



Northwestern Program in Critical Theory WEINBERG COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

### THE CRITICAL THEORY CLUSTER (CTC)

Over the past three decades, the term "critical theory" has come to designate, particularly in the United States, a type of study that cuts across disciplines to examine the premises, concepts, and categories that structure academic discourse in areas such as literary studies, art history, film studies, history, philosophy, and political theory, to name just a few. Critical theory is therefore not limited to a particular 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, Penelope Deutscher or Peter Fenves.



CRISTINA LAFONT Director clafont@northwestern.edu



PENELOPE DEUTSCHER Associate Director p-deutscher@northwestern.edu



PETER FENVES Associate Director p-fenves@northwestern.edu

### CRITICAL THEORY ADVISORY BOARD



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



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



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



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



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



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



JOSÉ MEDINA Walter Dill Scott Professor, Philosophy jose.medina@northwestern.edu



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



RAMON RIVERA - SERVERA Professor and Chair, Performance Studies r-rivera-servera@northwestern.edu



ALEJANDRA USLENGHI Associate Professor, Spanish & Portuguese a-uslenghi@northwestern.edu



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



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



ALEXANDER WEHELIYE Professor, African American Studies a-weheliye@northwestern.edu



BARRY WIMPFHEIMER Associate Professor, Religious Studies barry@northwestern.edu



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



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

### CRITICAL THEORY CLUSTER READING GROUPS

# CURRENT & UPCOMING READING GROUPS:

RHETORIC AND POLITICS OF PROTEST AND DIRECT ACTION (preparation for corresponding speaker series - see p.15 | contact rlbince@u.northwestern.edu)

COLLABORATION AND DOCUMENTATION (Fall 2021 | Contact: das-dokumentarische@rub.de or rlbince@u.northwestern.edu)

EOS READS FOR BLACK LIVES (partnership with Classics Cluster | Contact: AndrewHull2019@u.northwestern.edu)

CRITICAL PUBLIC HUMANITIES (Contact: AngelaTate2022@u.northwestern.edu or RebekahBryer2022@u.northwestern.edu)

PRAXIS AND REVOLUTION (preparation for Von Redecker event - see p.17 | Contact: bernardobarzana2025@u.northwestern.edu)

WRITINGS OF ANTONIO GRAMSCI (Contact: magerasimovich@u.northwestern.edu or eloisabressan2020@u.northwestern.edu)

NADIA URBINATI: ME THE PEOPLE: HOW POPULISM TRANSFORMS DEMOCRACY (Critical Theory in Critical Times Preparatory Reading Group - see p.12 | Spring 2022 | Contact: rlbince@u.northwestern.edu)





### PAST READING GROUPS:

PEDAGOGIES AND SCHOLARSHIPS OF CARE (2021)

AFTERLIVES OF EXTRACTIVISM: THE PROTEST OF THE PASS IN SOUTH AFRICA AND THE DOCUMENTARY GESTURE (2021)

BLACK TRANS FEMINISM AND TRANS-LATINX CITIZENSHIP (2021)

DECOLONIZING THE UNIVERSAL, DECOLONIZING THE UNIVERSITY (2021)

SANTIAGO CASTRO-GÓMEZ: Critique of Latin American Reason (2020-2021)

RADICAL DEMOCRATIC THEORY 2020-2021)

LAURA PÉREZ: Eros Ideologies: Art, Spirituality and Decolonial Chicana Aesthetics (2020)

Create your own reading group by emailing your suggestion to criticaltheory@northwestern.edu.



### THE INTERDISCIPLINARY GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN CRITICAL THEORY

#### ICCT CERTIFICATE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

To obtain the <u>Critical Theory Certificate</u>, declare your cluster affiliation by e-mailing

crticaltheory@northwestern.edu. You then complete five courses from the <u>approved course list</u>. No more than two of those may be from your home department. You must designate at least two courses as your foundational critical theory seminars. Your foundational seminars should correspond with two of 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.

