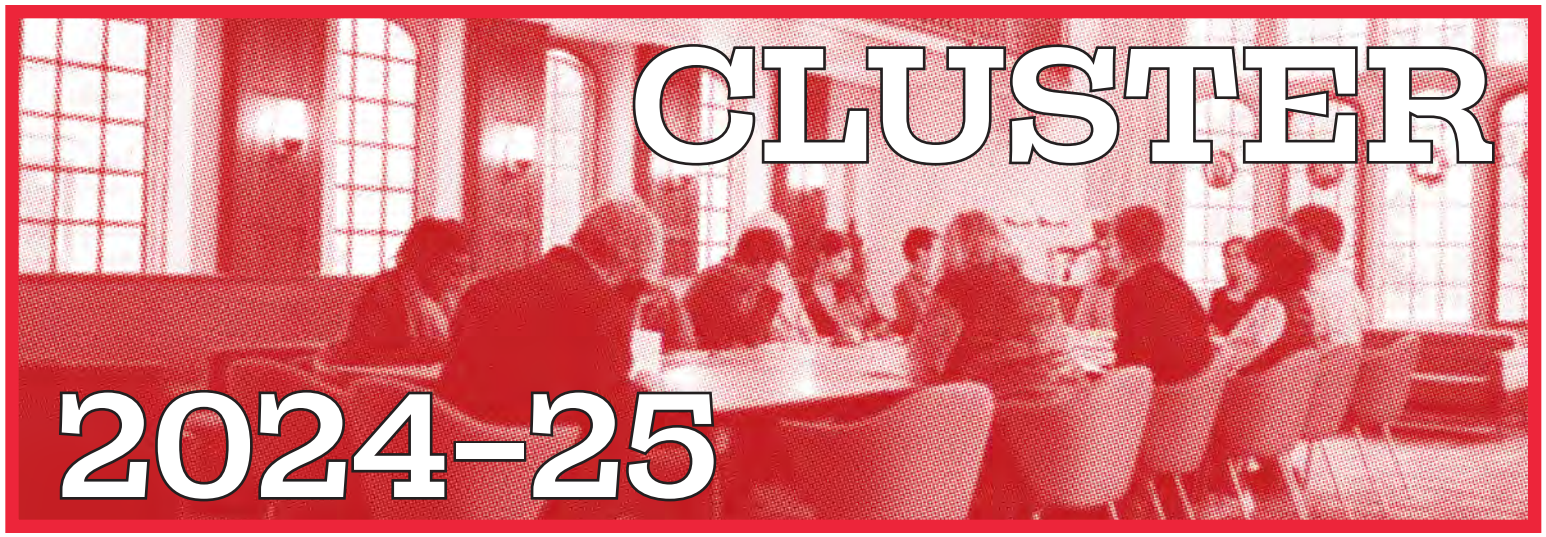
CRITICAL

THEORY



CLUSTER

2024–25

Northwestern | Program in 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 fi ld 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 refl ction.

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 Certifi ates 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.

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CRITICAL THEORY CLUSTER READING GROUPS

ON-GOING READING GROUPS

Frederick Neuhouser, Diagnosing Social Pathology Rousseau, Hegel, Marx, and Durkheim | Thursday, October 24, 5:00-7:00pm | Harris Hall-108
RSVP to Abigail Iturra abigail.iturra@U.northwestern.edu by Oct. 4

PAST READING GROUPS

2023-24

Nationalism, Affect & Mourning: Critical Theory/Philosophy Reading Group | Race and Performance at the Edge of Theory

2022-23

BIOPOLITICS |In Search of Epistemic Justice | The Epistemology of Protest: Silencing, Epistemic Activism and the Communicative Life of Resistance, by José Medina, May 12, 2023 | Marx's Capital Reading Group

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 Certifi ate, 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 defi ed fi lds:

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:

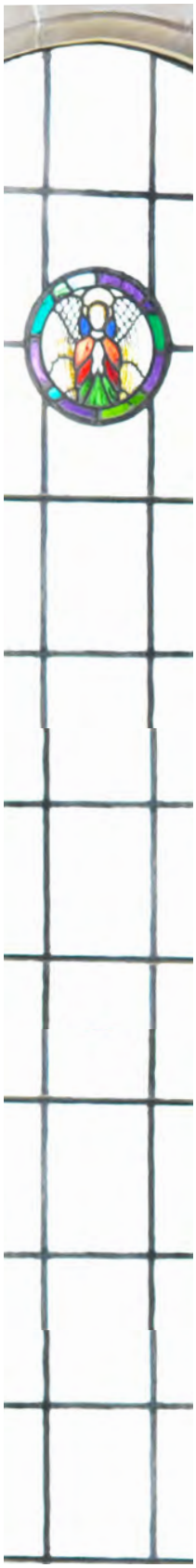
The concepts of progress and power in politics and in the study of politics: the sources of modern political critique in the Frankfurt School and phenomenology; the critique of positivism in the social sciences; the critique of sovereignty, identity, and race; empire and post-colonial politics.

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 signifi ance 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 Certifi ate Application. Th s 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 fi al approval and notifi ation 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 filling out a form on our website and providing the course number/title, description, syllabus (if available), and any other helpful information about the course as it relates to Critical Theory content.

