

2017–2018

# CRITICAL THEORY CLUSTER



**AFFILIATE** WITH THE CRITICAL THEORY CLUSTER AT  
[WWW.CRITICALTHEORY.NORTHWESTERN.EDU](http://WWW.CRITICALTHEORY.NORTHWESTERN.EDU).

**SIGN UP** FOR THE CRITICAL THEORY LISTSERV AT  
[CRITICAL-THEORY-CLUSTER@GOOGLEGROUPS.COM](mailto:CRITICAL-THEORY-CLUSTER@GOOGLEGROUPS.COM)  
TO RECEIVE AND SEND INITIATIVES FOR READING GROUPS, WORKSHOPS, AND SPEAKERS.

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 Mark Alznauer (m-alznauer@northwestern.edu). For information about the graduate cluster, contact the Director, Cristina Lafont and/or one of the Associate Directors, Anna Parkinson or Peter Fenves.



**Director**  
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**Associate Director, 2017-18**  
Anna Parkinson  
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**Associate Director**  
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**Associate Director (on leave 2017-18)**  
Penelope Deutscher  
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# CRITICAL THEORY FACULTY COMMITTEE



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**Rebecca Zorach (on leave 2017-18)**  
Mary Jane Crowe Professor in Art  
and Art History  
rebecca.zorach@northwestern.edu

# CRITICAL THEORY CLUSTER READING GROUPS

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## One-Time Reading Groups:

### **Axel Honneth Reading Group, Freedom's Right (2016-2017)**

In preparation for Prof. Honneth's visit and workshop, interested faculty and graduate students will meet to discuss this work. Contact: Cristina Lafont, [clafont@northwestern.edu](mailto:clafont@northwestern.edu)

### **Critical Theory Cluster Dissertation Symposium (2016-2017)**

Contact: Miriam Piilonen

### **Sara Ahmed, The Promise of Happiness Reading Group (2015-2016)**

Contact: Caitlyn Doyle, [CaitlynDoyle2015@u.northwestern.edu](mailto:CaitlynDoyle2015@u.northwestern.edu)

### **Dissertation Work-in-Progress Reading Group**

Graduates in 3rd/4th year and above participate in a fortnightly cross-disciplinary dissertation work in progress group.

Contact: Caitlyn Doyle, [CaitlynDoyle2015@u.northwestern.edu](mailto:CaitlynDoyle2015@u.northwestern.edu)

### **Wendy Brown Reading Group: Undoing the Demos (2015-2016)**

Contact: Cristina Lafont, [clafont@u.northwestern.edu](mailto:clafont@u.northwestern.edu)

## On-going Reading Groups:

### **Adorno Reading Group**

Contact: Eli Lichtenstein, [elilichtenstein2021@u.northwestern.edu](mailto:elilichtenstein2021@u.northwestern.edu)

### **Animal Studies Reading Group**

Contact: Sabrina Jaromin, [sabrinajaromin2012@u.northwestern.edu](mailto:sabrinajaromin2012@u.northwestern.edu)

### **Critical History of Capitalism Reading Group**

Contact: Gabby Garcia, [gabrielagarcia2014@u.northwestern.edu](mailto:gabrielagarcia2014@u.northwestern.edu)

### **Critical Theory Studies: Trauma**

Contact: Anna Parkinson, [a-parkinson@northwestern.edu](mailto:a-parkinson@northwestern.edu)

### **Indian Ocean Epistemologies Reading Group**

Contact: Kritish Rajbhandari, [kritishrajbhandari2012@u.northwestern.edu](mailto:kritishrajbhandari2012@u.northwestern.edu)

### **The Latin American Biopolitics Reading Group**

Contact: Carlos Gustavo Halaburda, [carloshalaburda2010@u.northwestern.edu](mailto:carloshalaburda2010@u.northwestern.edu)

## **Don't see what you're looking for?**

Create your own reading group by emailing your suggestion to [criticaltheory@northwestern.edu](mailto:criticaltheory@northwestern.edu).

# ACCREDITATION: THE INTERDISCIPLINARY GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN CRITICAL THEORY

## ICCT Certificate Program Requirements

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

- Critical Theory and Literary Studies:** 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.

The remaining three courses must be chosen from a list of seminars designated annually. When you have completed the requirements, please fill out the online TGS Certificate Application: <http://www.tgs.northwestern.edu/academics/programs/clusters-and-certificates/how-to-apply.html#certificate>. This application will be routed to the Critical Theory Program Associate Director, Peter Fenves, who will review the application. It will then be reviewed by TGS and notification of approval will be sent to the student.

