FURTHER FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS READING PAPERS AT CONFERENCES IS AVAILABLE AT:
TGS.NORTHWESTERN.EDU/FUNDING/FELLOWSHIPS-AND-GRANTS/INTERNAL-FGRANTS



# CRITICAL THEORY IN CRITICAL TIMES ANNUAL WORKSHOP SERIES

The Critical Theory in Critical Times annual workshop series is a joint initiative of the Center for Global Culture and Communication (CGCC) and the Critical Theory Cluster. The aim of this workshop series is to create a forum for discussion of recently published work in the tradition of critical theory broadly construed. Authors are invited to an in-depth discussion of their scholarly work with specialists in the field and in a small workshop setting. This setting offers an excellent opportunity to faculty and students of the Northwestern community to directly engage in lively discussion with very distinguished critical theorists from around the world. In preparation for the workshop, a reading session is organized among interested NU faculty and students to discuss the work in question.





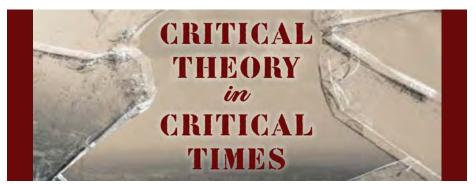
DIAGNOSING SOCIAL PATHOLOGY
ROUSSEAU, HEGEL, MARX, AND DURKHEIM
A DISCUSSION WITH FREDERICK NEUHOUSER
November 2024

November 2024

Northwestern University Campus Location TBD

The 2024 Critical Theory in Critical Times annual series workshop will focus around the work of Frederick Neuhouser, Viola Manderfeld Professor of German and a professor of Philosophy at Barnard College, Columbia University, and his 2022 book, *Diagnosing Social Pathology Rousseau*, *Hegel*, *Marx*, *and Durkheim* (Cambridge University Press).

Can a human society suffer from illness like a living thing? And if so, how does such a malaise manifest itself? In this thought-provoking book, Fred Neuhouser explains and defends the idea of social pathology, demonstrating what it means to describe societies as 'ill', or 'sick', and why we are so often drawn to conceiving of social problems as ailments or maladies. He shows how Rousseau, Hegel, Marx, and Durkheim – four key philosophers who are seldom taken to constitute a 'tradition' – deploy the idea of social pathology in comparable ways, and then explores the connections between societal illnesses and the phenomena those thinkers made famous: alienation, anomie, ideology, and social dysfunction. His book is a rich and compelling illumination of both the idea of social disease and the importance it has had, and continues to have, for philosophical views of society.



# CRITICAL THEORY IN CRITICAL TIMES ANNUAL WORKSHOP SERIES

#### PAST EVENTS

April 2023: José Medina, The Epistemology of Protest (Oxford University Press)

April 2022: Nadia Urbinati, *Me the People: How Populism Transforms Democracy* (Harvard University Press)

Oct. 2020: Santiago Castro-Gómez, Critique of Latin American Reason (Columbia University Press 2021)

Nov. 2019: Charles Mills, The White Leviathan: Nonwhite Bodies in the White Body Politic

Nov. 2018: Seyla Benhabib, Exile, Statelessness, Migration (Princeton University Press, 2018)

Nov. 2016: Axel Honneth, Freedom's Right (Columbia University Press, 2015)

Feb. 2015: Hauke Brunkhorst, Critical Theory of Legal Revolutions (Bloomsbury, 2014)

Nov 2015: Wendy Brown, Undoing the Demos (Zone Books, 2015)













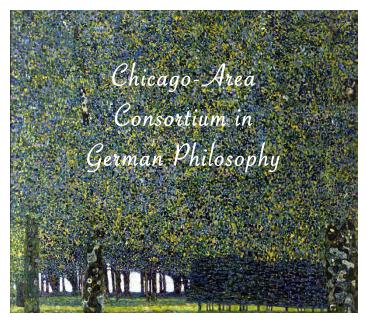
#### WORKSHOPS AND PROGRAMS OF INTEREST

#### MIDWEST RACE THEORY WORKSHOP

The Midwest Race Theory Workshop is a regional organization that connects faculty and graduate students who work in critical philosophy of race. MRTW was co-founded and is co-organized by Elizabeth Millán (De Paul), José Medina (Northwestern), Jaqueline Scott (Loyola), and Grant Silva (Marquette). MRTW meets quarterly for a full day of paper presentations and discussions of works in progress.