When you have completed the requirements, please fill out the online <u>TGS Certificate Application</u>. 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 Critical Theory Certificate requirements and application process can be found here: <u>https://www.criticaltheory.northwestern.edu/graduate/certificate.html</u>



### 2021-22 CRITICAL THEORY CLUSTER COURSES

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

#### AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDIES

AF\_AM\_ST 401: Rsch. Seminar in Black Studies (Pattillo) FALL

AF\_AM\_ST 480: Black Internationalism (Biondi) FALL

AF\_AM\_ST 480: Black Conceptual Methodologies (Hesse) FA

AF\_AM\_ST 403: Theorizing Black Diaspora (Marquez) WINT

AF\_AM\_ST 480: Topics - Black Life (Weheliye) WINT

AF\_AM\_ST 402: Theorizing Black Genders and Sexualities (Bey) SPRNG

AF\_AM\_ST 480: 19c Black Women Writers (Spigner) SPRNG

AF\_AM\_ST 480: Topics - Toni Morrison (Vaughn-Manley) SPR

#### ANTHROPOLOGY

ANTHRO 490: American Suburbias: Race, Class, and Placemaking (Aparicio) FALL

RHETORIC AND PUBLIC CULTURE

COMM\_ST 425: Public, Publicity, & The Public Sphere (Gaonkar) FALL

COMM\_ST 453: Visual Rhetoric (Hariman) FALL

Comparative Literary Studies

COMP\_LIT 410: Theories of Literature (Feinsod) FALL

COMP\_LIT 481: Visualizing Radicalism (Gourianova) FALL

COMP\_LIT 486: Green Materialisms (Wolff) WINT

COMP\_LIT 488: Hannah Arendt (Gottlieb) WINT

COMP\_LIT 488: Studies in French Philosophy (Deutscher)

ENGLISH

ENG 465: Ecology and Postcolonial Forms (Mwangi) FALL

Northwestern

ENG 481: Racial Ecologies (Huang) FALL

ENG 434: Early Modern Sexualities (Masten) WINT

ENG 441: Green Materialisms (Wolff) WINT

ENG 461: Black Speculative Fiction (Mann) WINT

ENG 461: Arendt: Poetry, Politics & Thought (Gottlieb) WINT

ENG 471: 19c Black Women Writers (Spigner and Stern) WINT

ENG 481: Studies in Theories of Feeling (Jackson) WINT

#### French

FRENCH 422: Visual Cult:Art Hist & Lit (Bush) FALL

FRENCH 494: Interdisciplinary, Theoretical, and Critical Approaches (Ricciardi) SPRNG

#### GERMAN

GERMAN 402: Lit&Critical Thought 1832-1900 (Weber) FALL

GERMAN 441: Study Communication & Culture (Weitzman) FA

GERMAN 403: German Literature, Critical Thought and New Media 1900-45 (Fenves) WINT

GERMAN 408: Critical Theory and Religion (Helmer) SPRNG

#### Gender Studies

GNDR\_ST 390: Sex and the American Empire: Journalism and Frames (Thrasher) FALL

GNDR\_ST 405: Advanced Feminist Theory (Dietz) FALL

GNDR\_ST 490: Early Modern Sexualities (Masten) WINT

GNDR\_ST 490: Gender, Power, Politics (Orloff) SPRNG

GNDR\_ST 490: 19th C. Black Women Writers (Spigner) SPRNG

GNDR\_ST 490: Toni Morrison (Vaughn) SPRNG

GNDR ST 490: Theorizing Black Genders & Sexualities (Bey) SPRN $\overline{G}$ 

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### 2021-22 CRITICAL THEORY CLUSTER COURSES

#### HISTORY

HISTORY 492: The US Empire (Immerwahr) FALL

#### MUSICOLOGY

MUSICOL 435: Hannah Arendt's Sound Politics (Dohoney) WINT

MUSICOL 455: Adorno's Musical Thought (Dohoney) SPRNG

#### Philosophy

PHIL 315: Hegelian Themes in Social Theory (Alznauer) FALL

PHIL 315: Studies in French Philosophy (Deutscher) FALL

PHIL 414: Seminar in German Philosophy (Lafont) WINT

PHIL 422: Studies in Modern Philosophy (Zuckert) WINT

PHIL 415: Seminar in French Philosophy (Deutscher) SPRNG

PHIL 420: Studies in Ancient Philosophy (Cumella) SPRNG

PHIL 423: Seminar in Contemporary Phil (Hyska) SPRNG

#### POLITICAL SCIENCE

POLI\_SCI 490: Utopian Political Theory (Farr) FALL

POLI\_SCI 490: Advanced Feminist Theory (Dietz) FALL

POLI\_SCI 490: Special Topics in Political Science: Political Theories of Membership (Stevens) WINT