Asian Languages & Cultures (ASIAN _ LC)

FQ 492/comp_lit 486: Human/Nonhuman/Posthuman (Byrnes)

Black Studies (BLK _ ST)

FQ 460: Race, Politics, Society, and Culture (Pattillo)
FQ 475: Genealogy of Racism as a Concept: Deconstruction & Governmentality (Hesse)
WQ 440-0-20 Black Historiography (Perry)
WQ 480-0-21 Black Futures and Technology (Johnson)
SQ 339: Unsettling Whiteness (Hesse)
SQ 370: Political Blackness Across the Americas (Hesse)
SQ 480/gndr _st 490: Afrofeminists: Black Women Challenging Colorblindness(Larcher)
SQ 480: Neo-Liberalism and its Discontents (Márquez)

Communication Studies (COMM _ ST)

FQ 414: Classical Rhetoric and Its Afterlives (Hariman)
FQ 425: Crowds, Riots, and the Politics of Disorder (Gaonkar)

Comparative Literary Studies (COMP _ LIT)

FQ 383/phil 315/gndr _st 490: Foucault and Fanon (Deutscher)
FQ 410/french 494: Worlds of Literature (Bush)
FQ 486/asian_lc 492: Human/Nonhuman/Posthuman (Byrnes)
FQ 487/musicol 535: Music Historiography (Dohoney)
WQ 411/german 401: German Literature and Critical Thought: Aesthetics and Political Theology (Fenves)
WQ 414/german 402: Theories of Realism (Weitzman)
WQ 441: Critical Practices: Aesthetics and Political Theology (Fenves)
WQ 486: Studies in Literature and the Disciplines: Time, World, Power (Torlasco)
WQ 487/spanport 450: Walter Benjamin's Small History of Photography (Uslenghi)
SQ 420: Wynter's Fanon: Race, Gender, Coloniality (We)
SQ 488/german 402: Special Topics in Comparative Literature (Weber)

English (ENGLISH)

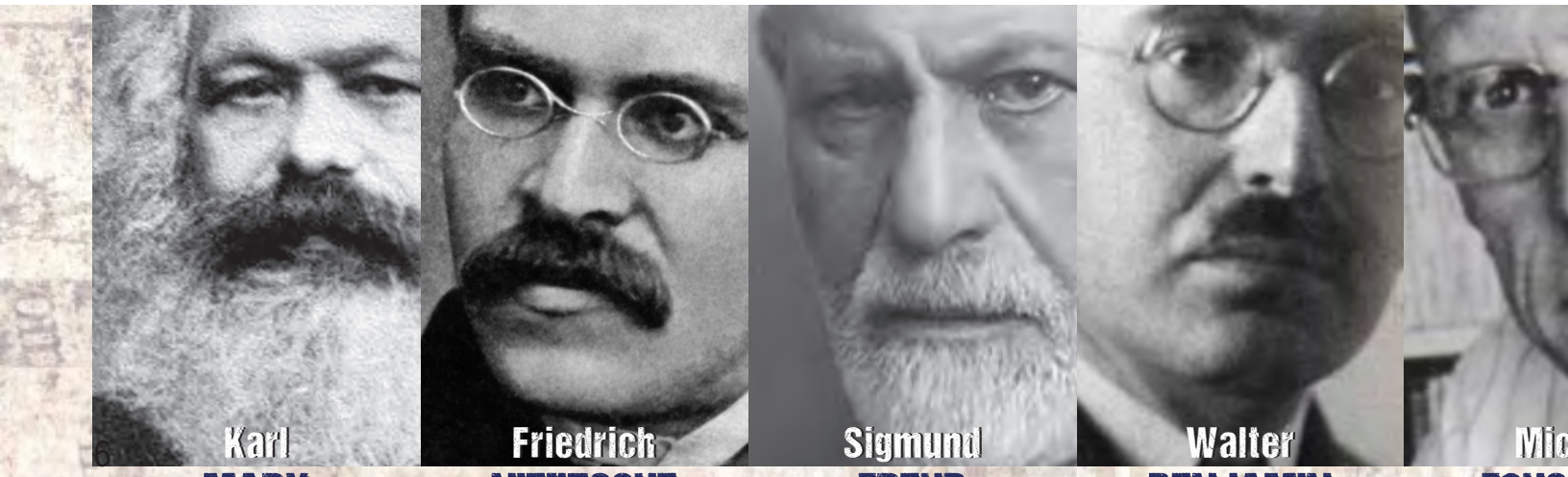
FQ 465: Studies in Colonial & Postcolonial Literature (Nadiminti)
WQ 397: Cultures of Play (Soni)
WQ 481: The Environmental Humanities--Studies in Literary Theory and Criticism (Dimick)
SQ 365: Studies in Postcolonial Literature: Inhumane Conditions (Nadiminti)
SQ 368: Studies in 20th and 21st Century Literature: Women Writing Worldliness (Froula)
SQ 441: Novel Utopias: Critique and Normativity in 18th Century Realism (Soni)
SQ 461: Translation Problems: Coloniality, Resistance, Solidarity (Hodge)
SQ 481: Studies in Literary Theory and Criticism: Mimesis and Its Doubles (West)

French and Italian (FRENCH)

FQ 494/comp_lit 410: Worlds of Literature (Bush)
WQ 492: Foucault and AIDS (Dupas)

Gender and Sexuality Studies (GNDR _ ST)

FQ 490/poli_sci 490: Gender, Power, Politics (Orloff)
FQ 490/gndr _st 490/phil 315: Foucault and Fanon (Deutscher)
WQ 490: Queer Theory (Enteen)
WQ 490: Knowledge and Politics (Stevens)
SQ 321/history 390: Gender, Race, and the Holocaust (Cushman)



SQ 332: Sex, Gender, Sexuality, Race and Technoscience (Partridge)
SQ 341: Women's Uprising: Thinking with Transnational Feminisms (Fu)
SQ 490/spanport 480: Reading Gender Otherwise: Indigenous Movements and Literature in Latin America (West)
SQ 490/blk_st 480: Afrofeminists: Black Women Challenging Colorblindness(Larcher)
SQ 490/religion 480: Queer and Transgender Studies in Religion (Schwarts)

German (GERMAN)

FQ 404: Affctive Passages (Parkinson)
WQ 401/comp_lit 411: German Literature and Critical Thought: Aesthetics and Political Theology (Fenves)
WQ 402/comp_lit 414: Theories of Realism (Weitzman)
SQ 402/comp_lit 488: Special Topics in Comparative Literature (Weber)

Global Avant-Garde and Modernist Studies (GAMS)

WQ 400/spanport 401: Introduction to Literary & Cultural Theory: Modernism and Medicine (Caballero)

History (HISTORY)

SQ 390/ gndr _st 321: Gender, Race, and the Holocaust (Cushman)

Latin American and Caribbean Studies (LATIN _ AM)

WQ 401: Special Graduate Topics; Crisis, Contentious Politics, and Critical Thought in Latin America (Valencia)

Musicology (MUSICOL)