FOR MORE INFORMATION:
MIDWESTRACETHEORYWORKSHOP.COM
CONTACT: JOSÉ MEDINA AT
JOSE.MEDINA@NORTHWESTERN.EDU



THE CHICAGO AREA CONSORTIUM IN GERMAN PHILOSOPHY

The Chicago Area Consortium in German Philosophy is a group of faculty and graduate students from Chicago area institutions, including Northwestern, DePaul, Loyola, UIC, University of Chicago, and Notre Dame, who share interests in German philosophy from Leibniz to the present.

It hosts a workshop every spring, at which area faculty present work in progress with comments from graduate students on a particular theme or thinker (such as phenomenology and Hegel's theoretical philosophy, or German Romanticism) and invites speakers throughout the year.

Past speakers have included Steven Crowell, Lanier Anderson, Paul Redding, Jay Bernstein, Lisa Shabe, Catalina Quintero, John Richardson, Rebecca Comay, Jessica Tizzard, Andrew Pitel, and Claire Kirwin.

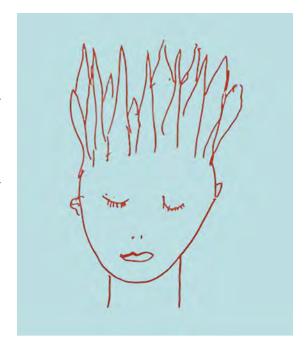
FOR MORE INFORMATION:
SITES.NORTHWESTERN.EDU/GERMANPHIL
IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT CONSORTIUM
EVENTS PLEASE CONTACT RACHEL ZUCKERT
AT R-ZUCKERT@NORTHWESTERN.EDU



#### WORKSHOPS AND PROGRAMS OF INTEREST

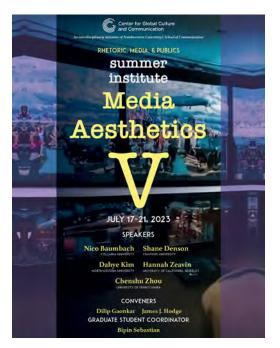
#### THE SUMMER INSTITUTE OF PSYCHOANALYSIS

The Summer Institute of Psychoanalysis addresses the impact of psychoanalytic thought on what it does not consider to be its primary target: culture, as expressed by other branches of knowledge as well as media in the broadest sense of the word from literature, cinema, and performance arts to social media. The Institute engages a conversation between psychoanalysis understood as theory, as clinical practice, and as ways of addressing the emotional spaces that other intellectual fields and creative media open up on a personal and collective level. Each annual session unites an international cluster of universities through a cooperative effort between the Sorbonne-Nouvelle and Northwestern University. Gatherings take place in a different location each year in late June or early July at one of these participating academic institutions.



The 2022 edition allowed participants to interrogate anew the relationship between the discovery of the unconscious and the social and political field. Although centered on the subject, psychoanalysis understood as both theory and practice offers intuitions and ideas that have proven to be consequential beyond the individual. Which is the specific contribution of psychoanalysis to our understanding of the social contract? In what ways is the political field traversed by affects and movements that become more intelligible thanks to psychoanalysis?

The 2023 meeting theme was "Psychoanalysis and Gender" and took place at the Université Sorbonne-Nouvelle. CONTACT A-RICCIARDI@NORTHWESTERN.EDU



RHETORIC, MEDIA AND PUBLIC CULTURE SUMMER INSTITUTE

Media Aesthetics V: held July 17-21, 2023. The theorization of media often begins with a story about the history of the senses and the sensorium and how that history might be understood in terms of the ways new technologies transform our individual and collective abilities to see, hear, and communicate. The 21st-century computational saturation of culture by mediated forms as the infrastructure of ordinary life poses new challenges to this project. While many projects emphasize the algorithmic and technical dimensions of the internet age, the media aesthetics project (now in its 5th year) is devoted to exploring ordinary experience.