POLI SCI 485: Global Theory Workshop (Nili) SPRNG

POLI\_SCI 490: Special Topics in Political Science: Race & American Political Thought (Tillery) SPRNG

POLI\_SCI 490: Special Topics in Political Science: Politics, Society, and Inequality in the U.S (Chen) SPRNG

POLI\_SCI 490: Special Topics in Political Science: Religion, Race, & Global Politics (Hurd) SPRNG

POLI\_SCI 490: Special Topics in Political Science: Modern Islamic Political Thought (Salem) SPRNG

#### **Religious** Studies

REL 462: History and Presence (Orsi) SPRNG

REL 471: Religion, Race & Politics: Global and Imperial Perspectives (Hurd) SPRNG

REL 473: Buddhist Theocracy and Politics in Tibet (Terrone) SPRNG

RADIO, TELEVISION, AND FILM

RTVF 412: Cultural History of Film (Rogers) WINT

RTVF 584: Cinema and Time (Padmanabhan) WINT

#### SOCIOLOGY

SOCIOL 440: Economic Sociology (Carruthers) WINT

SOCIOL 476: Collective Memory (Fine) WINT

SOCIOL 476: Stratification, Race, and Gender (Quillian) WINT

SOCIOL 440: Stratification: Class, Race, Gender (Quillian) SPRNG

#### Spanish & Portuguese

SPANISH 397: Topics: Lit/Cult of LatAmer (Uslenghi) FALL

SPANPORT 480: Brazilian Modern/ism: The Queer Archive (Braga-Pinto) FALL

SPANPORT 450: Topics in Cultural Studies (Coronado) WINT

SPANPORT 425: Studies in Contemporary Literatures & Cultures (STAFF) SPRNG

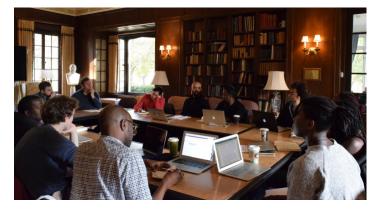
# Northwestern Critical Theory

### KAPLAN INSTITUTE RESEARCH WORKSHOPS

#### 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 cosponsored 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: criticaltheory@northwestern.edu.



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.

#### 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.

2017-2018 speakers included Michael Forster (University of Bonn), Molly Flynn (Assumption College), and Guy Elgat (School of the Art Institute of Chicago). 2016-2017 speakers included Rachel Zuckert (Northwestern), Dear Moyar (Johns Hopkins University), and Kevin Thompson (DePaul University). 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: Kasey Hettig-Rolfe (KaseyHettig-Rolfe2023@u.northwestern.edu).

#### Northwestern Program in Critical Theory WEINBERG COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

### LANGUAGE STUDY FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

## WHY DO WE URGE LANGUAGE TRAINING STRENUOUSLY?

French, German, and Spanish are three of the languages important to the critical theory tradition. The foreign language training made available by Northwestern University is a valuable part of the conditions offered to its graduate students. It is an opportunity hard to duplicate later in an academic career, with respect to available time for language acquisition, funding, and the quality of the programs. Where you have interests and research involving the work of theorists, authors, and media produced in another language, you should begin your graduate career with the relevant language study.

It also gives some graduate students access to additional lines of full-time research funding (for example, through the D.A.A.D.) both during your graduate career and throughout your academic life. International fellowship and grant opportunities are an increasingly important aspect of academic careers. We recommend that graduate students begin language training as early as possible. Many graduate students succeed in acquiring two languages while at Northwestern, particularly when they benefit from programs such as a study year abroad with Northwestern's Paris Program in Critical Theory or in Germany through D.A.A.D. funding—or other overseas study and training opportunities.

The Critical Theory Cluster particularly encourages language study as an often vital component of graduate student research and training. Language training is, of course, also a great pleasure, and a relaxing and stimulating complement to graduate coursework and dissertation writing. And, perhaps most importantly: it expands worlds, thought, networks and opportunities in unpredictable ways.

It need not be time consuming, and will often (ranging from quicker access to needed material in a foreign language to new fellowship opportunities) gain you time.