FQ 535/comp_lit 487: Music Historiography (Dohoney)

Philosophy(PHIL)

FQ 315/comp_lit 383/gndr _st 490: Foucault and Fanon (Deutscher)
FQ 390: Feminist Philosophy (Southgate)
FQ 402: Proseminar II: Theories of Resistance (Medina)
FQ 423: Seminar in Contemporary Philosophy: Alain Locke (Barnes)
WQ 324: Studies in African American Philosophy (Barnes)
WQ 410: Special Topics in Philosophy: Human Rights (Lafont)
SQ 313 (graduate): Kant's Critique of Pure Reason (Zuckert)
SQ 375: Issues in Environmental Philosophy (Hettig-Rolfe)
SQ 414: Nietzsche's 'On The Genealogy of Morality' (Kirwin)
SQ 415: Studies in French Philosophy: Foucault and After: From Biopolitics to Necroresistance (Deutscher)
SQ 461: Seminar in Social and Political Theory: Theories of Exploitation (Brixel)

Political Science (POLI _ SCI)

FQ 490/religion 482: Religion Politics: Global Perspectives (Hurd)
WQ 450: Contemporary Theory and Research in Comparative Politics (Winters)
WQ 469: Politics after Biopolitics: Foucault and his Critics (Stevens)
SQ 384: International Responses to Mass Atrocities (Krcmaric)
SQ 390: Climate Change and Collective Action (McGrath)
SQ 390: Opposition to Capitalism in the 21st Century (Rice)
SQ 395: Black Political Thought (Tillery)

Religious Studies(RELIGION)

FQ 482/poli_sci 490: Religion Politics: Global Perspectives (Hurd)
WQ 471: Religion & Capitalism (Bielo)
SQ 376: Christianity and the Making of Modernity (Helmer)
SQ 482/gndr _st 490: Queer and Transgender Studies in Religious (Schwartz)

Sociology (SOCIOL)

FQ 406: Classical Theory in Sociological Analysis (Espeland)
FQ 460: Race, Politics, Society, and Culture (Pattillo)

Spanish and Portuguese (SPANPORT)

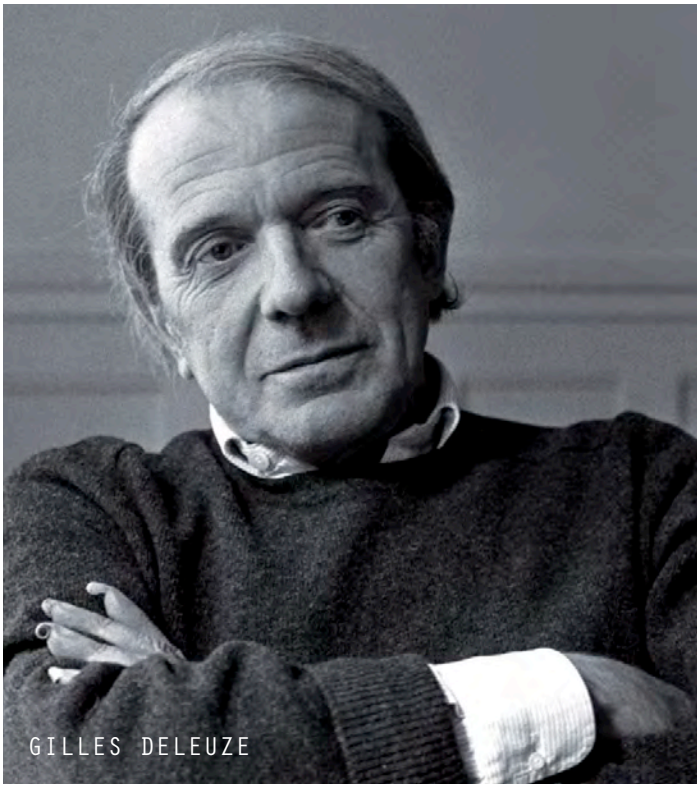
WQ 401/gams 400: Introduction to Literary & Cultural Theory: Modernism and Medicine (Caballero)
WQ 450/comp_lit 487: Walter Benjamin's Small History of Photography (Uslenghi)
SQ 397: Borders, Migrations, and Travel (Nuñez)
SQ 480: Reading Gender Otherwise: Theories of Gender and Indigeneity in "Latin America" (West)

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 non-western 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.



GILLES DELEUZE

HANNAH ARENDT

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." Th s 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

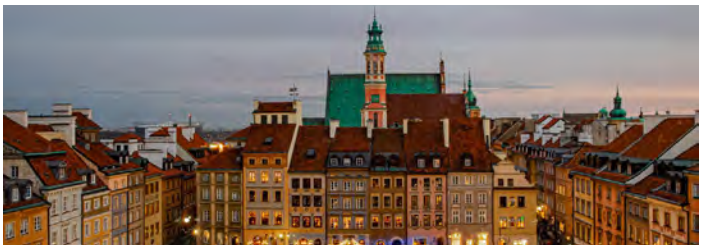
Why do we urge language training strenuously?

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 fi h-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 fi st acquired an introductory or early intermediate level. Again, this gives reason to start relevant language training as early as possible in your graduate enrollment.

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 qualifi d 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 Certifi ate in Critical Theory: the Graduate Certifi ate in Critical Theory (Goethe University of Frankfurt am Main Exchange Program). Five courses are currently required for the existing NU Graduate Certifi ate in Critical Theory. To complete the Graduate Certifi ate 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-program-institut-detudes-politiques-sciences-po

Proficie cy 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.