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*“When considering my options for graduate study, Northwestern’s **Critical Theory Cluster** vaulted the University’s program to the top of my list...The chance to develop as a sociologist in Northwestern’s excellent sociology department, while continuing to grow as a scholar of critical theory was quite influential in my decision to attend NU. The Cluster’s interdisciplinary network of faculty and students has provided me an **instant community** of scholars who act as **invaluable mentors** and resources for my critical theory interests. With its numerous diverse reading groups and fantastic opportunities to learn and conduct research abroad, the Critical Theory Cluster has already, and will, undoubtedly, continue to profoundly shape my graduate experience.”*

*- Jane Pryma, PhD Sociology candidate*

# 2017-18 CRITICAL THEORY CLUSTER COURSES

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

### **AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES**

AFAM ST 480: Civil Rights and Black Liberation: Mass Incarceration (Biondi) FQ  
AFAM ST 480: Graduate Topics: Genealogy of Racism (Hesse) FQ  
AFAM ST 401: Research Seminar in Black Studies (Biondi) WQ  
AFAM ST 402: Theorizing Black Genders and Sexualities (Nash) FQ  
AFAM ST 480: Graduate Topics: Black Studies Now (Weheliye) WQ  
AFAM ST 403: Theorizing Blackness and Diaspora (Marquez) SQ  
AFAM ST 480: Graduate Topics: Black Performance Theory (Johnson) SQ

### **ANTHROPOLOGY**

ANTH 401: Logic of Inquiry in Anthropology (Winegar) WQ  
ANTH 475: Seminar in Contemporary Theory (Launay) FQ  
ANTH 484: Seminar in Linguistic Anthropology (Hoffman) FQ  
ANTH 490-23: Migrant Sexualities & Queer Travelers: Translocations (Yildiz) FQ  
[Cross-listed with GSS 490-0-22]  
ANTH 490-0-22: Mapping People, Place, and Space (Hauser) WQ  
ANTH 490: Engendering Archaeology (Robin) SQ  
ANTH 490: Political Economy, Race, and Gender: Intellectual History and Contemporary Research (di Leonardo) SQ  
[Cross-listed with GSS 490-0-20]

### **ART HISTORY**

ART HIST 460: Studies in 20th Century Art: Appropriation (Copeland) FQ  
ART HIST 460-2: Aesthetics of Social Realism (Kiaer) FQ

### **COMMUNICATION STUDIES/RHETORIC AND PUBLIC CULTURE**

COMM ST 425: Classical Rhetoric and Its Afterlives (Hariman) FQ  
COMM ST 416: Contemporary Rhetorical Analysis (Ray) WQ  
COMM ST 475: Crowds, Democracy, and Politics of Disorder (Gaonkar) WQ  
COMM ST 525: British Cultural Studies (Radway) SQ

### **ENGLISH**

ENGLISH 441: Experiences of Meaning and the Meaning of Experience in the Eighteenth-Century Novel (Soni) FQ  
ENGLISH 461: The Queer and the Oriental (Leong) FQ  
ENGLISH 471: Border Literature (Cutler) FQ  
ENGLISH 471: American Women Auteurs, Novels, and Films: 1900-1945 (Stern) WQ  
ENGLISH 481/COMP LIT 481: Historicism: Uses and Abuses (Feinsod) WQ  
ENGLISH 461/COMP LIT 486: Indian Ocean Epistemologies (Mwangi) SQ

### **FRENCH & ITALIAN**

FRENCH 460: Writing Absences (Qader) FQ  
FRENCH 490: The Global Avant-Garde (Bush) FQ  
FRENCH 460: Studies in 20th Century Literature (Durham) WQ  
FRENCH 493: Topics in Literary Theory (Garraway) WQ  
FRENCH 493: Topics in Literary Theory (Torlasco) SQ  
FRENCH 470: Topics in Literary Studies (Ricciardi) SQ

### **GENDER & SEXUALITY STUDIES**

GSS 490-0-20: Sociology of Sexuality (Carrillo) FQ  
GSS 490-0-21: Theorizing Black Genders & Sexualities (Nash) FQ  
GSS 490-0-22: Migrant Sexualities & Queer Travelers: Translocations (Yildiz) FQ  
GSS 490-0-23: Catholicism in the Making and the Unmaking of Modern Sexuality (Orsi) FQ  
GSS 405-0-20: Advanced Feminist Theory (Dietz) WQ  
GSS 490-0-20: Theory and Emotion (Nash) WQ  
GSS 490-0-21: Embodiment and Materiality (Molina) WQ  
GSS 490-0-22: Political Theories of Membership (Stevens) WQ  
GSS 490-0-20: Political Economy, Race, and Gender: Intellectual History and Contemporary Research (di Leonardo) SQ  
GSS 490-0-21: Race, Gender, Dubois, & Sociological Theory (Morris) SQ

