

A stylized illustration of a hand in a bright yellow glove, reaching up and tearing through a blue surface. The tear reveals a white background with a black dot pattern. A red speech bubble with the word 'CRITIQUE!' in bold, white, sans-serif capital letters is positioned above the hand. The entire scene is set against a larger background of a white field with a black dot pattern.

**CRITIQUE!**

# CRITICAL THEORY CLUSTER

How to affiliate with the Critical Theory Cluster

Email [critical\\_theory@northwestern.edu](mailto:critical_theory@northwestern.edu) to introduce yourself.

You can use the critical theory listserv ([critical-theory-cluster@google.groups.com](mailto:critical-theory-cluster@google.groups.com)) to receive and send initiatives for reading groups, workshops, and speakers.

A list of Northwestern's cross-departmental Critical Theory courses is at <http://www.wcas.northwestern.edu/criticaltheory/ClusterCourses.htm>

Information about Northwestern's Interdisciplinary Graduate Certificate in Critical Theory is at <http://www.wcas.northwestern.edu/criticaltheory/>



THE GRADUATE SCHOOL  
NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY

# Introduction

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

Some 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, annual events organized by Northwestern's Cornell University School of Criticism and Literary 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 Ecole 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 Michael Loriaux ([mloriaux@me.com](mailto:mloriaux@me.com))

For information about the graduate cluster, contact the Director, Cristina Lafont and/or one of the Associate Directors, Penelope Deutscher or Peter Fenves.



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# Critical Theory Faculty



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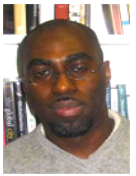
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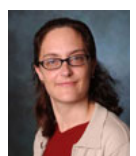
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# Critical Theory Cluster Reading Groups

## Sara Ahmed, *The Promise of Happiness* Reading Group (one time)

Students with interests in affect theory from Performance Studies, Music, African-American Studies, and Political Theory, and possibly faculty, will meet to discuss this work.

Contact: CaitlynDoyle2015@u.northwestern.edu. Students with further interest in reading groups on Ahmed should also contact Caitlyn Doyle

## Wendy Brown Reading Group (one time)

### *Undoing the Demos*

Contact: clafont@u.northwestern.edu

## Capital Reading Group

Reading group devoted to Marx's project, volume one.

Contact: Dakota Brown, jdakotabrown@gmail.com

## Dissertation Work-in-Progress Group

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

Contact: CaitlynDoyle2015@u.northwestern.edu

## Roland Barthes Reading Group

Department of French & Italian group. Focused on Barthes' critique of the ideology and writings on photography.

Contact: emiliecappella2015@u.northwestern.edu

Don't see what you're looking for?  
Create your own reading group by emailing  
your suggestion to  
critical-theory-cluster@googlegroups.com



*"The Critical Theory Cluster has helped organize and support an interdisciplinary dissertation writing which has been very helpful for my work...CT is a good source of funding to aid research and the CT program in France offers an exceptional opportunity to work with French critical theory scholars and to master a second language...the workshops and conferences that CT puts on are among the best on campus." - Charles Clarke, PhD Political Science candidate*

# 2015-2016 Kaplan Institute Research Workshops

*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. Contact Kenni Zellner at [kenterikzellner2016@u.northwestern.edu](mailto:kenterikzellner2016@u.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 include William Blattner (Georgetown University) on Heidegger’s objections to Husserl, Ann Murphy (University of North Carolina) on hermeneutics.

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

# STUDY OVERSEAS

## The Paris Program in Critical Theory

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



During the Fall quarter, the Program Director leads a weekly research seminar on a question of current concern in contemporary critical theory. The seminar can also serve as a forum for work in progress. The particular topic of the seminar will be determined in consultation with participating students. Some past Paris seminar topics have been: The Politics of Friendship; Animality-Humanity; Theological Economy; Theories of the Event; Singularity; Europe; The Death Penalty. The Program Director will also endeavor to make the Program a focal

point for international exchanges by inviting French and European scholars to participate in informal discussions, both in Paris and, whenever possible, at Northwestern. Students and visiting scholars will continue to present their research in the seminar in Winter and Spring quarters.