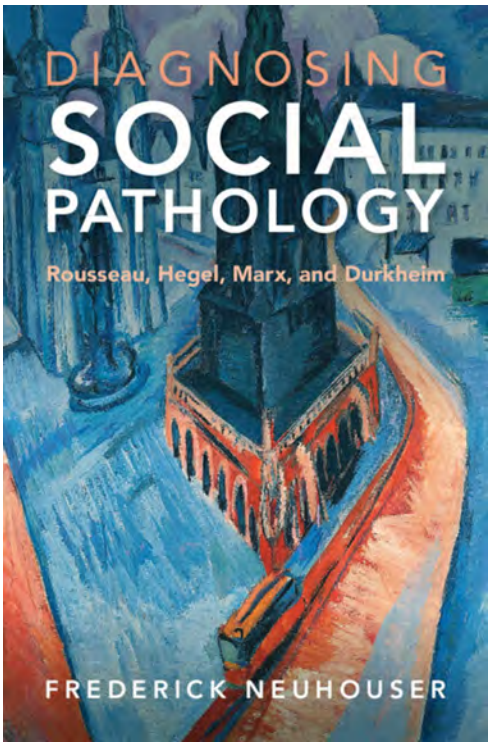
Conference Funding Opportunity

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 fi ld and in a small workshop setting. Th s 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 1, 2024, 3:30-7:30pm
Northwestern University Campus Harris Hall-108

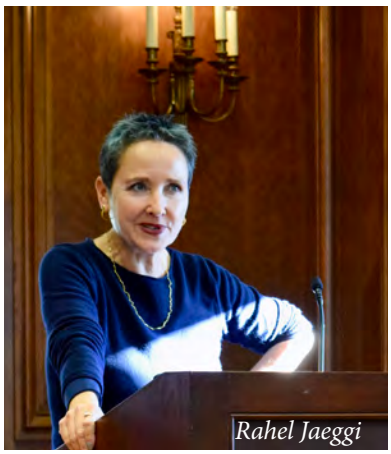
The 2024 Critical Theory in Critical Times annual series workshop focused around the work of Frederick Neuhouser, Viola Manderfeld Professor of German and a professor of Philosophy at Barnard College, Columbia University, and his 2022 book, *Diagnosing Social Pathology Rousseau, Hegel, Marx, and Durkheim*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



2025 CRITICAL THEORY IN CRITICAL TIMES

PROGRESS AND REGRESSION
A DISCUSSION WITH RAHEL JAEGGI

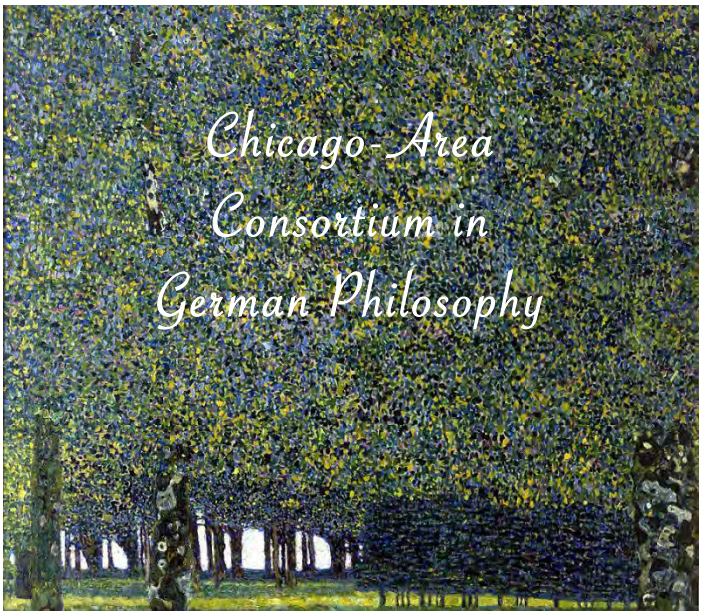
In her new book, Rahel Jaeggi defends the conceptual pairing of progress and regression as an indispensable socio-philosophical tool for critiquing the contemporary era. She views phenomena as progressive or regressive not only based on their outcomes, but on the forms of the social transformations themselves. By interrogating how regressive tendencies are enabled by experiential blockages that impede our ability to learn from past mistakes, Jaeggi develops a concept of progress that avoids Eurocentric distortions as well as the idea of the inevitability of progressive developments. Progress, Jaeggi shows, is not a path toward a predetermined goal but a never-ending process of emancipation.

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

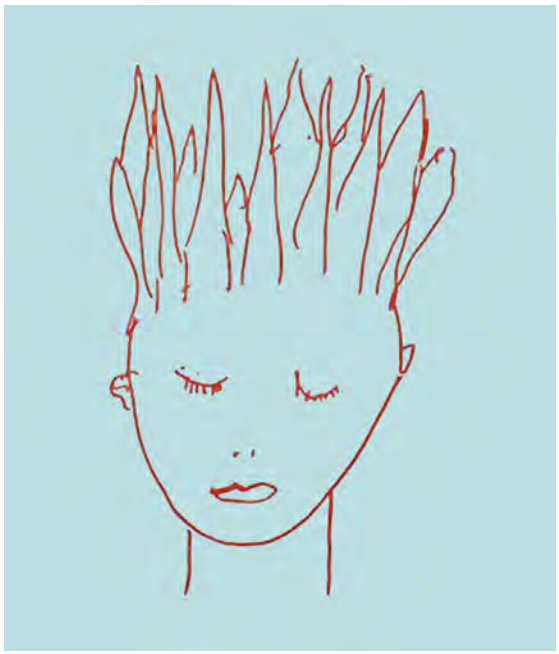
The Chicago Area Consortium in German Philosophy is a group of faculty and graduate students from Chicago area institutions, including Northwestern, DePaul, Loyola, UIC, University of Chicago, and Notre Dame, who share interests in German philosophy from Leibniz to the present.