#### WORKSHOPS AND PROGRAMS OF INTEREST

#### THE TRI-UNIVERSITY DISSERTATION WORKSHOP

The dissertation workshop is a joint initiative by the Critical Theory Cluster at Northwestern, the Goethe University, Frankfurt, and the École Normale Supérieure, Paris to create a forum in which original research engaging with the tradition of Critical Theory is presented and discussed. The annual three-day event rotates between Evanston, Frankfurt, and Paris and offers graduate students and faculty the opportunity to come together and discuss their current research.

Developed from a long-standing collaboration among the three universities, the workshop provides an intense cooperative environment for graduate students to develop and publicize their dissertation projects in conjunction with faculty lectures that highlight new and emerging areas of interdisciplinary scholarship in critical theory

The 2022 workshop took place in Paris from September12-14, as a collaboration between École Normale Supérieure, Frankfurt University and Northwestern.

REHEARSALS: IN CRITICAL RACE STUDIES (PREPUBLICATION WORKSHOP SERIES)

2021-22 YALA KISUKIDI

DREAMT TERRITORIES AND DIASPORIC POLITICS: ART, FUTURITY, AND PHILOSOPHY

MAY 25, 2022 | KRESGE 2351

MORE DETAILS ON PAGE 18

2020-21 SAMPADA ARANKE

PRE-PUBLICATION WORKSHOP: DEATH'S FUTURITY: THE VISUAL LIFE OF BLACK POWER CHAIRED BY HUEY COPELAND | NOVEMBER 16, 2020 | ZOOM

2019-20 WILLIAM PARIS

BLACK MYTHOLOGIES: RACE, CULTURE, AND THE PRACTICE OF UTOPIA WITH CHAIRED BY JOSÉ MEDINA | MARCH 5, 2020 | KRESGE 2351

2017-18 FRED MOTEN AND STEFANO HARNEY BLACK REHEARSAL: GRADUATE WORKSHOP ON NEW WRITING CHAIRED BY FUMI OKIJI | NOVEMBER 7, 2017 | 620 LIBRARY PLACE

2016-17 CHIKE JEFFERS
POLITICS IN THE SOULS OF BLACK FOLK
MAY 17, 2017 | KRESGE 1515

2016-17 FUMI OKIJI

REVISITING ADORNO AND BLACK EXPRESSION

WITH ALEX WEHELIYE AND ANNA PARKINSON | FEBRUARY 7, 2017 | KRESGE 5-531



#### UPCOMING EVENTS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

PLEASE VISIT PLANITPURPLE OR CRITICALTHEORY.NORTHWESTERN.EDU/EVENTS/ FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION. TO JOIN THE CRITICAL THEORY LISTSERV, EMAIL CRITICALTHEORY@NORTHWESTERN.EDU.

#### October 11, 2023 | 4:00pm | Kresge 1515

THE HUMANIZATION OF NATURE

Featuring Cristoph Menke, Max Kade Distinguished Visiting Professor of German, Northwestern



CHRISTOPH MENKE: Professor of Practical Philosophy at Goethe Universität Frankfurt am Main (since 2009). PhD 1987: University of Konstanz, Philosophy; "Habilitation" 1995: Freie Universität Berlin, Philosophy. 1997-99: Associate Professor, New School for Social Research, New York; 1999-2008: Full Professor, University of Potsdam

#### October 16, 2023 | 4:00pm | Kresge1515

NIETZSHE AND THE REPRESSION OF INSTRUMENTALITY

#### Featuring Dimitris Vardoulakis, University of Western Sydney



DIMITRIS VARDOULAKIS works on political, social and cultural philosophy. His is primarily interested in how materialist philosophy conceives democracy and sovereignty, with a particular focus on conceptions of technology. What binds these diverse fields is the attempt to reassess epicureanism, an undervalued and under-researched school of thought from antiquity whose modern proponents, such as Spinoza, faced persecution. Dimitris is currently serving as the Chair of the Australasian Society for Continental Philosophy, and is a member of Western Sydney University's Human Research Ethics Committee.

