



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



JOSÉ MEDINA Associate Director jose.medina@northwestern.edu



ALEJANDRA USLENGHI Associate Director a-uslenghi@northwestern.edu



CRITICAL THEORY FACULTY COMMITTEE



MARK ALZNAUER Associate Professor, Philosophy m-alznauer@northwestern.edu



MICHAEL LORIAUX Professor, Political Science m-loriaux@northwestern.edu



COREY BARNES Assistant Professor, Philosophy corey.barnes@northwestern.edu



EVAN MWANGI Associate Professor, English and Comparative Literature evan-mwangi@northwestern.edu



MARQUIS BEY Associate Professor, African American Studies marquis.bey@northwestern.edu



ANNA PARKINSON Associate Professor, German a-parkinson@northwestern.edu



MIGUEL CABALLERO Assistant Professor, Spanish and Portuguese Department miguel.caballero@northwestern.edu



JEONG EUN ANNABEL WE Assistant Professor, Asian Languages and Cultures jwe@northwestern.edu



PETER FENVES Professor, German p-fenves@northwestern.edu



SAMUEL WEBER Professor, German s-weber@northwestern.edu



RYAN DOHONEY Associate Professor, Musicology ryan.dohoney@northwestern.edu



REBECCA ZORACH Mary Jane Crowe Professor, Art and Art History rebecca.zorach@northwestern.edu



CHRISTINE HELMER Professor, German c-helmer@northwestern.edu



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



BARNOR HESSE Associate Professor, African American Studies, Sociology & Political Science hb-hesse@northwestern.edu

CRITICAL THEORY CLUSTER READING GROUPS

PAST READING GROUPS

2024 - 25

Frederick Neuhouser, Diagnosing Social Pathology Rousseau, Hegel, Marx, and Durkheim

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 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)

FALL 2025

ART-HIST 470-1

Land as Archive: The Aesthetics of Depletion and R - Studies in History of Architecture

HOLLYAMBER KENNEDY

ART-HIST 460-1

Transdisciplinary Experimentalism and the Art of B - Studies in 20th & 21st-Century Art

Krista Thompson

BLK-ST 480-0-20

Black Conceptual Methodologies - Graduate Topics in African American Studies

BARNOR HESSE

BLK-ST 480-0-22

Black Thought: Mbembe, Moten, da Silva, Wynter - Graduate Topics in African American Studies

THOMAS F. DEFRANTZ

COMM-ST: 454-0-1

Making and Unmaking of Audiences and Publics
DILIP GAONKAR

COMP-LIT 481-20

Marxism and Form - Studies in Literary Theory
LAKSHMI PADMANABHAN

FRENCH 493-1 / COMP-LIT 410-20

Topics in Literary Theory
- The Resonances of Trauma

ALESSIA RICCIARDI

GERMAN 401-1

Writing the Revolution - German Literature and Critical Thought 1750-1832

JORG KREIENBROCK

PHIL 410-1

Epistemic Injustice and Recognition Theory - Seminar: Special Topics in Philosophy

. José Medina

POLI-SCI 450-20

Contemporary Theory and Research in Comparative Politics

JEFFREY WINTERS

REL-STUD 481-20

Contemporary Theories of Religion

J MICHELLE MOLINA

REL-STUD 471-20

Language and Power - Studies in Religions

JAMES BIELO

SPAN-PORT 401-1 / COMP-LIT 486-1 Latin American Literature in the Anthropocene: Cri - Introduction to Literary and Cultural Theory

JORGE CORONADO

WINTER 2026

ENG 435

Studies in 17th-Century Literature: Epic, World, History

WILL WEST

GERMAN 403

German Literature, Critical Thought and New Media 1900-1945

ANNA PARKINSON

PHIL 414

Hegel's Phenomenology

MARK ALZNAUER

PHIL 423

Seminar in Contemporary Philosophy:

W.E.B. Du Bois

COREY BARNES

SPANPORT 455

Comparative Studies in Latin America and/or Iberian Literature and Cultures

ALEJANDRA USLENGHI

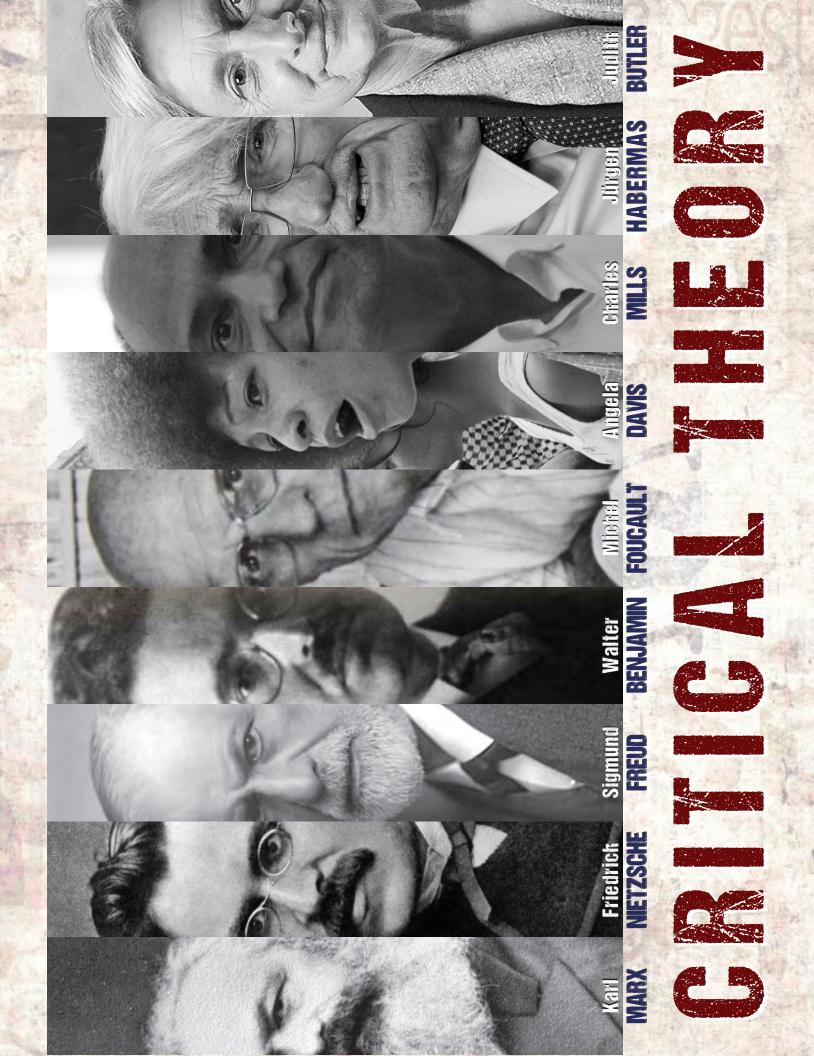
SPRING 2026

List will be updated as more information becomes available.

*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.





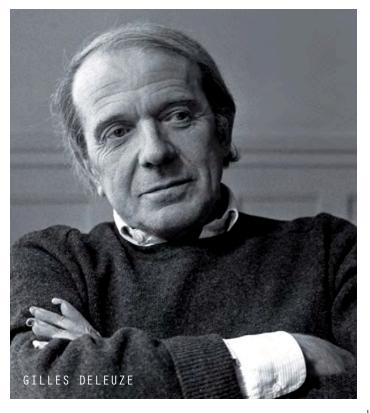


KAPLAN INSTITUTE RESEARCH WORKSHOPS

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 BERLIN PROGRAM IN CRITICAL THEORY

The Berlin Program in Critical Theory will be inaugurated in the Fall of 2026. It it affords up to five highly qualified advanced graduate students from a wide variety of disciplines a unique opportunity to spend an academic year in Berlin familiarizing themselves with research in different areas of interest to critical theory broadly conceived. During the Fall quarter, the Critical Theory Professor from Northwestern University will lead a weekly research seminar at the Center for Social Critique at Humboldt University and will act as first point of contact and liaison between Northwestern and other partner institutions in Berlin. The seminar will focus on questions of current concern in contemporary critical theory and can also serve as a forum for students' work in progress.

The Critical Theory Professor from Northwestern teaching the research seminar in the Fall of 2026 will be Professor Cristina Lafont.

CONTACT:

BERLIN PROGRAM IN CRITICAL THEORY KRESGE HALL 5-538 // 1880 CAMPUS DRIVE EVANSTON, IL 60208

DIRECTOR: PROFESSOR CRISTINA LAFONT PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR: DENISE MEUSER, DMEUSER@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.

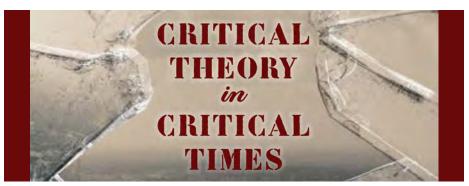
INFORMATION ABOUT FURTHER FUNDING AVAILABLE FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS READING PAPERS AT CONFERENCES IS AVAILABLE AT:
TGS.NORTHWESTERN.EDU/FUNDING/FELLOWSHIPS-AND-GRANTS/INTERNAL-FGRANTS



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.