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

The Summer Institute of Psychoanalysis

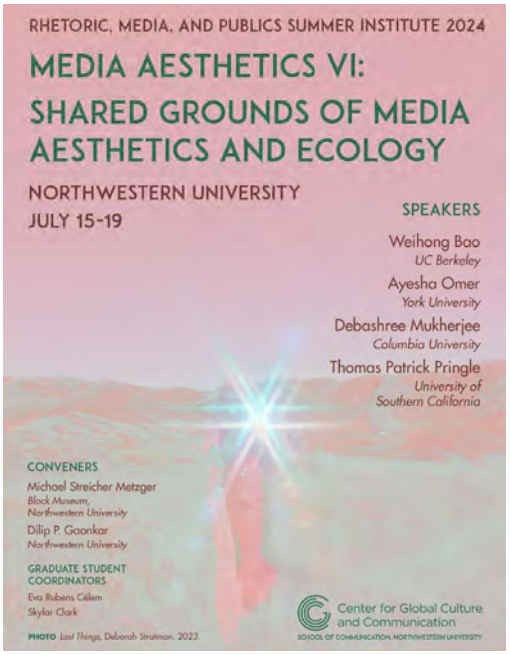


The Summer Institute of Psychoanalysis addresses the impact of psychoanalytic thought on what it does not consider to be its primary target: culture, as expressed by other branches of knowledge as well as media in the broadest sense of the word from literature, cinema, and performance arts to social 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 fi lds 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 2025 edition will be on the subject of **Psychoanalysis & Trauma, June 23-27, 2025**, and will take place at the Université Sorbonne-Nouvelle. The goal of this year's seminars will be to refl ct on how psychoanalysis may contribute to the future of trauma studies.

Participating Faculty for 2025 will include **Isabelle Alfandary**, Professor of American Literature & Critical Theory, Université Sorbonne Nouvelle and **Alessia Ricciardi**, Herman and Beaulah Pearce Miller Research Professor in Literature, Northwestern University.

Contact a-ricciardi@northwestern.edu



Rhetoric, Media and Public Culture Summer Institute

Media Aesthetics VI: Shared Grounds of Media Aesthetics and Ecology: held July 15-19, 2024.

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 6th 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.

Rehearsals: In Critical Race Studies (Prepublication Workshop Series)

2024-25 ALIA AL SAJI with JOSE MEDINA

emergent projects in critical race studies workshop. Manuscript discussion:
Hesitation: Critical Phenomenology, Colonial Duration, and the Affective Weight of the Past (Bergson, Merleau-Ponty, and Fanon).
Date to be confirmed

2022-23 AMY KRAUSS

PLURALITIES OF POWER: Biopolitics, Pregnancy and Abortion in the Americas
February 20, 2023 | Kresge 2351

2021-22 YALA KISUKIDI

DREAMT TERRITORIES and DIASPORIC POLITICS: Art, Futurity, and Philosophy
May 25, 2022 | Kresge 2351

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

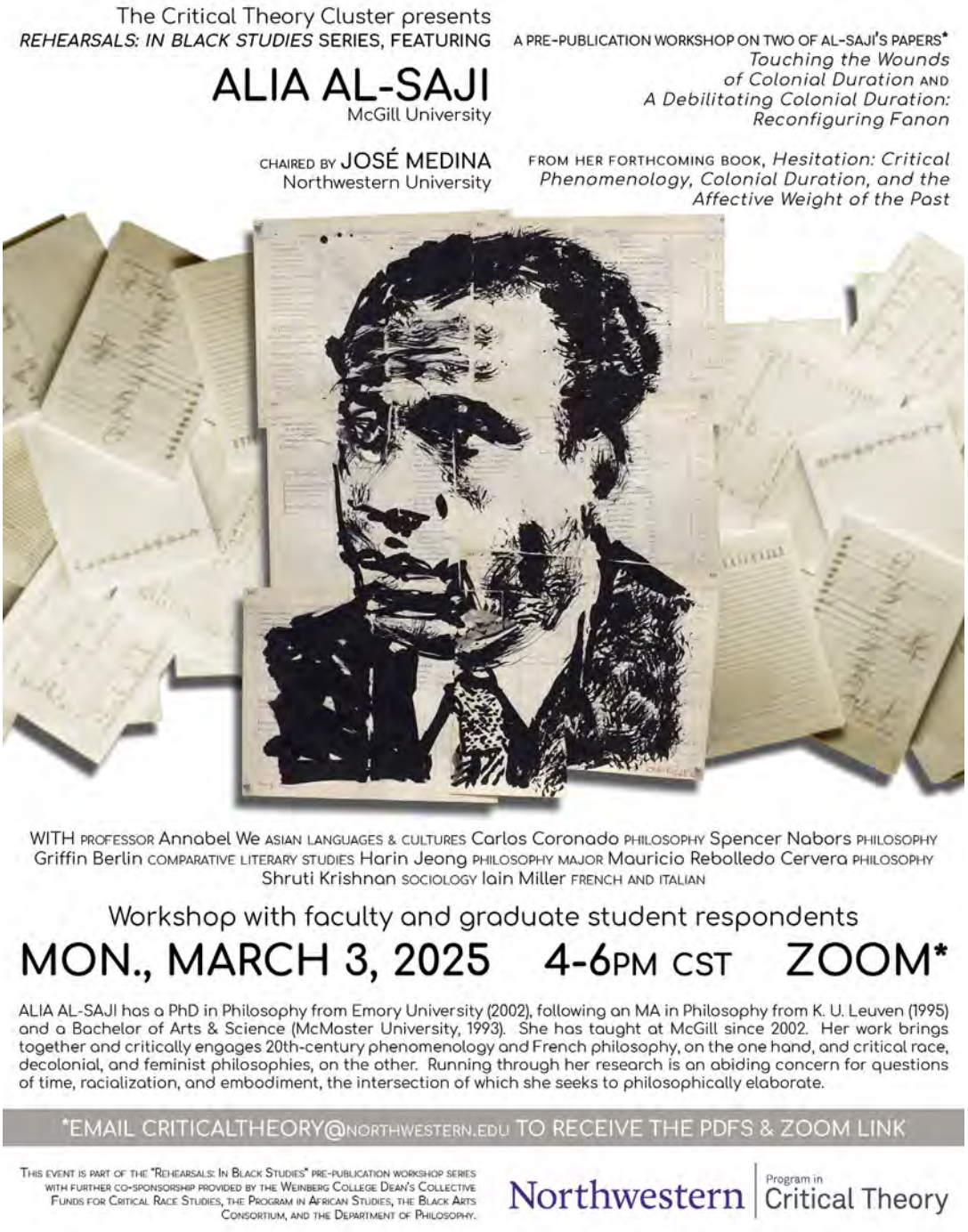
2016-17 FUMI OKIJI

Revisiting Adorno and Black Expression
with Alex Weheliye and Anna Parkinson | February 7, 2017 | Kresge 5-531

2024-25 EVENTS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

Please visit PlanItPurple or criticaltheory.northwestern.edu/events/ for the most up-to-date information on events of special interest.