For more information go to: <http://www.parisprogram.northwestern.edu/>. Applications should be submitted electronically by March 1, 2016 to: Dominique Licops: [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). 5 courses are currently required for the existing NU Graduate Certificate in Critical Theory. To complete the Graduate Certificate in Critical Theory (Goethe University of Frankfurt am Main Exchange program), two of the five courses will be completed through work undertaken at the Goethe University of Frankfurt am Main. The student will i.) undertake the work required for one MA course at U Frankfurt (with graded paper), and ii.) participate for one semester in the doctoral colloquium of the student's sponsoring professor at Goethe University of Frankfurt am Main or that of an appropriate colleague at Goethe University. The remaining 3 courses will be completed at NU.

For further information, particularly concerning the administrative process and requirements, please contact [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 info: <http://www.ehess.fr/fr/>).

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

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

## 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).

### Contact

**Peter Fenves**  
**Anna Parkinson**  
*Comparative Literary Studies - Germanistik*  
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**Sam Weber**  
*Critical Theatre*  
*Studies/Theaterwissenschaft*  
([sweb21@comcast.net](mailto:sweb21@comcast.net))

**Cristina Lafont**  
*Philosophy and Political Science*  
Especially helpful for information and support relating to D.A.A.D. funding  
([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: [www.wcas.northwestern.edu/criticaltheory/sct2013.html](http://www.wcas.northwestern.edu/criticaltheory/sct2013.html), or email: [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 [tara.sadera@northwestern.edu](mailto:tara.sadera@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 conference is available at: <http://www.egs.northwestern.edu/funding/fellowships-and-grants/internal-grants/index.html>

# ACCREDITATION: THE INTERDISCIPLINARY GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN CRITICAL THEORY

## IPCT Certificate Program Requirements

To obtain the IPCT certificate, declare your cluster affiliation to tara.sadera@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, send an email to tara.sadera@northwestern.edu, with your transcript attached, identifying the five courses from the approved lists, and where necessary giving information about any claimed substitutions with a short justification.

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

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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*

## Critical Theory Cluster Courses (2015/2016) counting towards the Interdisciplinary Certificate in Critical Theory (ICCT)

### African American Studies

AFAM ST 403: Theorizing Blackness and the Diaspora (Sharma) WQ  
AFAM ST 480: Topics in Graduate Studies: Black Life (Weheliye) WQ  
AFAM ST 480: Topics in Graduate Studies (Marquez) WQ  
AFAM ST 402: Theorizing Black Genders and Sexuality (E.P. Johnson/Green) SQ  
AFAM ST 480: Topics in Graduate Studies: Post War Blackness (Wright) SQ

### Communication Studies

COMM ST 415: Seminar Rhetorical Theory: Crowds and the Politics of Disorder (Gaonkar) FQ  
COMM ST 414: Classical Rhetoric and Its Afterlives (Hariman) - WQ  
COMM ST 415: Seminar in Rhetorical Criticism (Ray) SQ  
RTVF 403: Media and Cultural Theory (Sconce) FQ  
RTVF 420: Film Theory & Criticism (Rogers) SQ

### German & CLS

German 441: Studies in Communication and Culture (Intro to Irony)/CLS 481: Studies in Literary Theory (Weitzman) FQ  
German 441: German Literature and Critical Thought, 1750-1832/CLS 481: Critical Theory (Fenves) WQ  
German 403: German Literature, Critical Thought and new Media, 1900-1945/CLS 412: Communicating the Incommunicable: Kant, Nietzsche, Sterne (Weber) SQ

### English

English 410: Introduction to Graduate Study (West) FQ  
English 411/CLS 410: The Logic of Poetry (Gottlieb) FQ  
English 441: Hamlet and Don Quixote in the 18th Century (Soni) FQ  
English 471: Marxism and American Literature (Cutler) WQ  
English 481/CLS 486: Studies in Literary Theory & Criticism (Edwards) WQ  
English 461: In Translation (Johnson) SQ  
English 471: Fade to Black: Cultural Production and the Poetics of Dissolution (Wilson) SQ