# 2017-18 CRITICAL THEORY CLUSTER COURSES

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

### **GERMAN AND COMPARATIVE LITERARY STUDIES**

GERMAN 403/COMP LIT 410: Benjamin and Derrida (Fenves) FQ  
GERMAN 404/COMP LIT 481: Affective Passages (Parkinson) FQ  
GERMAN 401: German Literature and Critical Thought: Kant and Laurence Sterne (Weber) WQ  
GERMAN 441/COMP LIT 411: Critical Practices: Deconstruction: The Turn Toward the Absolute? (Weber) WQ  
GERMAN 441/COMP LIT 486: Writing and History: Religion, Gender, Politics (von Braun) SQ

### **MUSICOLOGY**

MUSICOL 435: Philosophies and Technologies of Voice (Dohoney) SQ

### **PERFORMANCE STUDIES**

PERF ST 410: Studies in Performance (Madison) FQ  
PERF ST 518: Problems in Research (Fuentes) FQ  
PERF ST 515: Listening (Silverstein) WQ  
PERF ST 515: Adaptation and/in Performance (Rivera-Servera) SQ  
PERF ST 515: Transnational Flows of Performance (Fuentes) SQ

### **PHILOSOPHY**

PHIL 410-0-22: Critiques of Morality, Nietzsche and Williams (Alznauer) FQ  
PHIL 402-1: Second-Year Proseminar: Habermas (Lafont) WQ  
PHIL 410 Critical Race Theory (Medina) WQ  
PHIL 410-0-21: Latin American Critical Theory (Zambrana) SQ [Special Topics – Title TBD]

### **POLITICAL SCIENCE**

POLI SCI 490-20: Race & Public Policy (Burch) FQ  
POLI SCI 490-22: Nation-Building & State Formation after WWII (Spruyt) FQ  
POLI SCI 462: Early Modern Political Theory (Farr) WQ  
POLI SCI 490: Society and Violence (Krcmaric) WQ  
POLI SCI 490/GSS 405-20: Advanced Feminist Theory (Dietz) WQ  
POLI SCI 463: Late Modern Political Thought (Dietz) SQ  
POLI SCI 490: Public Opinion and Representation (Bullock) SQ  
POLI SCI 490: Law & Politics in Authoritarian/Developing Countries (Hurst) SQ [new course proposal]  
POLI SCI 490: Politics of Membership (Stevens) WQ  
POLI SCI 490/SOC 476: Global Capitalism and Law (Nelson) SQ  
POLI SCI 490: Political Power in the United States (Page) SQ

### **RADIO/TELEVISION/FILM**

RTVF 411: Cultural History of Television (Spigel) FQ  
RTVF 420: Film Theory & Criticism (Verma) FQ  
RTVF 584: Media and the Environment (Smith) FQ

### **RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

REL 481-1: Classical Theories of Religion (Traina) FQ  
REL 481-2: Theories of Religion (Launay) WQ  
REL 482: Themes in Comparative Religion (Molina) SQ

### **SLAVIC STUDIES**

SLAVIC 411: Proseminar: Russian Formalism in Theory & Practice (Gourianova) FQ

### **SPANISH & PORTUGUESE**

SPANPORT 455: Comparative Studies in Latin American and/or Iberian Literature & Cultures (Uslenghi) FQ  
SPANPORT 480: Brazilian Modernism and Modernity: From Imitation to Anthropophagy and Beyond (Braga-Pinto) WQ

### **THEATER AND DRAMA**

TH DRAMA 503: Re-Performing the Avant-Garde (Manning) FQ  
TH DRAMA 503: Theatre Criticism (Young) WQ  
TH DRAMA 503: Violence, Memory, and Performance (Son) SQ

# 2017-2018 KAPLAN INSTITUTE RESEARCH WORKSHOPS

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*The Critical Theory Research Workshop and the After-Life of Phenomenology Workshop are sponsored or co-sponsored by the Kaplan Institute of the Humanities, and are completely student-run by members of the Critical Theory Cluster.*

## **Critical Theory Research Workshop**

The Critical Theory Research Workshop is an interdisciplinary forum beyond the classroom for students, graduate and undergraduate, to share and develop their interests in critical theory. Funding is made in part by the Kaplan Institute, and co-sponsored by the French, German, and Comparative Literary Studies Departments. Graduate students are invited to lead bi-weekly sessions with discussion of individual theorists, often with a proposed reading. Annual events have also included workshops. Lisa Guenther, Vanderbilt University, author of *Solitary Confinement: Social Death and its Afterlives* and Lynne Huffer, Emory University, author of *Mad for Foucault* are among the recent visiting speakers. Previously discussed authors have included Butler, Deleuze, Fraser, Bataille, Derrida, Benjamin, Rorty, Arendt, Adorno, Horkheimer, Badiou, Rancière, and many more.