#### October 23, 2023 | 5:00pm | Location TBA

AESTHETICS & SEXUAL DISSIDENCE IN LATIN AMERICA

#### Featuring Mariano Lopez Seane, UNTREF Argentina



MARIANO LOPEZ SEOANE will present on his recently published book, Donde esta el peligro. Esteticas de la disidencia sexual [Where danger lies. Aesthetics of Sexual Dissidence] and particularly on aesthetic forms of protests around AIDS crisis in Latin America, with responses from Prof. Miguel Caballero (S&P - Art History) and graduate student Andres Mendieta.

#### April 12, 2023 | Time TBA | Location TBA

TITLE FORTHCOMING

Featuring Robin Celikates, Institut für Philosophie, Freie Universität Berlin



ROBIN CELIKATES: Professor of Social Philosophy and Anthropology D.D. of the "Center for Humanities and Social Change" Research interests: critical theory, social philosophy, political philosophy, theory of democracy

#### Fall 2024 | Time TBA | Location TBA

A pre-publication workshop and lecture featuring **Alia Al-Saji**, McGill University, chaired by **José Medina**, on Al-Saji's manuscript, *Hesitation: Critical Phenomenology, Colonial Duration, and the Affective Weight of the Past*. Event will involve graduate respondents.



ALIA AL-SAJI has a PhD in Philosophy from Emory University (2002), following an MA in Philosophy from K. U. Leuven (1995) and a Bachelor of Arts & Science (McMaster University, 1993). She has taught at McGill since 2002. Her work brings together and critically engages 20th-century phenomenology and French philosophy, on the one hand, and critical race, decolonial, and feminist philosophies, on the other.

#### 2022-23 EVENTS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

PLEASE VISIT PLANITPURPLE OR CRITICALTHEORY.NORTHWESTERN.EDU/EVENTS/ FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ON EVENTS OF SPECIAL INTEREST. EVENTS ARE ALSO FREQUENTLY ANNOUNCED ON THE CRITICAL THEORY PROGRAM LISTSERV. REQUESTS TO JOIN THE LISTSERV CAN BE MADE BY EMAILING CRITICALTHEORY@NORTHWESTERN.EDU.

#### PAST EVENTS:

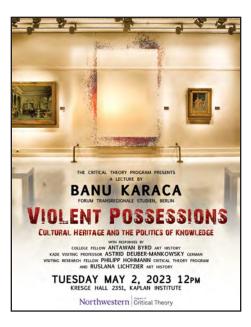
#### May 2, 2023 | 12:00pm | Kaplan Institute, Kresge 2351

VIOLENT POSSESSIONS: CULTURAL HERITAGE AND THE POLITICS OF KNOWLEDGE

LUNCHTIME PUBLIC LECTURE WITH GRADUATE AND FACULTY RESPONDENTS

Featuring **Banu Karaca**, Art Histories & Aesthetic Practices, ICI
Berlin Institute for Cultural Inquiry

BANU KARACA is an anthropologist working at the intersection of political anthropology, art and aesthetics, nationalism and cultural policy, museums and commemorative practices. She holds a PhD from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York.



# AND: GRADUATE STUDENT WORKSHOP WITH ROMY OPPERMAN A SECURITY FOR THE STATE OF THE

#### March 30, 2023 | 4:00pm | Kaplan Institute, Kresge 2351

LIBERATION ECOLOGY: MAROONAGE, MINING, AND SYLVIA WYNTER'S *BLACK METAMORPHOSIS* GRADUATE STUDENT LUNCH WORKSHOP, PUBLIC LECTURE

#### Featuring Romy Opperman

MELLON POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW IN PHILOSOPHY THE NEW SCHOOL FOR SOCIAL RESEARCH

ROMY OPPERMAN's research bridges Africana, continental, decolonial, environmental, and feminist philosophy to foreground issues of racism and colonialism for environmental ethics and justice. Specifically, Opperman's work is oriented by eco-philosophies that trouble theories of justice inherited from liberal political philosophy, and by ontological politics and practices of freedom operative in racial ecologies, place-based movements, and struggles over land and "the environment."