### French & Italian

IT 377: Gender & Sexuality in 20<sup>th</sup>-Century Italian Culture (Torlasco) WQ

### Philosophy

Phil 414: Kant's Critique of Judgment (Zuckert) FQ  
Phil 402-1: The Future of Democracy (Lafont) WQ  
Phil 461: Topics in Social and Political Philosophy: Marx and Marxism (Mills) WQ

### Political Science:

Pol Sci 390: Special Topics: Critical Studies in World Politics (Loriaux) SQ  
Pol Sci 408: Interpretive and Critical Methods in the Study of Politics (Loriaux) SQ  
Pol Sci 303: Modernity and its Discontents (Dietz) SQ  
POLI\_SCI 447 Critical Studies in World Politics (Loriaux) SQ  
POLI\_SCI 464: Contemporary Political Thought (Arendt) (Dietz) SQ

### Religious Studies

Religion 471-1: Embodiment and Materiality (Molina) FQ  
Religion 481-1: Classical Theories and Methods (Balberg) FQ  
Religion 471-2: History of Religious Studies (Orsi) WQ  
Religion 471-3: Theology and the Study of Religion (Helmer) WQ  
Religion 482-0: Approaches to the Comparative Study of Religion (Johnson) WQ  
Religion 481-2: Contemporary Theories (Ingram) SQ

### Spanish & Portuguese

Spanport 480: Topics in Latin American and/or Iberian Literatures and Cultures: Phantasmagorias of Progress: Photography, Exhibitions, and Experimental

### Sociology

SOC 306: Sociology Theory (Espeland)  
SOC 306: Sociology Theory (Camic)

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

FQ = Fall Quarter, WQ = Winter Quarter, SQ = Spring Quarter

# Course List, continued

## IPCT Courses Offered In the Past Years

### Fall 2014

AF AM ST 469 Poststructuralism and Black Politics (Hesse)  
ART HIST 450 Studies in 19th Century Art: Art and Politics from the French Revolution to the Dual Crisis (The Great Recession and Global Warming) (Eisenman)  
ART HIST 460 Art, Affect, and the End of Psychoanalysis (Copeland)  
ART 372 "On the social and aesthetic possibilities of synesthesia" (Christov-Bakargiev)  
CS 453 Visual Communication (Hariman)  
CS 475 Seminar in the Rhetoric of Contemporary Culture: Post-colonial and Transnational Discourse Analysis (Gaonkar)  
German 441 Studies in Communication and Culture (Adorno)/CLS 481: Studies in Literary Theory – Peter Brandes –  
English 465/CLS 413 Studies in Colonial & Postcolonial Literature: Indian Ocean Modernisms (Mwangi)  
French 460 The Avant-gardes in the World (Chris Bush)  
French 493 Theories of Colonial/Postcolonial Legacies (Qader)  
Italian 350-0 Advanced Topics in Italian Culture and Literature - Michelangelo Antonioni's Advanced Modernity: Gender, Ecology, Fashion, and Architecture in Contemporary Life (Ricciardi)  
CLS 481 Studies in Literary Theory - The Homo Sacer effect: Agamben's thought in context (Ricciardi)  
PHIL 313-2 Kant, Crit. of Pure Reason: Dialectic (Zuckert)  
PHIL 423 Seminar in Contemporary Phil: The Future of Democracy (Lafont)  
REL 395 Theories of Religion (Molina)  
REL 471 Embodiment and Materiality (Molina)  
REL 481 Theory and Method (Traina)  
SOC 420 Sociology of Culture (Griswold)  
SPPO 401 Intro to Literary and Cultural Theory, The Coordinates of Theory: South by North by South (Jorge Coronado)