For more information, please contact Professor Mark Alznauer at [m-alznauer@northwestern.edu](mailto:m-alznauer@northwestern.edu).

## **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.

2013-2014 speakers included Souleymane Bachir Diagne (Columbia) and Donna Jones (UC Berkeley) on phenomenology in the work of Bergson and Senghor; Paul Livingston (U New Mexico) on Badiou and phenomenology; and Debbie Goldgaber (Northeastern Illinois) on Derrida. 2014-2015 speakers included William Blattner (Georgetown University) on Heidegger’s objections to Husserl, Ann Murphy (University of North Carolina) on hermeneutics. 2015-2016 speakers included Chris Yeomans (Purdue) on Hegel and Daniela Vallega-Neu (University of Oregon) on Nancy and Merleau-Ponty.

For further information and participation, contact: Hao Liang at [haoliang2014@u.northwestern.edu](mailto:haoliang2014@u.northwestern.edu).

## **The Paris Program in Critical Theory**

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

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

For more information, please go to [www.parisprogram.northwestern.edu](http://www.parisprogram.northwestern.edu). Applications should be submitted electronically to Dominique Licops at [d-licops@northwestern.edu](mailto:d-licops@northwestern.edu).

## **Goethe University of Frankfurt am Main Exchange Program**

In conjunction with the Exchange Program, we have introduced an optional variation on the already existing Graduate Certificate in Critical Theory: the Graduate Certificate in Critical Theory (Goethe University of Frankfurt am Main Exchange Program). Five courses are currently required for the existing NU Graduate Certificate in Critical Theory. To complete the Graduate Certificate in Critical Theory (Goethe University of Frankfurt am Main Exchange program), two of the five courses will be completed through work undertaken at the Goethe University of Frankfurt am Main. The student will (1) undertake the work required for one MA course at U Frankfurt (with graded paper), and (2) participate for one semester in the doctoral colloquium of the student's sponsoring professor at Goethe University of Frankfurt am Main or that of an appropriate colleague at Goethe University. The remaining three courses will be completed at NU.

For further information, particularly concerning the administrative process and requirements, please contact Mark Alznauer at [m-alznauer@northwestern.edu](mailto: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, visit <http://ww.ehess.fr/fr/>.

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

For further information, contact Professor Michael Loriaux at [m-loriaux@northwestern.edu](mailto: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, beginning with D.A.A.D. summer grants. These are often used for summer programs of intensive language study, and provide an excellent foundation to subsequent longer funding (such as one-year stays). For more information, contact Peter Fenves at [p-fenves@northwestern.edu](mailto:p-fenves@northwestern.edu), Anna Parkinson at [a-parkinson@northwestern.edu](mailto:a-parkinson@northwestern.edu), Sam Weber at [s-weber@northwestern.edu](mailto:s-weber@northwestern.edu), or Cristina Lafont at [clafont@northwestern.edu](mailto: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 Anna Parkinson at [a-parkinson@northwestern.edu](mailto:a-parkinson@northwestern.edu).