PROGRESS AND REGRESSION
A DISCUSSION WITH RAHEL JAEGGI

October 10, 2025, 3:30-7:30pm TGS Commons, Northwestern University Campus 2122 Sheridan Rd. rm #140, Evanston, IL 60201



The 2025 Critical Theory in Critical Times annual series workshop focuses around the work of Rahel Jaeggi, , Professor of Practical Philosophy with an emphasis on Social and Political Philosophy and director of the Center for Humanities and Social Change Berlin at the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, and her 2025 book, *Progress and Regression* (Harvard University Press).

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 neverending process of emancipation.

CRITICAL THEORY IN CRITICAL TIMES ANNUAL WORKSHOP SERIES

PAST EVENTS

Nov. 2024: Frederick Neuhouser: Diagnosing Social Pathology: Rousseau

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)











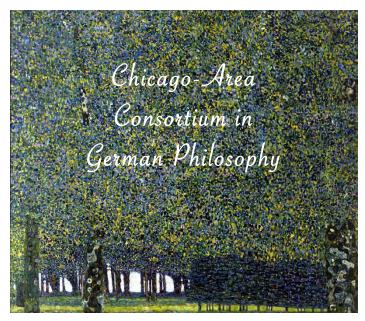
WORKSHOPS AND PROGRAMS OF INTEREST

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.

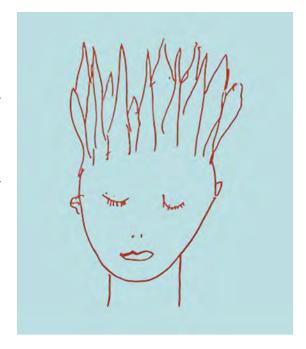
FOR MORE INFORMATION:
SITES.NORTHWESTERN.EDU/GERMANPHIL
IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT CONSORTIUM
EVENTS PLEASE CONTACT RACHEL ZUCKERT
AT R-ZUCKERT@NORTHWESTERN.EDU



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 2025 edition was on the subject of **Psychoanalysis & Trauma, June 23-27, 2025**, and took place at the Université Sorbonne-Nouvelle. The goal of this year's seminars was to reflect on how psychoanalysis may contribute to the future of trauma studies.

Participating Faculty for 2025 included **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 VII: *Excluded Media* held July 21-25, 2025

Currents in media studies over recent decades have not only expanded the range of scholarly inquiries into once-marginalized historical and cultural subjects, but broadened our recognition of what constitutes media in the first place. Indeed, inherently decentralizing studies of the networks, industries, infrastructures, and ecologies of communication have reinforced and deepened the push to recover suppressed histories and offer alternatives to dominant frameworks and narratives; excluded subjects often come into view where the signatures of mediation are at their most dispersed.



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 \mid November 7, 2017 \mid 620 Library Place

2016-17 CHIKE JEFFERS
POLITICS IN THE SOULS OF BLACK FOLK

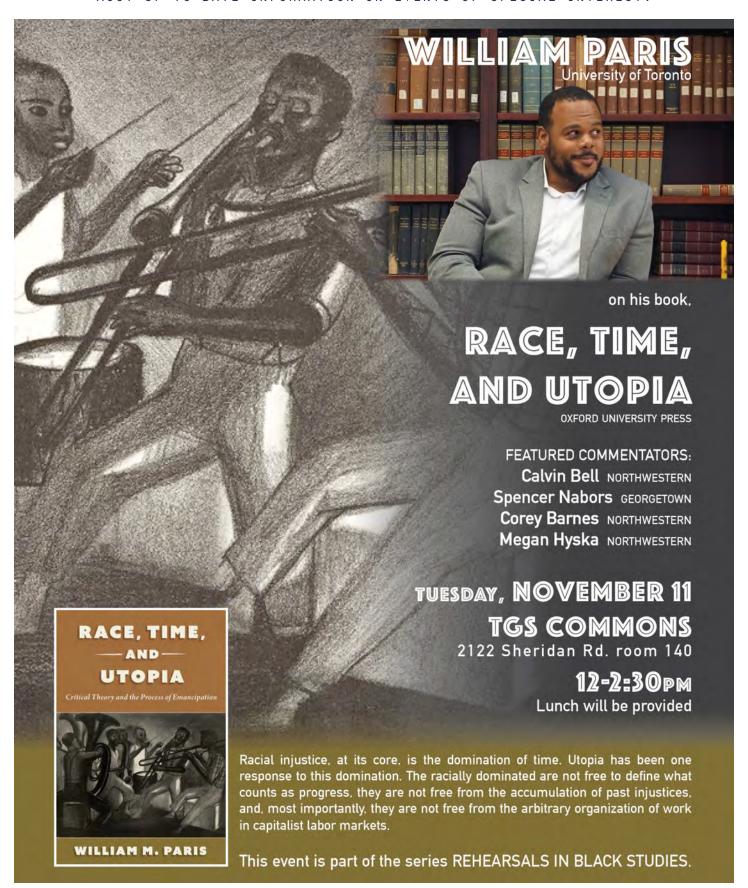
OLITICS IN THE SOULS OF BLACK FOLK MAY 17 , $2017 \mid \mathsf{Kresge}\ 1515$