### Winter 2015

AF AM ST 420 Expressive Arts and Cultural Studies (Weheliye)  
CS 475 Seminar in the Rhetoric of Contemporary Culture: Cold War, Public Sphere (Baldwin)  
German 401/cross-listed with Philosophy/CLS 486: Hegel and Shakespeare (Haverkamp- visiting professor)  
CLS 412 German Literature and Critical Thought, 1750-1832 (Weber)  
English 385 Identification (Hodge)  
English 441 Studies in 18th-Century Literature: Constructions of Gender and Race in Travel Writing of the Long Eighteenth Century (Thompson)  
English 461/CLS 486 Studies in Contemporary Literature: International Law and Literature (Leong)  
MUSICOL 435 Sound, Affect, and Signification (Dohoney)  
PHIL 318 Studies in Contemporary: Habermas on Communicative Rationality (Lafont)  
PHIL 361 Topics in Social & Political Phil (Mills)  
PHIL 415 Deconstruction & Feminism/CLS 481/GS 490 (Deutscher)  
REL 339 The Art of Rabbinic Narrative (Wimpfheimer)  
REL 471 Religion and Modernity (Hurd/Orsi)  
SOC 406 Contemporary Social Theory (Espeland)

### Spring 2015

AF AM ST 480 Intro to Comparative Race & Diaspora (Wright)  
CS 525 Popular Culture, Audiences, and the Problem of Effects (Radway)  
German 441 Studies in Communication and Culture (Theories of Affect/Emotion)/CLS 486 Studies in Literature and the Disciplines (Parkinson)  
English 383 Studies in Literary Theory: The Sublime (Rorhbach)  
PHIL 315 Studies in French Philosophy (Deutscher)  
PHIL 319 Existentialism and its Sources: Kierkegaard and Indirect Communication (Alznauer)  
PHIL 414 Seminar in German Philosophy: Hegel's Philosophy of Spirit (Alznauer)  
POLI\_SCI 303 Modernity and Its Discontents (Dietz)  
POLI\_SCI 390 Critical Studies in World Politics (Loriaux)  
POLI\_SCI 390 Politics of Religious Diversity (Hurd)  
POLI\_SCI 447 Critical Studies in World Politics (Loriaux)  
POLI\_SCI 464 Contemporary Political Thought (Arendt) (Dietz)  
SOC 406 Classical Social Theory (Camic)  
SPPO 480 Topics in Latin American Literature and/or Iberian Literatures & Culture: Friendship, Masculinity, Vulnerabilities

# LANGUAGE STUDY for GRADUATE STUDENTS

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

*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 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.

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### 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 Shabel, this year, 2015-2016 visitors include Paul Guyer and Anthony Koch.

On October 24th-25<sup>th</sup>, the Midwest Study Group of the North American Kant Society will be meeting at Northwestern University, at the John Evans Alumni Center, 1800 Sheridan Rd. The keynote speaker will be Paul Guyer (Brown University) "Enforcing the Law of Nature: The Background to Kant's Conception of the Relation Between Morality and *Recht*." If you have any questions about the event, please contact Rachel Zuckert at [r-zuckert@northwestern.edu](mailto:r-zuckert@northwestern.edu).

# 2015-2016 EVENTS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

## FALL EVENTS

September 28

Orientation and Planning Meeting for Critical Theory Cluster Fellows, Affiliates, and all interested graduate students and faculty  
4:30-6:30pm, Harris Hall 108

September 29

Sara Ahmed Reading Group (*The Promise of Happiness*), organized Penelope Deutscher (Philosophy)  
4:30-6:30pm, Crowe 4-130

October 15

Comparative Literature & Spanish and Portuguese Event: Sara Nadal-Melsió  
"Europe and the Wolf: Economies of Sounds in the Work of Pere Portabella, Carles Santos, and Allora&Calzadilla"  
5pm, Crowe Hall 4-134

October 22

Sara Ahmed, Allison Davis Lecturer for the Department of African American Studies  
"Brick Walls: Racism and the Hardening of History"  
4:30pm, McCormick Tribune Center

October 23

Department of French & Italian, "Roland Barthes's Critical Legacy:" 12:30-2pm lunch; 2-4:30pm Panel Discussion with Akira Lippit, Eugenia Brinkema and Brian Price; 5-6:30pm Keynote with Françoise Gaillard. All events take place in Harris Hall 108.