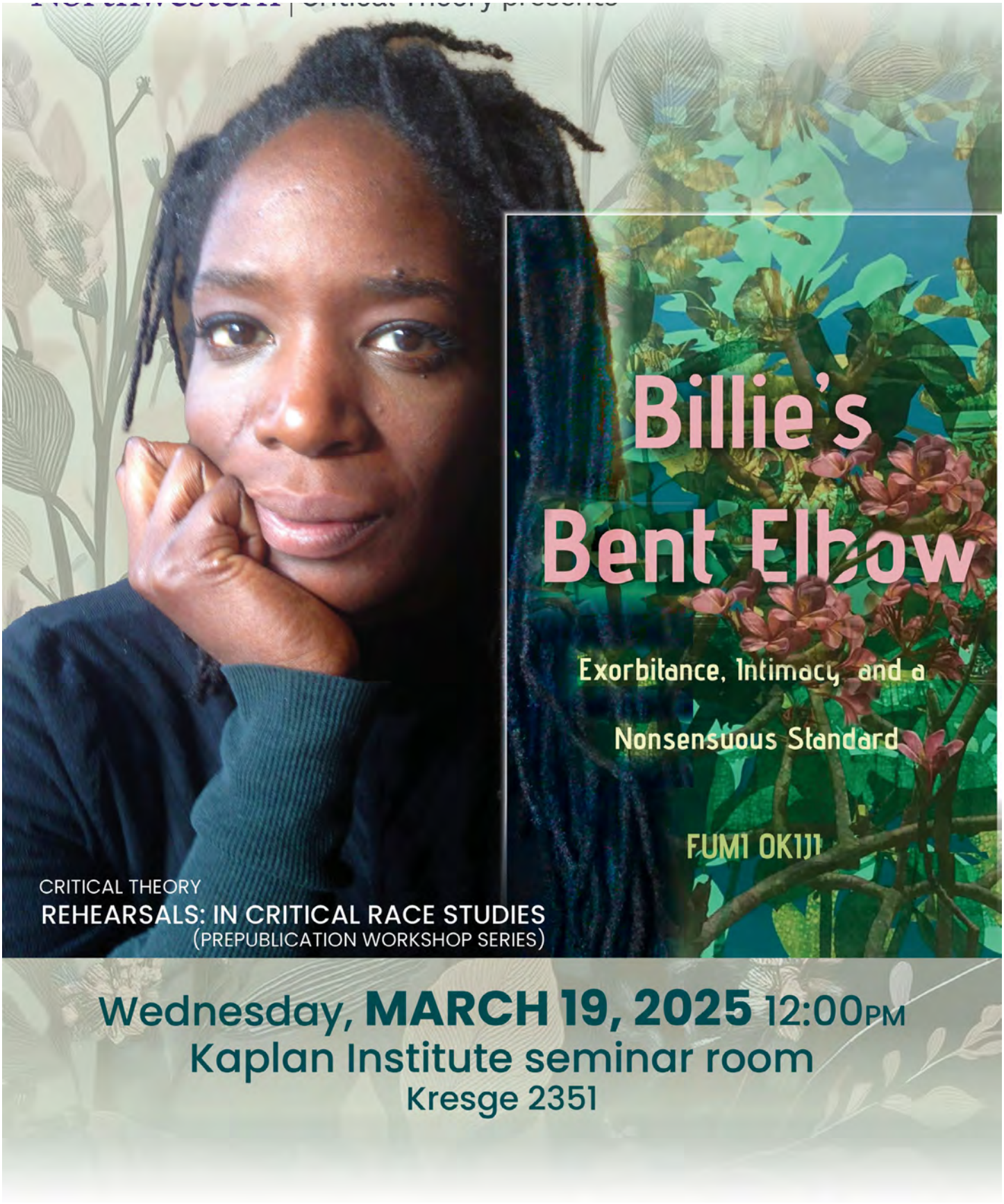
Alia Al-Saji has a PhD in Philosophy from Emory University (2002), following an MA in Philosophy from K. U. Leuven (1995) and a Bachelor of Arts & Science (McMaster University, 1993). She has taught at McGill since 2002. Her work brings together and critically engages 20th-century phenomenology and French philosophy, on the one hand, and critical race, decolonial, and feminist philosophies, on the other. Running through her research is an abiding concern for questions of time, racialization, and embodiment, the intersection of which she seeks to philosophically elaborate.



This graduate event is part of the Rehearsals: In Black Studies pre-publication workshop series convened by the Critical Theory Cluster, with further co-sponsorship provided by the Weinberg College Dean's Collective Funds for Critical Race Studies, The Program in African Studies, the Black Arts Consortium, and the Department of Philosophy. This series gives Northwestern's graduate students a unique opportunity to discuss with authors the process of finalizing book-length projects at their penultimate phase (previous participating authors have included Romy Opperman, Yala Kisukidi, Fumi Okiji, Fred Moten, Chike Jeffers, William Paris, and Sam Aranke).

2024-25 EVENTS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

Please visit PlanItPurple for upcoming events.



2024-25 EVENTS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

April 7, 2025

MARTIN SAAR, Goethe Universitaat, Frankfurt,
Lecture on Spinoza/Foucault; more details forthcoming

Studies in Philosophy, Psychology and Economics at Freie Universität Berlin from 1991 to 1997. 1995 to 1996 Fulbright Scholar at the New School for Social Research, New York. 2000 to 2004 research assistant at the Department of Philosophy at Goethe University Frankfurt. 2001 to 2002 Visiting Scholar at the New School University, New York. 2004 PhD. 2004 to 2011 research assistant at the Institute of Political Science at Goethe University Frankfurt. 2006 Theodor Heuss Lecturer at the New School for Social Research. 2011 Habilitation. Deputy professorships in Bremen, Hamburg, Frankfurt and Berlin. From 2014 to 2016 Professor of Political Theory at the Leipzig University. Since 2017 Professor of Social Philosophy at Goethe University Frankfurt.