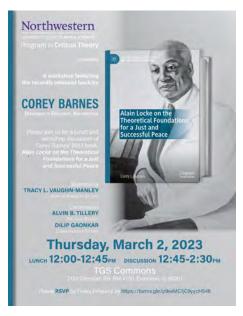


#### 2022-23 EVENTS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

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#### PAST EVENTS:





Friday, March 2, 2023 | 12:00pm | TGS Commons

BOOK WORKSHOP

A workshop discussion of Corey Barnes' 2022 book, Alain Locke on the Theoretical Foundations for a Just and Successful Peace

Featuring

Corey L. Barnes

PHILOSOPHY, NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

Tracy L. Vaughn-Manley

African-American Studies, Northwestern University

Alvin B. Tillery

POLITICAL SCIENCE, NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

Dilip Gaonkar

COMMUNICATION STUDIES, NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY



#### 2021-22 EVENTS OF SPECIAL INTEREST



#### Monday, February 20, 2023 | 10am & 4pm | Kresge 2351

PLURALITIES OF POWER: BIOPOLITICS, PREGNANCY & ABORTION IN THE AMERICAS

LUNCHTIME DISCUSSION OF PRE-CIRCULATED PAPERS AND PUBLIC LECTURE

Discipline Not Alien to the Law: Abortion and Rights Revocability After Roe and Foucault Penelope Deutscher NORTHWESTERN

*Life-Protecting Neoliberalism:* Hayek and the Biopolitics of Abortion in Chile Marina Martínez Mateo Akademie der bildenden künste münchen



*Trapped in the Political Real:* Imagining Black Motherhood Beyond Pathology and Protest Candice Merritt NORTHWESTERN

Friendship as Disobedience: Abortion Law and the Politics of Accompaniment in Mexico Amy Krauss University of California, Santa Cruz

Co-sponsored by the Program in Gender & Sexuality Studies













# INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM OF CRITICAL THEORY PROGRAMS (ICCTP)



In December 2016, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation awarded a \$1,525,000 grant to the University of California, Berkeley and \$1,020,000 to Northwestern University to establish the International Consortium of Critical

Theory Programs (ICCTP). In its first three years, the initiative was co-directed by Judith Butler (UC Berkeley) and Penelope Deutscher (Northwestern University).

At UC Berkeley, the Consortium maintains a website, www.criticaltheoryconsortium.org, with information on nearly 300 critical theory programs, centers, and projects in Africa, South and Southeast Asia, Latin America, the United States, Europe and its peripheries, the Balkans as well as the Middle East, Russia, and East Asia. It also convenes conferences and publishes a book series, Critical South, with Polity Press and the journal *Critical Times: Interventions in* Global Critical Theory. It supported the UC Irvine Libraries Critical Theory Archive. Under the direction of Northwestern University, the Critical Theory in the Global South project developed new teaching curricula reflective of critical theory's global reach, supporting new international faculty and graduate student exchanges, workshops, translations, and links between critical theory scholars at institutions in Latin America, North America, and South Africa.

The Northwestern project was developed by professors from African Studies, Anthropology, Comparative Literary Studies, English, Gender and Sexuality Studies, German, Latin American Studies, Philosophy, and Spanish and Portuguese. Events in AY 2019-20 included the workshop *Errant Syllabi: Latin American and Latinx Feminist, Cuir/Queer, and Gender Theory* (October 18-20); Mario Bellatin, Daniel Link, and Mariano Seoane as visiting speakers (January); and a culminating conference in Santiago, Chile (June).