October 23-25

Oct. 23: Keynote lecture: Paul Guyer (Brown), "The Twofold Morality of Kantian Recht" 4 - 6 p.m, University Hall 102  
October 24-25 North American Kant Society Midwest Study Group event,

November 5

Critical Theory in Critical Times Workshop (annual event)  
Wendy Brown, Undoing Demos  
Reading Group, 6-8pm, Harris 108

November 6

Department of German/Grad Program in German Literature and Critical Thought  
Workshop: Barbara Nagel, Princeton University, Luther and Parrhesia 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm  
Public Lecture: Barbara Nagel, Princeton University, Micro-Aggressions in German Realism and Beyond (Fontane, Kafka) 4 - 6pm

November 8

Department of Religious Studies Conference: Luther Forgotten and Neglected Aspects of His Life and Work  
Registration required; go to, <http://sites.northwestern.edu/luther2015/>

November 13

Critical Theory in Critical Times Workshop, Co-sponsored with Center for Global Culture and Communication  
Wendy Brown, *Undoing Demons*  
Lecture, 3-8pm, Location TBD

November 13

Department of German/Graduate Program in German Literature and Critical Thought Event  
Workshop: Kristina Mendicino, 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm,  
Public Lecture: Kristina Mendicino, 4:00 pm - 6:00 pm

## SPRING EVENTS

Department of German/Grad Program in German Literature and Critical Thought Event  
Hans-Jörg Rheinberger lecture and workshop. Date/Time TBD

April 15

Annual German Philosophy Workshop Event  
"Philosophy and Literature in the German tradition" (contact Kevin Thompson, Philosophy De Paul), please note location is De Paul University. Speakers: David Wellbery (University of Chicago), Howard Pollack-Milgate (DePaul University), María Acosta (DePaul University), and Rachel Zuckert (Northwestern University), Time/Location TBD

April 27-May 3

FIG (French Interdisciplinary Group)/ Critical Theory Cluster Event  
Tri-University Critical Theory Dissertation Workshop, with Christoph Menke (Goethe University, Frankfurt) and Marc Crepon (ENS) (organizers include Michael Loriaux, Political Science and Penelope Deutscher, Philosophy) Time/Location TBD

# 2015-2016

## EVENTS OF SPECIAL INTEREST (cont.)

### SPRING EVENTS

May 20-21

Performance Studies/African American Studies Event

"Black Feminist Futures" Symposium (Organized by Brittnay Proctor (African American Studies), Chelsea Frazier (African American Studies), Shoniqa Roach (Performance Studies), Alexander Weheliye (African American Studies) (multiple co-sponsors including the Critical Theory Cluster.

May 27

(please note: date to be confirmed)

Center for Global Culture and Communication event

"How Demanding are Human Rights? A Workshop" (invited participants: Elizabeth Ashford (University of St. Andrews), Seyla Benhabib (Yale University), Daniel Brudley (University of Chicago), Adam Etinson (University of Chicago), Pablo Gilabert (Concordia University), Cristina Lafont (Northwestern University), Ben Laurence (University of Chicago)

James W. Nickel (Miami University), John Tasioulas (King's College London). Sponsored by the CGCC, co-sponsored by the Critical Theory Cluster and the Pozen Family Center for Human Rights at University of Chicago. Time/Location TBD

### TRI-UNIVERSITY DOCTORAL WORKSHOP



First day of the Tri-University Critical Theory Dissertation Workshop, Salle Pasteur, Ecole Normale Supérieure, Paris, September 2014.



Northwestern graduate participants Caitlyn Doyle and Christine Goding-Doty take a break at the E.N.S., Paris, September 2014.