#### Opportunities for Graduate Language Study at Northwestern

Graduate students can access courses in Northwestern's language departments, both during the academic year, and over the summer, only while they are on fellowship. For example: a fifth-year student who receives funding into the sixth year is not on fellowship in summer between these years, and so cannot enroll in language courses at that time without paying the relevant fees. Thus we strongly encourage you to take advantage of the opportunities as early as possible. Funding is also sometimes available for participation in summer language immersion institutes in the United States (such as at Middlebury College) and considerable funding is often available for overseas language training: Northwestern's language teaching faculty are often very well placed to help you plan and access these opportunities.

Options and choices: many graduate students are able to enroll in undergraduate classes through the year. Many languages can be studied intensively over the summer. Some graduate students prefer this option, as it allows language study at a time when they have no other coursework obligations. We recommend both (and all available) options. Occasionally, specialist courses designed to give reading-only competency are available. They are sometimes a good choice. A period of overseas study can be an important means of consolidating your language ability. There are many funding opportunities to support these, most involve your having first acquired an introductory or early intermediate level. Again, this gives reason to start relevant language training as early as possible in your graduate enrollment.

### STUDY OVERSEAS

# THE PARIS PROGRAM IN CRITICAL THEORY

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

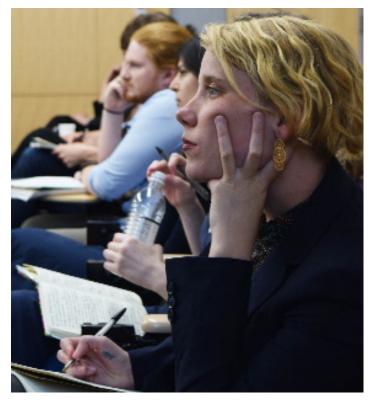
During the Fall quarter, the Program Director leads a weekly research seminar on a question of current concern in contemporary critical theory. The seminar can also serve as a forum for work in progress. The particular topic of the seminar will be determined in consultation with participating students.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

For more information, please go to www.parisprogram. northwestern.edu. Applications should be submitted electronically to Dominque Licops at d-licops@ northwestern.edu.

#### GOETHE UNIVERSITY OF FRANKFURT AM MAIN EXCHANGE PROGRAM

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

For further 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. 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. For more information on these programs: global.northwestern. edu/programs/dual-phd-program-institut-detudespolitiques-sciences-po

#### 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, 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 Anna Parkinson, a-parkinson@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: <a href="https://www.tgs.northwestern.edu/funding/fellowships-and-grants/internal-fellowships-grants/conference-travel-grant.html">https://www.tgs.northwestern.edu/funding/fellowships-and-grants/internal-fellowships-grants/conference-travel-grant.html</a>

For more on general funding opportunities, visit: <u>https://www.tgs.northwestern.edu/funding/</u> <u>fellowships-and-grants/index.html.</u>

Northwestern Critical Theory WEINBERG COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

### CRITICAL THEORY IN CRITICAL TIMES ANNUAL WORKSHOP SERIES

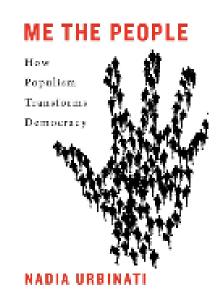
The Critical Theory in Critical Times annual workshop series is a joint initiative of the Center for Global Culture and Communication (CGCC) and the Critical Theory Cluster. The aim of this workshop series is to create a forum for discussion of recently published work in the tradition of critical theory 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.

Me the People: A Discussion on Populism with Nadia Urbinati

April 1, 2022, 4-6 pm (Northwestern University Campus Location TBD)

The 2022 Critical Theory in Critical Times annual series workshop will focus around the work of Nadia Urbinati (Kyriakos Tsakopoulos Professor of Political Theory at Columbia University) and, in particular, her newest book, *Me the People: How Populism Transforms Democracy* (Harvard University Press). Nadia Urbinati will discuss this work with four commentators (TBD).

In Me the People, Urbinati argues that populism should be regarded as a new form of representative government, one based on a direct relationship between the leader and those the leader defines as the "good" or "right" people. Populist leaders claim to speak to and for the people without the need for intermediaries in particular, political parties and independent media whom they blame for betraying the interests of the ordinary many. Urbinati shows that, while populist governments remain importantly distinct from dictatorial or fascist regimes, their dependence on the will of the leader, along with their willingness to exclude the interests of those deemed outside the bounds of the "good" or "right" people, stretches constitutional democracy to its limits and opens a pathway to authoritarianism. Weaving together theoretical analysis, the history of political thought, and current affairs, Urbinati presents an original and illuminating account of populism and its relation to democracy.