April 13, 2025

JUDITH BUTLER, University of California, Berkeley
Morning workshop & discussion; more details forthcoming

Judith Butler is Distinguished Professor in the Graduate School and formerly the Maxine Elliot Chair in the Department of Comparative Literature and the Program of Critical Theory at the University of California, Berkeley. They received their Ph.D. in Philosophy from Yale University in 1984.

PAST EVENTS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

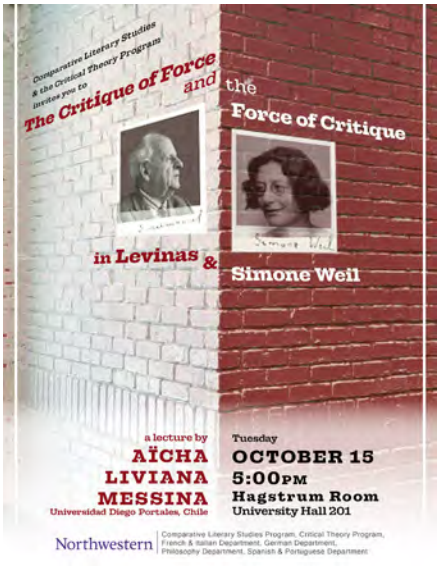
Events are frequently announced on the Critical Theory Program Listserv. Requests to join the listserv can be made by emailing criticaltheory@northwestern.edu.

Tuesday, October 15, 2024 | 12:00pm
Comparative Literary Studies seminar room
Kresge Hall 5531 *Hybrid/Zoom

GRADUATE WORKSHOP
The Letter of the Law:
Legal Narratives of Disobedience and Transgression

featuring
Aïcha Liviana Messina universidad diego portales, chile
Micol Bez northwestern, cls
Emma Brush stanford, english
Mauricio Oportus Preller northwestern, cls
Jesse Rothbard northwestern, spanish & portuguese

Tuesday, October 15, 2024 | 5:00pm
Hagstrum Room , University Hall 201



LECTURE
The Critique of Force and the Force of Critique
In Levinas and Simone Weil

A lecture by
Aïcha Liviana Messina
universidad diego portales, chile

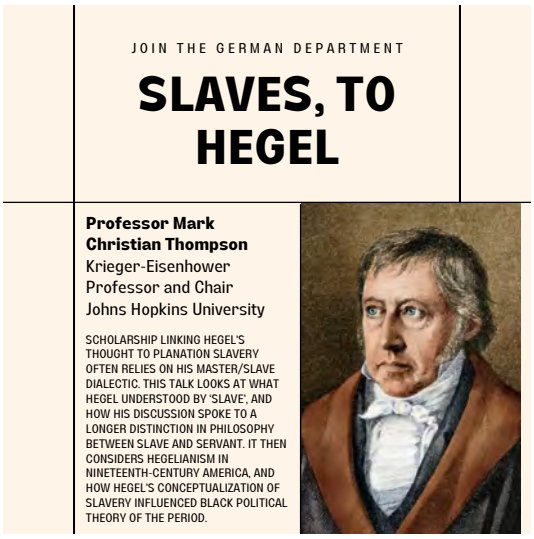
Sponsored by *Comparative Literary Studies Program, Critical Theory Program, French & Italian Department, German Department, Philosophy Department, Spanish & Portuguese Department*

Thursday, November 14, 2024 | 6:30pm
Harris Hall-108 , 1881 Sheridan Road

LECTURE
Slaves, to Hegel

A lecture by
Mark Christian Thompson
Johns Hopkins University

Scholarship linking Hegel's thought on plantation slavery often relies on his master/slave dialectic. This talk looked at what Hegel understood by "slave," and how his discussion spoke to a longer distinction in philosophy between slave and servant. It then considered Hegelianism in 19th-Century Ameria, and how Hegel's conceptualization of slavery influenced Black policital theory and the period.



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 fi st 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 refl ctive 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, Pontific a 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

MAX KADE DISTINGUISHED VISITING PROFESSOR OF GERMAN, 2024-25
NIKOLAUS MÜLLER-SCHÖLL

Nikolaus Müller-Schöll is chair of theatre studies at the Department of Theatre, Film and Media Studies of the Goethe-University in Frankfurt/Main since October 2011, head of this department and at the same time head of the master program in dramaturgy as well as of the international master in Comparative Dramaturgy and Performance Research. Before he was professor for theatre studies at the Department of German II of the University of Hamburg as well as co-director of the master program in performance studies for two and a half years (2009-2011).

He studied in Avignon, Hamburg, and Baltimore German (with a major in theater and media), art history, philosophy, and political science, and fin shed his studies with an M.A. at Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore. He got a PhD at the Goethe-University Frankfurt with a dissertation on Walter Benjamin, Bertolt Brecht, and Heiner Müller (dissertation advisor: Hans-Thies Lehmann) and completed his habilitation at the Ruhr-University Bochum in Theater and Performance Studies. He also absolved a school of journalism in 1987/1988 and worked during his studies and afterwards as a free lance dramaturg, journalist, translator and critics. From 1996 to 2000 he worked as lecteur d'allemand at the Ecole Normale Supérieure, Rue d'Ulm, in Paris. From 2000 to 2002 he coordinated the Frankfurt Graduate program on "Experience of time and aesthetic perception". Afterwards he worked as a fellow of the Maison de Science de l'Homme at the department of theatre studies of the Université de Paris 10, Nanterre.

Between 2004 and 2009 he worked as assistant professor at the department of theatre studies of the Ruhr-University Bochum. From 2007-2008 he substituted for Heiner Goebbels as professor at the Department of applied theatre studies in Gießen. He curated numerous conferences and workshops and conceived and directed in the year of 2010 the international summer academy Hamburg "Performing Politics". In 2016 he directed together with Gerald Siegmund the international congress "Theatre as critique" in Frankfurt and Gießen. He is currently Vice-President of the German Society for Theatre Studies (Gesellschaft für Theaterwissenschaft) and a member of several boards and juries.