2016-17 FUMI OKIJI

REVISITING ADORNO AND BLACK EXPRESSION

2025-26 EVENTS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

PLEASE VISIT PLANITPURPLE OR CRITICALTHEORY.NORTHWESTERN.EDU/EVENTS/ FOR THE MOST UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION ON EVENTS OF SPECIAL INTEREST.



2024-25 EVENTS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

PLEASE VISIT PLANITPURPLE FOR UPCOMING EVENTS.

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.

The Critical Theory Cluster presents REHEARSALS: IN BLACK STUDIES SERIES, FEATURING

ALIA AL-SAJI

A PRE-PUBLICATION WORKSHOP ON TWO OF AL-SAJI'S PAPERS*

Touching the Wounds
of Colonial Duration and
A Debilitating Colonial Duration:
Reconfiguring Fanon

CHAIRED BY JOSÉ MEDINA Northwestern University FROM HER FORTHCOMING BOOK, Hesitation: Critical Phenomenology, Colonial Duration, and the Affective Weight of the Past



WITH PROFESSOR Annabel We ASIAN LANGUAGES & CULTURES Carlos Coronado PHILOSOPHY Spencer Nabors PHILOSOPHY Griffin Berlin comparative literary studies Harin Jeong PHILOSOPHY MAJOR Mauricio Rebolledo Cervera PHILOSOPHY Shruti Krishnan sociology Iain Miller French and Italian

Workshop with faculty and graduate student respondents

MON., MARCH 3, 2025 4-6PM CST ZOOM*

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 tagether 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.

*EMAIL CRITICALTHEORY@NORTHWESTERN.EDU TO RECEIVE THE PDFS & ZOOM LINK

THIS EVENT IS PART OF THE "REHEARSALS: IN BLACK STUDIES" PRE-PUBLICATION WORKSHOP SERIES WITH FURTHER CO-SPONSORSHEP ROVIDED BY THE WEINBERG COLLEGE DEAN'S COLLECTIVE FUNDS FOR CRITICAL RACE STUDIES, THE PROGRAM IN APRICAN STUDIES, THE BLACK ARTS CONSORTIUM, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY.



This graduate event is part of the Rehearsals: In Black Studies pre-publication workshop series convened *by the Critical Theory* Cluster, with further cosponsorship 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

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

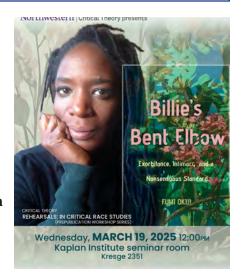
Judith Butler is Distinguished Professor in the Graduate School and formerly the Maxine Elliot Chair in the Department of Comparative Literature and the Program of Critical Theory at the University of California, Berkeley. They received their Ph.D. in Philosophy from Yale University in 1984.

PAST EVENTS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

Wednesday, March 19, 2025 | 12:00pm Kaplan Institute seminar room, Kresge Hall 2351

LECTURE: Billie's Bent Elbow, a pre-publication workshop with **Fumi Okiji**

Rehearsals in Black Studies



SLAVES, TO HEGEL

Professor Mark Christian Thompson Krieger-Eisenhower Professor and Chair Johns Hopkins University

SCHOLARSHIP LINKINO HEELS
THOUGHT TO PLANATION SLAVERY
OFTEN RELIES ON HIS MASTER/SLAVE
DIALECTIC. THIS TAIL K LOKS AT WHAT
HEGEL UNDERSTOOD BY SLAVE, AND
HOW HIS DISCUSSION SPOKE TO A
LONGER DISTINCTION IN PHILOSOPHY
BETWEEN SLAVE AND SERVANT. IT THEN
CONSIDERS HEGELANISM IN
NINTETENTH-CENTURY AMERICA, AND
HOW HEGEL'S CONCEPTUALIZATION OF
SLAVERY INFLUENCED BLACK POLITICAL
THEORY OF THE PERIOD.