## Conference Funding Opportunity

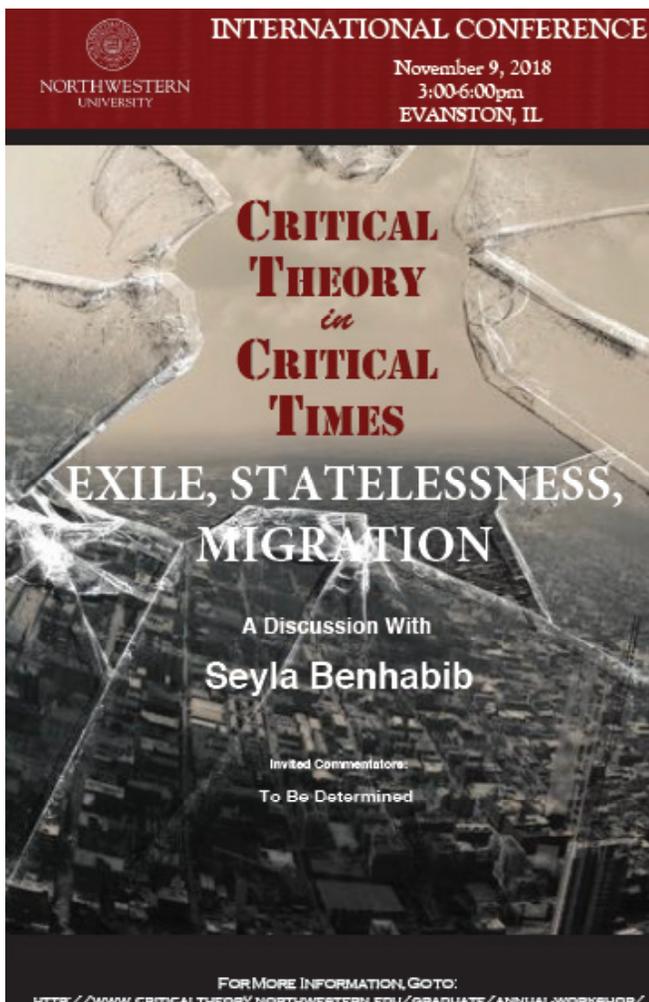
Limited conference funding (to a maximum of \$300) is available annually to 3-4 graduate students. To apply, email [criticaltheory@northwestern.edu](mailto:criticaltheory@northwestern.edu) with information about the conference, its dates, relevance to the critical theory cluster, and its importance to 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 <http://www.tgs.northwestern.edu/funding/fellowships-and-grants/internal-fgrants/index.html>.

# 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.

### FALL 2018 EVENT



### KEYNOTE SPEAKER



**SEYLA BENHABIB**

**Seyla Benhabib** is the Eugene Meyer Professor of Political Science and Philosophy at Yale University. Her books include *Critique, Norm and Utopia. A Study of the Normative Foundations of Critical Theory*; *Situating the Self. Gender, Community and Postmodernism in Contemporary Ethics*; *The Reluctant Modernism of Hannah Arendt*; *The Claims of Culture. Equality and Diversity in the Global Era*; *Another Cosmopolitanism. Hospitality, Sovereignty and Democratic Iterations*; *Politics in Dark Times: Encounters with Hannah Arendt*; and *Dignity in Adversity: Human Rights in Troubled Times*.

For more information, visit <http://www.criticaltheory.northwestern.edu/graduate/annual-workshop>.

# LANGUAGE STUDY FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

*The Critical Theory Cluster particularly encourages language study as an often vital component of graduate student research and training*

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## *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.

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.

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*“Through the Critical Theory Cluster, I met the most **intellectually committed** students I know at Northwestern University. It is the best environment to rigorously **challenge yourself** and connect with a community from diverse academic backgrounds.”*

*-Chris Hoffman, Northwestern Class of 2014,  
Former Coordinator of the Critical Theory Reading Group*

# LANGUAGE STUDY FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

CONTINUED

## Opportunities for Graduate Language Study at Northwestern

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

## 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, and Lisa Shabe. 2016-17 visitors included Catalina Quintero, John Richardson, Rebecca Comay, Jessica Tizzard, Andrew Pitel, and Claire Kirwin.

For more information, visit <http://sites.northwestern.edu/germanphil/>. If you have any questions about The Chicago Area Consortium in German Philosophy events, please contact Rachel Zuckert at [r-zuckert@northwestern.edu](mailto:r-zuckert@northwestern.edu).

## 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). The initiative is co-directed by Judith Butler (UC Berkeley) and Penelope Deutscher (Northwestern University).

The Consortium will convene conferences, publish a book series, *Critical South*, with Polity Press, and the journal *Critical Times: Interventions in Global Critical Theory*. It will support the University of California, Irvine Libraries Critical Theory Archive.

At UC Berkeley, the Consortium maintains a website, [www.criticaltheoryconsortium.org](http://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.

Under the direction of Northwestern University, the Critical Theory in the Global South project will develop 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, with further cooperations anticipated.

Critical Theory in the Global South projects at Northwestern currently include: "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); "Care for Foucault: Recontextualizing Modernity, Gender, Biopolitics, and Neoliberalism" (Penelope Deutscher, Marcela Fuentes, Alejandra Uslenghi, and Mary Weismantel (NU) with Daniel Link (Universidad Tres de Febrero and UBA, Argentina); and a collective project: *The Decolonization of Critical Theory*.

Rutgers, Fordham, and Yale will also join the project. Linking with colleagues at UNAM, Mexico, 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), will convene 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.icctconsortium@berkeley.edu](mailto:info.icctconsortium@berkeley.edu).

For more information on the Critical Theory in the Global South curriculum project convened at Northwestern, contact [criticaltheory@northwestern.edu](mailto:criticaltheory@northwestern.edu) or visit the website [www.criticaltheory.northwestern.edu/mellon-project](http://www.criticaltheory.northwestern.edu/mellon-project).