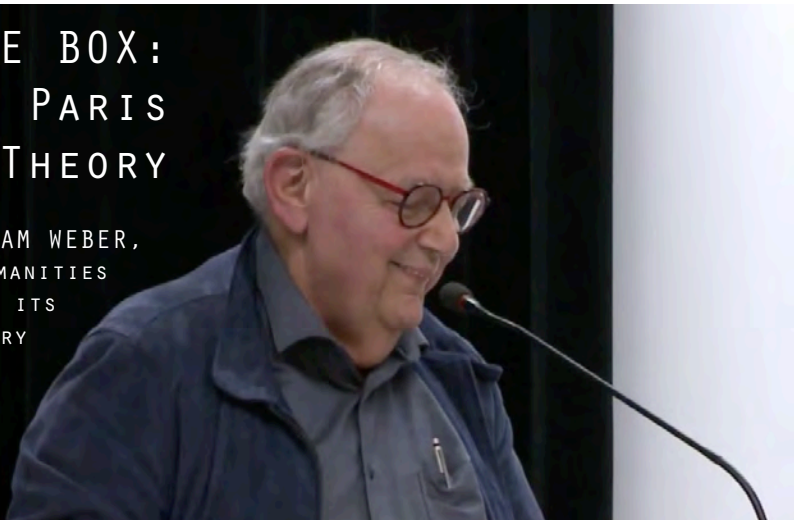
His major research interests are: Theatre studies as critical science, questions concerning theatre, theory, literature, and politics. Theater as "Ereignis" (event), the question of alterity, the gesture, the fi tioning of the political, theater as work on the evil, potentiality, representation "after Auschwitz", theatre architecture as built ideology etc. Furthermore he continues to work on the objects of his PhD and his habilitation: Benjamin, Brecht, Heiner Müller, Kleist as well as the "Comical as paradigm of the experience of modernity" (1700 until present). He published amongst others: Das Theater des 'konstruktiven Defaitismus'. Lektüren zur Theorie eines Theaters der A-Identität bei Walter Benjamin, Bertolt Brecht und Heiner Müller. Frankfurt/M. und Basel 2002; Politik der Vorstellung (ed. with Joachim Gerstmeier), Berlin 2006; Schauplatz Ruhr, Berlin 2007 (ed. with Ulrike Haß); Was ist eine Universität? Schlaglichter auf eine ruinierte Institution, Bielefeld 2009. (ed. with Ulrike Haß); Heiner Müller sprechen, Berlin 2010. (ed. with Heiner Goebbels); Performing politics, Berlin 2012. (ed. with André Schallenberg and Mayte Zimmermann); Unterm Blick des Fremden. Theaterarbeit nach Laurent Chétouane, Bielefeld 2015. (ed. with Leonie Otto)

2024-25: **Nikolaus Müller-Schöll** will give a lecture on Brecht:

Theater for Everyone and No One: "Opportunity" and "Refractory" Practice in Brecht's Work after 1937

date and d et ails fo r thc oming.

THINKING OUT OF THE BOX: 35 YEARS OF THE PARIS PROGRAM IN CRITICAL THEORY



An appreciation of retiring professor SAM WEBER,
Avalon Foundation Professor of Humanities
at Northwestern and co-director of its
Paris Program in Critical Theory

DECEMBER 6-7, 2024
Maison Heinrich Heine
(Cité universitaire), Paris, France

VISIT CRITICALTHEORY.NORTHWESTERN.EDU FOR VIDEOS OF EACH DISCUSSION

Jour 1 - Vendredi 06 déc 2024

WELCOME: **Franziska Humphreys**
director maison heinrich heine, cité universitaire
Introduction: **Samuel Weber**

ROUNDTABLE 1
Moderator: **Sarah Lorgan-Khanyile,** harvard university
Peter Jaros franklin & marshall college
Katy Arnold depaul university
Patrick Crogan university of the west of england

ROUNDTABLE 2
Moderator: **Rosa Martins** depaul university
Nicoletta Pireddu georgetown university
Laura Chiesa university at buffalo, suny
Ricardo Ortiz georgetown university

ROUNDTABLE 3
Moderator: **Amanda Parraguez** northwestern university
Steven Tester georg-august university, göttingen
Christopher Reid goethe university, frankfurt/main
Henri Southgate university of wisconsin, madison
Edward R. O'Neill quinnipiac university

ROUNDTABLE 4
Moderator: **David E. Johnson** university at buffalo, suny
Jan Cao east china normal university
Bishupal Limbu portland state university
Lily Woodruff michigan state university

ROUNDTABLE 5
Moderator: **Marton Farkas** harvard university
Nell Wasserstrom university of lausanne
Rob Ryder northwestern university
Matt Gilmore king's academy

ROUNDTABLE 6 + General Discussion
Moderator: **Robert Swistelnicki** northwestern university
Vinay Swamy vassar college
Deborah Goldgaber louisiana state university
Maziyar Faridi clemson university

Jour 2 - Samedi 07 déc. 2024 - ENS Paris
Présentation du colloque par **Marc Crépon** et **Samuel Weber**

ROUNDTABLE 7
Moderator: **Roman Hutter** northwestern university
Jörn Etzold ruhr universität bochum
NikolausMüller-Schöllgoethe-universität,frankfurt/main
Julia Ng golds mith's, university of london

ROUNDTABLE 8
Moderator: **Stanley Bill** cambridge university
Ethan Kleinberg wesleyan university
Jeffrey Geiger university of essex
Jennifer Croft university of tulsa

ROUNDTABLE 9
Moderator: **Sarah Dwider** northwestern university
Amr Kamal the city college of new york
Victoria Duckett deakin university, melbourne
Michal Klosinski university of silesia in katowice, poland

ROUNDTABLE 10
Moderator: **Bernardo Barzana** northwestern university
Caitlin Bruce university of pittsburgh
Wenhan Zhang loyola university, chicago
Eleonora Antonakaki Giannisi northwestern university

ROUNDTABLE 11
Chair and Moderator: **Michael Loriaux** northwestern university
Kevin McLaughlin brown university
Isabelle Alfandary université paris iii
Marc Crépon ens-cnrs
Julia Ng golds miths/university of london
Michael Levine rutgers university
Susan Bernstein brown university
Mark Robson university of dundee
Sam Weber northwestern university

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