#### READING GROUP INFORMATION

We invite faculty and graduate students to participate in a reading group in advance of the April 1, 2022 workshop. A copy of the book will be available to participants. If you would like to participate, please contact Critical Theory Graduate Assistant, Ryan Bince (rlbince@u.northwestern.edu).

https://www.criticaltheory.northwestern.edu/graduate/workshops/

### 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.

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. In addition to other events throughout the year, 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). The workshop this year will be on the "hermeneutics of suspicion" and will include presentations by Sarah Johnson, Jacqueline Scott, and Elizabeth Rottenberg. Past speakers have included Steven Crowell, Lanier Anderson, Paul Redding, Jay Bernstein, Lisa Shabel, and Rebecca Comay.

For more information: <u>sites.northwestern.edu/germanphil</u>. If you have any questions about consortium events, please contact: Mark Alznauer at m-alznauer@northwestern.edu.

#### RHETORIC AND PUBLIC CULTURE SUMMER INSTITUTE

Every year, the Rhetoric and Public Culture Summer Institute, an initiative supported by the Center for Global Culture and Communication, brings together visinting faculty and participants to discuss various themes related to public culture.

The 2022 Summer Institute, to be held that July, will be an installment of the Institute's series on Media Aesthetics: What does it mean to study and to theorize media today? For the past several decades if not since at least the 1960s aesthetic production in its institutional manifestations has become more varied, less medium specific, and perhaps more fruitfully approached in a comparative manner. One key development here concerns the increasing and uneven ways in which the boundaries between more institutionally-sanctioned forms of aesthetic production and more ordinary vernaculars of experience have come to be understood as permeable and newly articulated and entangled. Taking aesthetics in its Greek sense of aisthesis (perception or feeling), we affirm the significance of methodologies taking qualitative approaches to experience such as affect theory, queer theory, phenomenology, black studies, and psychoanalysis. Taking note of many local interventions in theoretical approaches to media studies, however, the summer institute asks what affinities and commonalities these discourses share.

### 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 2019 edition took place in Chicago at Northwestern University from June 24th through the 27th and was dedicated to the interrelation between psychoanalysis and philosophy. Both discourses have been understood as originating in wonder, resisting institutional practices, and running the risk of becoming impossible or untenable, especially in recent times. Both modes of reflection also have laid claim to providing strong foundations for critical thinking and political resistance. At the same time, both disciplines need to meet the challenge of defining new geographies and cultural contexts for their continuing relevance.

The 2022 Institute will take place in June of that year and center on the theme of "Psychoanalysis and Politics."

#### THE TRI-UNIVERSITY DISSERTATION WORKSHOP

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

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

The 2021 workshop took place virtually from April 15-17, 2021, as a collaboration between Frankfurt and Northwestern. It was organized by Eskil Elling (Northwestern) and Marina Martinez (Frankfurt). From NU, the participating graduate students were Tamara Tasevska, Maureen Winter, Ruslana Lichtzier, Ashley Ferrell, Marzouq Alnusf, Eli Lichtenstein, Michael Schwarz, and Eskil Elling. Faculty commentators were Mark Alznauer, Alessia Ricciardi, Anna Maree Parkinson, Penelope Deutscher, and Cristina Lafont (from NU); Daniel Loick (Amsterdam); as well as Jonas Heller, Marina Martinez, Katherina Hoppe, Christoph Menke, and Arthur Bueno (Frankfurt).



### WORKSHOPS AND PROGRAMS OF INTEREST

#### REHEARSALS IN CRITICAL RACE STUDIES

This series is graciously co-sponsored through a multi-year grant from the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences Dean's Collective Fund for Critical Race Studies. The series gives graduate students an opportunity to discuss new manuscripts at the pre-publication stage with emergent and senior scholars in the field. In addition to workshopping new scholarship, graduate participants with dissertations in progress are also able to discuss the complexities of realizing book length academic projects, and the creative stage leading up to their resolution.