# 2017-18 EVENTS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

## FALL 2017

**October 5:** Black Poetics Event with Safiya Sinclair and Bettina Judd | Hosted by African American Studies, Poetry and Poetics, and Critical Theory

**October 9-14:** Black Arts International: Temporalities & Territories. More info: <http://bai.northwestern.edu/black-arts-international-temporalities-territories/> | Hosted by Black Arts Initiative, Northwestern University

**October 11, 12pm:** "Passages of Reading, Kafka for Example" with Nils Plath (Erfurt University, Germany) | Hosted by German Department and Critical Theory Program

**October 13-14, 9am - 6pm:** Human Rights Workshop | Hosted by Critical Theory Cluster; Global Capitalism and Law Research Fund; Equality Development & Globalization Studies; Kaplan Institute for the Humanities; Philosophy Department; Political Science Department; Kreeger Wolf Foundation; University of Fribourg; Pluricourts, University of Oslo

**October 17, 4pm:** Book Discussion of Fred Rush, Irony and Idealism: Rereading Schlegel, Hegel, and Kierkegaard (OUP 2016) | Hosted by Chicago-Area Consortium in German Philosophy

**October 19-21:** "Beyond Anthropophagy: Cultural Modernities between Brazil and France" | Hosted by French and the Global Humanities

**October 19:** Opening keynote address from Flora Süssekind | Location: John Evans Alumni Center

**October 20:** Series of panels with speakers grouped according to topic | Location: John Evans Alumni Center

**October 21:** Guided tour of the Tarsila do Amaral exhibition at the AIC | Location: Art Institute

**October 27, 4pm - 6pm:** "Herder and Relativism" with Professor Vicki Spencer, University of Otago (New Zealand) | Hosted by Chicago-Area Consortium in German Philosophy & After-Life of Phenomenology Workshop

**November 3, 9am - 6pm:** "Maurice Blanchot: Thought of Absence" | Hosted by Department of French & Italian

**November 7-8:** Visit by Fred Moten, Professor of Performance Studies at New York University | Hosted by Critical Theory Program & Art Theory and Practice

**November 8, 2pm:** Book Discussion of Christoph Menke, Law and Violence | Hosted by Chicago-Area Consortium in German Philosophy

**November 9:** Adorno Reading Group with Christoph Menke

**November 9-11:** Conference: Critique in German Philosophy | Hosted by Chicago-Area Consortium in German Philosophy | DePaul University

**November 10:** "Disabling Totality: China, the US, and Law" – Graduate Student Workshop | Hosted by Critical Theory Cluster; Department of Asian Languages and Cultures; Asian Studies Graduate Cluster

**November 11, 7pm - 9pm:** Film screening and discussion: Excerpts from Raúl Ruiz's The Suspended Vocation and Raúl Ruiz: From Chile to Klossowski | Hosted by the Critical Theory in the Global South Mellon grant

**November 13, 10:30am - 12pm:** Critical Theory in the Global South Teach-In

**November 13, 5pm - 7pm:** "Hegel on the Political Significance of Collective Self-Deceit" with Professor Robert Pippin, University of Chicago | Hosted by the After-Life of Phenomenology Workshop

**November 15, 12pm:** "The Art of Forgetting: Intimacy and Erasure in German and Turkish Art Histories" with Banu Karaca, Anthropologist; Ph.D., Graduate Center of the City University of New York | Hosted by Critical Theory Cluster, Keyman Modern Turkish Studies, German Department, Art History Department, Anthropology Department

# 2017-18 EVENTS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

## WINTER 2018

**February 8:** Conference: Art and Work. Keynote lecture by Jasper Bernes; Paper submissions due October 1 | Hosted by the Art History Department

**March 16:** German Philosophy Workshop at DePaul University | Hosted by Chicago-Area Consortium in German Philosophy

## SPRING 2018

**April 6** – “A National History of Infamy: Tracing the History of Truth in Modern Mexico” with Pablo Piccato, Professor of History at Columbia University | Hosted by Kaplan Institute for the Humanities, Latin American & Caribbean Studies Program, and Chabraja Center.