Critical Theory in the Global South projects at Northwestern included: "Indian Ocean Epistemologies" (Evan Mwangi, NU, with Tina Steiner, Stellenbosch University, South Africa); "Trauma, Politics, and the Uses of Memory" (Anna Parkinson, NU with Sarah Nuttall, University Witwatersrand, South Africa); "Aesthetics and the Critique of Political Theology" (Peter Fenves, NU, with Eduardo Sabrovsky, Universidad Diego Portales, Chile); "Circulating Anarchisms and Marxisms in the Andes" (Jorge Coronado, NU, with Víctor Vich, Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú); "After Foucault: Pluralizing Modernity, Sex, Biopolitics, and Neoliberalism" (Penelope Deutscher, Alejandra Uslenghi, (NU) with Daniel Link and Mariano Seoane (Universidad Tres de Febrero and UBA, Argentina); "Appropriation and Its Discontents" (Huey Copeland, NU, with Athi Mongezeleli Joja, University of the Witswatersrand); "Critical Epistemology, Knowing through Gender and the Decolonial" (José Medina, NU, and Cintia Martinez Velasco, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Mexico); and a collective project: The Decolonization of Critical Theory.

Rutgers, Fordham, and Yale were also collaborators on the project. Linking with colleagues at UNAM, Universidad Metropolitana de Ciencias de la Educación and the Latin American Philosophy of Education Society (LAPES), Andrew Parker (Rutgers) and two Northwestern alum, Samir Haddad (Fordham) and Paul North (Yale), convened the projects "The University and Its Publics: North, South, and in Between," "Technologies of Critique: New Sources for Critical Theory", and "Hacer Escuela/Inventing School: Rethinking the Pedagogy of Critical Theory" (Critical Theory in the Global South).

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM OF CRITICAL THEORY PROGRAMS (ICCTP) AND ITS MAILING LIST, EMAIL INFO.ICTCONSORTIUM@BERKELEY.EDU

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE CRITICAL THEORY IN THE GLOBAL SOUTH CURRICULUM PROJECT CONVENED AT NORTHWESTERN, CONTACT CRITICALTHEORY@NORTHWESTERN. EDU OR VISIT: CRITICALTHEORY. NORTHWESTERN.EDU/MELLON- PROJECT

#### 2023-24 VISITORS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

MAX KADE DISTINGUISHED VISITING PROFESSOR OF GERMAN, 2023-24 CHRISTOPH MENKE

Professor of Practical Philosophy at Goethe Universität Frankfurt am Main (since 2009). PhD 1987: University of Konstanz, Philosophy; "Habilitation" 1995: Freie Universität Berlin, Philosophy. 1997-99: Associate Professor, New School for Social Research, New York; 1999-2008: Full Professor, University of Potsdam

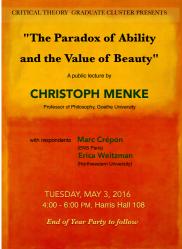
Book publications in English: The Sovereignty of Art. Aesthetic Negativity after Adorno and Derrida, MIT Press 1998; Reflections of Equality, Stanford UP 2006; Tragic Play. Tragedy. Irony and Theater from Sophocles to Beckett, Columbia UP 2009; Force. A Fundamental Concept of Aesthetic



Anthropology, Fordham UP 2012; Law and Violence. Christoph Menke in Dialogue, Manchester UP 2018; Critique of Rights, Polity Press 2020.

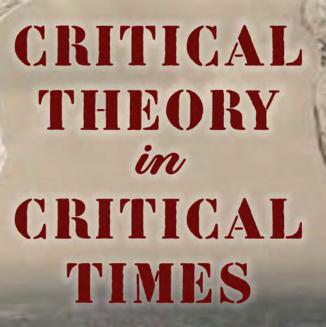
#### PAST NORTHWESTERN EVENTS FEATURING CHRISTOPH MENKE:



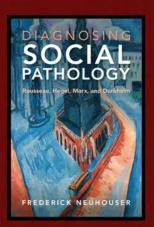








# **NOVEMBER 2024**

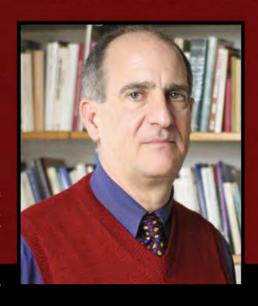


Reading Sesion in Preparation for the Workshop on

Diagnosing Social Pathology: Rousseau, Hegel, Marx, and Durkheim (Cambridge University Press, 2023)

Workshop discussion with

FREDERICK NEUHOUSER



Northwestern | Critical Theory