Previous manuscripts discussed in this forum include:

Nov 2020: Death's Futurity: The Visual Life of Black Power by Sampada Aranke Mar 2020: Black Mythologies: Race, Culture, and the Practice of Utopia by William Paris Nov 2017: Graduate Workshop with Fred Moten (NYU) and Stefano Harney (Singapore Management Uni) May 2017: Politics in the Souls of Black Folk by Chike Jeffers. Feb 2017: Revisiting Adorno and Black Expression by Fumi Okiji.

# Speaker Series on the Rhetoric and Politics of Protest and Direct Action

CANDICE DELMAS | October 16, 2021 | Virtual | 1-3 pm

Delmas is Associate Professor of Philosophy and Political Science at Northeastern University. Her book, *A Duty to Resist: When Disobedience Should Be Uncivil*, was published by Oxford University Press in 2018 and released in paperback with a new preface in 2020. She is currently researching the ethics of hunger strike.

JASON FRANK | November 12, 2021 | Virtual | Time TBD

Frank is the John L. Senior Professor of Government at Cornell University. His most recent book is *The Democratic Sublime: On Aesthetics and Popular Assembly* (Oxford University Press, 2021), which offers an interdisciplinary exploration of how the revolutionary proliferation of popular assemblies—crowds, demonstrations, gatherings of the "people out of doors"—came to be a central form of democratic representation during the age of democratic revolutions, and how they remain so today.

JULIET HOOKER | February 3, 2022 | Virtual | Time TBD

Hooker is Professor of Political Science. She is a political theorist specializing in racial justice, multiculturalism, Latin American political thought, Black political thought, and Afro-descendant and indigenous politics in Latin America. She is the author of *Race and the Politics of Solidarity* (Oxford, 2009) and *Theorizing Race in the Americas: Douglass, Sarmiento, Du Bois, and Vasconcelos* (Oxford, 2017), and *Black and Indigenous Resistance in the Americas: From Multiculturalism to Racist Backlash* (Lexington Books, 2021). Her current research project examines the politics of loss.

For more information, contact: ViduraBahadur2023@u.northwestern.edu.

### 2021-22 EVENTS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

Please visit PlanItPurple or criticaltheory.northwestern.edu/events/ for the most up-to-date information on events of special interest. Events are also frequently announced on the Critical Theory Program Listserv. Requests to join the listserv can be made by emailing **criticaltheory@northwestern.edu**.

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DIALOGUE ON EVA VON REDECKER'S *PRAXIS AND REVOLUTION* (2021) November 5, 2021 | 4-6 PM | Virtual | Co-Hosted by Philosophy, Comparative Literary Studies, and Critical Theory Programs

Redecker will introduce the work with a lecture titled "Slow Revolution at the Guillotine: Rethinking Paradigm Shifts with Walter Benjamin and Thomas Kuhn." Jay Berstein will respond with a discussion on "Ecological Revolutions and Revolutionary Ecology."

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JASON FRANK | November 12, 2021 | Time and Location TBD
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Frank is the John L. Senior Professor of Government at Cornell University. His most recent book is *The Democratic Sublime: On Aesthetics and Popular Assembly* (Oxford University Press, 2021), which offers an interdisciplinary exploration of how the revolutionary proliferation of popular assemblies—crowds, demonstrations, gatherings of the "people out of doors"—came to be a central form of democratic representation during the age of democratic revolutions, and how they remain so today.

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ME THE PEOPLE: A DISCUSSION ON POPULISM WITH NADIA URBINATI April 1, 2022 | 4-6 pm CST | Northwestern University

This workshop will focus around the work of Nadia Urbinati (Kyriakos Tsakopoulos Professor of Political Theory at Columbia University) and, in particular, her newest book *Me the People: How Populism Transforms Democracy* (Harvard University Press). Nadia Urbinati will discuss this work with four commentators (TBD).



### 2021-22 EVENTS OF SPECIAL INTEREST

#### CECILIA SJÖHOLM: "EVERYTHING WAS DESIGNED TO MAKE US SOUND: ARENDT, LISTENING, AND POLITICS" May 18-20, 2021 | Ryan Center for Musical Arts | Hosted by Music Studies

Arendt's critique of totalitarianism, provocative thesis on the "banality of evil," and full-throated defense of the democratic public sphere have retained their value in the decades since she first proposed them. What has received far less attention is her consideration of the relationship between politics and the arts and listening, particularly as they are connected by the human faculty of judgement and the development of common sense. An international group of scholars and artists from Northwestern and beyond will gather together from May 19-21, 2021 for a workshop on the role of music, art, and political judgement in resilient democracies. Sjöholm's keynote will feature faculty and graduate student respondents.