**April 27-29:** In Motion: Performance and Unsettling Borders. An interdisciplinary graduate student conference / performance festival. Keynote by Zandra Ibarra (aka La Chica Boom), followed by a conversation with Maria Gaspar | Hosted by the Department of Performance Studies

**May 9** – “Lucas Alaman and the Production of Knowledge” with Eric Van Young, Professor of History at University of California, San Diego | Hosted by Latin American and Caribbean Studies Program

## FALL 2017 FEATURED EVENT

### How Demanding Should Human Rights Be? An Interdisciplinary Workshop

October 13-14, 2017  
9:30am - 6:00pm

Harris Hall 108  
1881 Sheridan Road  
Northwestern University, Evanston Campus

*We welcome interested faculty and graduate students. Please write to Sarah Peters (sarah.mcginley@northwestern.edu) so that you can access the papers in advance. We expect participants and audience members to read papers in advance, since there will be no formal presentation of papers.*

The full schedule and more information can be found here:  
[www.criticaltheory.northwestern.edu/events/conferences.html](http://www.criticaltheory.northwestern.edu/events/conferences.html)

**HOW DEMANDING SHOULD HUMAN RIGHTS BE?  
AN INTERDISCIPLINARY WORKSHOP**

13-14 OCTOBER 2017  
NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY  
HARRIS HALL, ROOM 108, EVANSTON CAMPUS

**SPEAKERS**

- KAREN J. ALTER (Northwestern University)
- ELIZABETH ASHFORD (University of St. Andrews)
- SAMANTHA BESSON (University of Fribourg)
- EVA BREMS (University of Ghent)
- JAMES CAVALLARO (Stanford University, Inter-American Commission on Human Rights)
- JEAN COHEN (Columbia University)
- ADAM ETINSON (University of St. Andrews)
- ANDREAS FOLLESDAL (University of Oslo)
- PABLO GILABERT (Concordia University)
- DIETER GRIMM (Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin & Yale University, former Constitutional Court Judge)
- TURKULER ISIKSEL (Columbia University)
- CRISTINA LAFONT (Spanish, Northwestern University)
- GEORGE LETSAS (University College, London)
- CHRISTOPHER MCCRUDDEN (Queen's University, Belfast & Michigan University)
- JAMES W. NICKEL (Miami University)
- FRANÇOISE TULKENS (Catholic University of Louvain, former judge at European Court of Human Rights)

**SPONSORS**

- GLOBAL CAPITALISM & LAW RESEARCH GROUP, BUFFETT INSTITUTE
- CRITICAL THEORY CLUSTER
- KRIEGER WOLF FOUNDATION
- EDORS, BUFFETT INSTITUTE
- POLITICAL SCIENCE DEPARTMENT
- PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT
- ALICE KAPLAN INSTITUTE FOR THE HUMANITIES
- PLURICOURTS, UNIVERSITY OF OSLO
- UNIVERSITY OF FRIBOURG

For more information, please contact Sarah Peters at [sarah.mcginley@northwestern.edu](mailto:sarah.mcginley@northwestern.edu).

Please visit PlantPurple, the host's website, or e-mail [criticaltheory@northwestern.edu](mailto:criticaltheory@northwestern.edu) for more information about the events above. *All events are subject to change.*

# TRI-UNIVERSITY DOCTORAL 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.

Among the speakers at the 2017 workshop are Penelope Deutscher (Philosophy, Northwestern) and Thomas Lemke (Goethe-University, Frankfurt). The 2017 workshop in Frankfurt is organized with financial support from a TGS Mellon Cluster Catalyst grant.

In 2016, graduate students from Northwestern's Critical Theory Cluster met with students from the École Normale Supérieure (E.N.S.) and from the Goethe University Frankfurt, to participate in the Tri-University Critical Theory Dissertation Workshop. Northwestern's Critical Theory Cluster shares and rotates annually with these two institutions. The NU graduate participants were Sandra Berjan (German), David Johnson (Philosophy), Maité Marciano (French), Claudia Garcia-Rojas (African American Studies), Ben Schacht (Comparative Literature), Carlos Pereira Di Salvo (Philosophy), and Cristina Lo Tempio (Political Science). Also participating were Northwestern cluster faculty: Mark Alznauer (Philosophy), Penelope Deutscher (Philosophy), Peter Fenves (German), Michael Loriaux (Political Science), Alessia Ricciardi (French and Italian), Sam Weber (German and CLS), Erica Weitzman (German), and Rachel Zuckert (Philosophy). Visiting professors joining the visiting graduate students from Paris and Frankfurt included Marc Crepon (E.N.S.) and Christoph Menke (Frankfurt).



Participants at the Tri-University Critical Theory Dissertation Workshop. 2016-17.



Participants discuss the workshop lecture, "The Paradox of Ability and the Value of Beauty" by Christoph Menke, Goethe University. 2015-16.