1881 SHERIDAN ROAD

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

LECTURE: Slaves, to Hegel

Mark Christian Thompson

JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

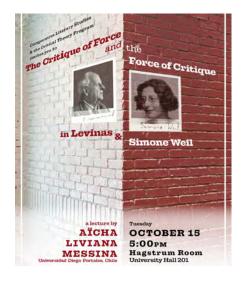
Scholarship linking Hegel's thought on plantation slavery often relies on his master/slave dialectic. This talk looked at what Hegel understood by "slave," and how his discussion spoke to a longer distinction in philosophy between slave and servant. It then considered Hegelianism in 19th-Century Ameria,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

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

Aïcha Liviana Messina universidad Diege Portales, Chile

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





Tuesday, October 15, 2024 | 12:00pm

Kresge Hall 5531 Comparative Literary Studies seminar room *and Zoom

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

featuring

Aïcha Liviana Messina universidad Diege Portales, Chile Micol Bez northwestern, CLS Emma Brush stanford, English

Mauricio Oportus Preller Northwestern, Cls Jesse Rothbard Northwestern, Spanish & Portuguese

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.

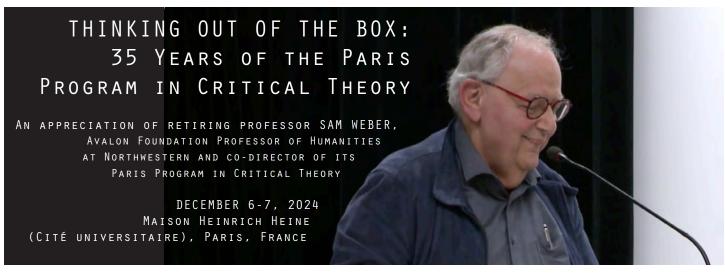
The Northwestern project was developed by professors from African Studies, Anthropology, Comparative Literary Studies, English, Gender and Sexuality Studies, German, Latin American Studies, Philosophy, and Spanish and Portuguese. Events in AY 2019-20 included the workshop *Errant Syllabi: Latin American 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



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 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 University Bochum NikolausMüller-Schöllgoethe-university, frankfurt/main Julia Ng Goldsmith'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 Goldsmiths/University of London Michael Levine RUTGERS UNIVERSITY Susan Bernstein BROWN UNIVERSITY Mark Robson University of Dundee Sam Weber NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

VISIT CRITICALTHEORY.NORTHWESTERN.EDU FOR VIDEOS OF EACH DISCUSSION.

CRITICAL THEORY in CRITICAL TIMES

Progress and Regression A Discussion With RAHEL JAEGGI

READING SESSION WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2025 6:00-7:30pm

In Preparation
for the Workshop on
Rahel Jaeggi's
PROGRESS AND
REGRESSION
(Harvard University
Press)

TGS Commons 2122 Sheridan Rd rm #140 RECEPTION TO FOLLOW. Fortschritt und Regression Rahel Jaeggi

Suhrkamp

WORKSHOP

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2025

3:30-6:30PM

TGS Commons
2122 Sheridan Rd rm #140
RECEPTION TO FOLLOW.



RAHEL JAEGGI

AMY ALLEN
PENN STATE
DILIP GAONKAR
NORTHWESTERN
PHILIP KITCHER
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
JOSÉ MEDINA
NORTHWESTERN

Invited Commentators:

PROFESSOR OF PHILOSOPHY AT HUMBOLDT UNIVERSITY, BERLIN

2025-26 VISITORS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

MAX KADE DISTINGUISHED VISITING PROFESSOR OF GERMAN, 2025-26 ULRIKE VEDDER

This Year's Distinguished Max Kade Professor is **Ulrike Vedder**. Prof Vedder is a Professor at the Institute for German Literature at the Humboldt Universität zu Berlin. Her scholarship and teaching interests include literature of (the long) modernity; comparative literary research; literary gender studies; literature and material culture (museum narratives, literary object culture, poetics of collecting, writing scenes); literary and cultural history of genealogy, generation and heritage; and narratives on the edge of death (coma, aging dementia, care, and poetry of the beyond). The German Department is excited about welcoming Professor Vedder to Northwestern in spring quarter, when she is slated to teach a graduate seminar.