At the start of the 2014-15 academic year, graduate students from Northwestern's Critical Theory Cluster met with students from the École Normale Supérieure (E.N.S.) and from the Goethe Universität of Frankfurt to participate in Northwestern's Tri- University Critical Theory Dissertation Workshop (E.N.S., Sep 29 - Oct 2). The NU participants were Caitlyn Doyle, CLS, Hye-Yun Kang, Political Science, Javier Burdman, Political Science, Christine Goding-Doty, African American Studies, and Charles Clarke, Political Science. Accompanying them were Northwestern cluster faculty Penelope Deutscher, Alessia Ricciardi, and Michael Loriaux. Participants also attended Samuel Weber's Paris Program in Critical Theory seminar, and the E.N.S. conference "Derrida à venir." The second meeting of the doctoral workshop will take place at Northwestern in 2015-16 (April 27-May 3). Visiting professors joining the visiting graduate students will include Marc Crepon (E.N.S.) and Christoph Menke (Frankfurt).

# VISITING PROFESSORS OF SPECIAL INTEREST 2015-2016



## Carolyn Christov-Bakargiev

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

Christov-Bakargiev is a curator, author and researcher interested in historical avant-garde and contemporary art. She currently the curator of the 14<sup>th</sup> Istanbul Biennial, a citywide exhibition which will open in September 2015, as well as the Leverhulme Visiting professor for 2014 at the University of Leeds. Named 2012's most powerful person in the art world by Art Review's Power 100 listings, Christov-Bakargiev was artistic director of dOCUMENTA (13) from 2008-2012, which took place in Kassel, Germany, and held workshops, seminars and exhibitions in Alexandria, Egypt; Kabul, Afghanistan; and Banff, Canada. Her stewardship of dOCUMENTA(13), considered to be one of the most intellectual and significant periodic exhibitions in the art world, renewed one of the exhibition's primal intentions to enlist culture as an agent of civic society building, reconstruction, healing and dialogue. Previously she has served as Artistic Director of the 16th Biennale of Sydney (2008) and Chief Curator at the Castello di Rivoli Museum of Contemporary Art (2002-08; interim director 2009). Christov-Bakargiev was also a Senior Curator at P.S. 1 Contemporary Art Center—a MoMa affiliate in New York from 1991-2001. Her books include William Kentridge (1998), Arte Povera (1999), and for dOCUMENTA(13) the 100 Notes—100 Thoughts series as well as The Book of Books (2011–12). Previous group exhibitions include The Moderns, Turin (2003), Faces in the Crowd, London and Turin (2004), Citta' Natura (1997), and Molteplici Culture (1992).

**Carolyn Christov-Bakargiev will teach, Art 372, "Worlding & Research in Art" in Fall 2015.**

## Hans-Jörg Rheinberger



The Department of German is pleased to announce the visit in spring of Max Kade Professor Hans-Jörg Rheinberger. Professor Rheinberger will be teaching undergraduate and graduate classes in the Spring quarter.

Other activities will include a public lecture and graduate workshop. The main focus of Professor Rheinberger's research lies in the history and epistemology of experimentation in the life sciences. By bridging the gap between the study of history and contemporary cutting-edge sciences, such as molecular biology, his work represents an example of trans-disciplinarity as emerging in the present knowledge-based society. The Swiss-born scientist studied philosophy and biology in Tübingen and Berlin, Germany. He received his M.A. in philosophy in 1973, his Ph.D. in biology in 1982, and his habilitation in molecular biology in 1987. He was Assistant Professor at the University of Lübeck, Germany, and Associate Professor at the University of Salzburg, Austria. Since 1997, he has been a Scientific Member of the Max Planck Society and Director at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science in Berlin.

Hans Jörg Rheinberger has been a fellow of the Institute for Advanced Study in Berlin and of the Collegium Helveticum in Zürich. His translated publications include: [An Epistemology of the Concrete: Twentieth-Century Histories of Life](#) and [On Historicizing Epistemology: An Essay](#). He is honorary professor at the Institute for Philosophy and History of Science of the Technical University Berlin, a member of the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of the Sciences, a member of the Leopoldina, the German Academy of Natural Scientists, and a doctor honoris causa at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich.

## Jan Behrs



Jan Behrs is the new 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 his 300-level literature class in the fall.