## 2017-18 VISITING PROFESSORS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

**Rocío Zambrana**



Rocío Zambrana is Associate Professor of Philosophy at the University of Oregon. Her work examines conceptions of critique in Kant and German Idealism (especially Hegel), Marx and Frankfurt School Critical Theory, and Decolonial Thought. She is the author of *Hegel's Theory of Intelligibility* (University of Chicago Press, 2015), and articles on Hegel, Kant, and Critical Theory. She is currently writing a book entitled *Neoliberal Coloniality, Critique, Resistance*.

Examining the debt crisis in Puerto Rico, *Neoliberal Coloniality, Critique, Resistance* develops the concept “neoliberal coloniality.” Debt functions not only as a mechanism of capture, predation, and extraction, intensifying a neoliberalism reconfigured by the financial crisis. It also functions as a form of coloniality, deepening racial/gender hierarchies that mark populations as radically dispensable. The book considers the critical and political strictures of neoliberal coloniality through an engagement with Critical Theory, Decolonial Thought, and Puerto Rican social and political criticism. At Northwestern, she will teach seminars related to this project—Toward a Decolonial Critical Theory and On Debt.

**Jan Behrs**



Jan Behrs is the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) Visiting Associate Professor of German from Kiel, Germany. Before coming to the United States, Professor Behrs taught at the universities of Stuttgart and Kiel and worked as a copy editor in a publishing house. His teaching and research interests include German baroque literature, the sociology of literature, the literary canon and its fringes, and contemporary German literature and film.

In addition to his academic work, Professor Behrs loves to travel (especially to Eastern Europe, Russia, and the Ukraine). He is also an avid theater-goer, attendee of jazz concerts and, as he puts it, “a very non-promising learner of Russian.”

Get to know Professor Behrs in the department of German offices, or during Kaffeestunde, or even better, sign up for one of his courses this year.

## 2017-18 VISITING PROFESSORS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

**Christina von Braun**  
2018 Max Kade Visiting Professor

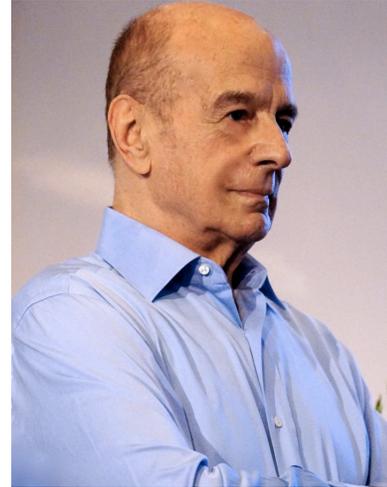


Born in Rome, primary school and high school in West Germany and London. Studies of Political Science and Sociology at New York University, N.Y. and Bonn/Cologne, West Germany. From 1968 onwards freelance work as film maker and writer (1968-1969: New York; 1969-1981: Paris, France; 1981-1994: Bonn). 1991-1993 Fellow at the Institute for Cultural Studies, an interdisciplinary academic research institution. 1994 Nomination as full Professor at the Institute for Cultural History and Theory at Humboldt University in Berlin. Since 1990: Guest professor at different universities in the USA (Columbia, Dartmouth, University of Virginia), Israel (Hebrew University) and France (Paris VI), as well as in Austria (Vienna, Klagenfurt, Salzburg, Innsbruck). Author of more than fifty films (documentaries, essays and fiction), twenty books and numerous essays on cultural history, religion, and gender. From 1996-2005 founder and head of the department of Gender Studies at Humboldt University. In 2012 co-founder and first director of the Center for Jewish Studies Berlin-Brandenburg.

Extra academic functions: Since 2008 vice president of the Goethe Institute. Member of the Kuratorium of the Leo Baeck Institute Germany; member of the advisory board of numerous academic journals—among others, *Zeitschrift für Sexualwissenschaft*, *Sexuality & Culture*, and *Journal of the American Psychoanalytical Association (JAPA)*.

Christina von Braun was awarded the Sigmund Freud Kulturpreis 2013 by the German Psychoanalytical Association, and the Hedwig Dohm Medaille of the German Journalistinnenbund in 2014. Professor von Braun will be joining the German Department as the 2018 Max Kade Visiting Professor and, will offer a course at the graduate level.

**Leo Bersani**



Leo Bersani is literary theorist and professor emeritus of French at the University of California, Berkeley. He also taught at Wellesley College and Rutgers University and was elected Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1992. Out of his numerous book publications, *Homos* (1995) and *Is the Rectum a Grave?: And other Essays* (2010) made him well known in the context of queer theory.

Professor Bersani is a visiting professor in the Department of French & Italian in Spring Quarter. For more information, please contact Alessia Ricciardi at [a-ricciardi@northwestern.edu](mailto:a-ricciardi@northwestern.edu).