DANIEL LOICK: DIALOGUE ON "AFFECTIVE PRIVILEGE" Spring 2021, Date TBA | Hosted by Critical Theory Program and Comparative Literary Studies

With response from Alessia Ricciardi.

RHETORIC & PUBLIC CULTURE SUMMER INSTITUTE: MEDIA AESTHETICS IV July 2021 | Hosted by Rhetoric & Public Culture and Center for Global Culture and Communication

See p. 13 for more information.



### INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM of CRITICAL THEORY PROGRAMS

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).

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 supports the UC Irvine Libraries Critical Theory Archive. Under the direction of Northwestern University, the Critical Theory in the Global South project has developed new models for international cooperation between univerities which include 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 and African American 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). Events in AY 2020-21 hosted Santiago Castro-Gomez for a discussion of his Critique of Latin American Reason (October) and Eduardo Sabrovsky for a roundtable focused on his *Modernity as Exception and Miracle* (February).

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); "After Foucault: Pluralizing Modernity, Sex, Biopolitics, and Neoliberalism" (Penelope Deutscher, Marcela Fuentes, Alejandra Uslenghi, and Mary Weismantel (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 have also collaborated 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 on the ICCTP and its mailing list, email info.ictconsortium@berkeley.edu.

For more on Northwestern's Critical Theory in the Global South curriculum project, contact criticaltheory@northwestern.edu or visit: <u>criticaltheory.northwestern.edu/mellon-project</u>

Northwestern

Program in

Critical Theory

WEINBERG COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

### 2021-22 VISITING PROFESSORS OF SPECIAL INTEREST



Professor Holt's research and teaching interests include the dialogue between the early modern and the (post-)modern, cultural theory, and transnational literature with a specialization on literary relations between Germany and Latin America. She received her PhD in German Literature from Freie Universität Berlin in 2019. Her dissertation Figurationen des Bösen im barocken Trauerspiel deepens the understanding of 17th century literary and cultural production by reassessing the dramatic writing from authors such as Andreas Gryphius and Daniel Casper von Lohenstein as an aesthetics of evil avant la lettre. After studying Modern German Literature and Latin American Studies at Freie Universität Berlin and the University of Texas at Austin, she was a research associate at the Collabroative Research Center "Episteme in Motion" and at the Department for German and Dutch Philology at Freie Universität Berlin.

Her next project 'Barocke' Bewegungen: Literarische Praxis und Kulturtheorie in Deutschland und Lateinamerika seit 1970 explores the postmodern afterlives of the pre- and early modern in a comparative framework. She was recently awarded a DAAD Postdoctoral Fellowship and a Hilde Domin Fellowship for German-Latin American Literary Relations.

DAAD Visiting Professor Isabel Von Holt



Max Kade Visiting Professor Doerte Bischoff Doerte Bischoff is Professor of 20th Century German Literature and Contemporary Literature and the Director of the Walter A. Berendsohn Research Center for German Exile Literature. She also taught at the Universities of Siegen, Münster, and Cincinnati. Her research areas include: Literature, Exile, and Migration; German-Jewish Literature; Memory Studies, Gender Studies, Transnationalism and Transculturalism in Literature.

She is the author of *Poetischer Fetischismus: Der Kult der Dinge im 19. Jahrhundert* (Munich: Fink 2013), and *Ausgesetzte Schöpfung: Figuren der Souveränität und Ethik der Differenz in der Prosa Else Lasker-Schülers* (Tübingen: Niemeyer 2002). She also edited several volumes including *Figuren des Transnationalen: (Re-)Visionen der deutschsprachigen Gegenwartsliteratur; Handbuch Literatur & Transnationalität;* and *Literatur und Exil. Neue Perspektiven.* She is also an editor of *Exilforschung: Ein internationales Jahrbuch, herausgegeben im Auftrag der Gesellschaft für Exilforschung /* Society of Exile Studies. Her numerous essays cover a broad range of topics including Exile Literature, Transnationalism, Holocaust Literature, Fetishism, Gender Studies, and Rhetoric.

Professor Bischoff will join us at Northwestern University in Spring 2022.

#### Northwestern Program in Critical Theory WEINBERG COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

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