

# PROJECT STATUS UPDATE

24 JULY 2019

**Prepared by:**

PENELOPE DEUTSCHER, PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR

EMILY RUF, PROJECT MANAGER

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## OVERVIEW

Northwestern University was awarded \$1,020,000 to support the development of new curricula reflecting the global reach of critical theory. These are produced through ten international, cross-university faculty-graduate research cooperations in areas for which North-South and South-South dialogues are consequential: such as critical memory studies, the critical university, plural epistemologies and their routes of translation, biopolitics/necropolitics, and new forms of political violence. A 2015 Mellon planning grant (#11500130) funded the travel and consultation through which the themes were selected. Their selection was informed by the conference series, translation series, and journal themes of the ICCTP (International Consortium of Critical Theory Programs). The new syllabi and their teaching materials are being developed by international faculty partnerships integrating the research assistance and visits of predoctoral fellows appointed from the partner university.

## STATUS SUMMARY

Since the 2017-18 report produced to the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation last September, the Critical Theory in the Global South Project has reached a number of milestones related to syllabus development, faculty exchanges, student exchanges, and collaborative events. Highlights include three new syllabi; three visiting pre-doctoral fellows from Peru, Mexico, and South Africa to Northwestern University; a *Decolonizing Critical Theory* conference; two faculty visits; four public talks; and three graduate student workshops.



**SYLLABI**

Our syllabi aim to alter the basic framework in which critical theory courses are taught in higher education and progressively show how the inquiry into key terms is improved by considering the non-European elements of the European language texts and by directing the courses to a particular critique that is itself a broad reflection on, and response to, the "Global South."

***SUB-PROJECTS***

Circulating Anarchisms and Marxisms in the Andes	COMPLETE
Appropriation and It's Discontents	COMPLETE
Contemporary Latin American Contributions to Feminism	COMPLETE
Walter Benjamin and Critical Theory in Latin America	COMPLETE
Latin American Philosophy	COMPLETE
Indian Ocean Epistemologies	COMPLETE
Aesthetics and the Critique of Political Theology	COMPLETE
Trauma, Politics, and the Uses of Memory	IN PROGRESS
Gender and Biopolitics in the Americas	UPCOMING
The University and Its Publics	UPCOMING

***SUPPLEMENTARY BIBLIOGRAPHIES***

Contemporary Latin American Contributions to Feminism	COMPLETE
Critical Epistemologies	COMPLETE

## COURSES

### AY 2017-18

ENG 461/COMPLIT 486: Indian Ocean Epistemologies  
*Evan Mwangi, Northwestern University, Spring*

CPLT 619: Walter Benjamin and Critical Theory in Latin America  
*Paul North, Yale University, Spring*

PHIL 3653: Latin American Philosophy  
*Samir Haddad, Fordham University, Spring*

### AY 2018-19

SPANPORT 480-0: Topics in Latin American Literature  
*Jorge Coronado, Northwestern University, Winter*

SPAN 397/COMP\_LIT 307/GNDR\_ST 341: Queer Theory Latin America  
*Jorge Sanchez-Cruz, Northwestern University, Winter*

SPAN 397/COMP\_LIT 390: Sexual Dissidence & Activism in Latin America  
*Jorge Sanchez-Cruz, Northwestern University, Spring*

### AY 2019-20

SPANPORT 343-0: Latin American Avant-Gardes  
*Jorge Coronado, Northwestern University, Fall*

ART\_HIST 460: APPROPRIATION ('NORTH' AND 'SOUTH')  
*Huey Copeland, Northwestern University, Fall*

ENG 365: Indian Ocean Cultures  
*Evan Mwangi, Northwestern University, Spring*

## TRANSLATIONS/PUBLICATIONS

**Nelly Richard, Eruptions of Memory: The Critique of Memory in Chile 1990-2015**

*Published by Polity in 2019 as part of the "Critical South" series.*

**Willy Thayer, Technologies of Critique**

*Under contract with Fordham University Press, in production and due for release December 2019.*

**Annotated translation of Davidson Don Tengo Jabavu's travelogue**

*Under contract with WITS Press, South Africa. Subvention provided April 2019.*

**Eduardo Sabrovsky's Of the Extraordinary: Nominalism and Modernity**

*Under contract with SUNY Press with an introduction by Peter Fenves.*

**Indian Ocean Trajectories**

*Special issue of the journal of Eastern African Literary and Cultural Studies co-edited by Professors Steiner and Mwangi, was published October 2018 and is available to read online: <https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/real20/4/3-4?nav=tocList&>*

**Anarchisms and Marxisms in the Andes Reader**

*In consideration by Haymarket Press*



## EVENTS



### AY 2018-19

**Dissertation Workshop and Faculty Visit**, in Mexico City, Mexico (Nov 2018)

*The University and Its Publics: North, South, and In Between*

**Conference:** Decolonizing Critical Theory, in Evanston, USA (Nov 30 – Dec 3, 2018)

**Talk:** Victor Vich (Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú), Performances medioambientales en el Perú contemporáneo, in Evanston, USA (Jan 17, 2019)

*Circulating Anarchisms and Marxisms in the Andes*

**Talk:** Jorge Sanchez Cruz, Politics of Illegibility: Aesthetics, Sexual Dissidence, and Mexico, in Evanston, USA (Mar 5, 2019)

*Andrew W. Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow*

**Dissertation Workshop and Faculty Visit**, in Buenos Aires, Argentina (Mar 25-29, 2019)

*After Foucault: Pluralizing Modernity, Sex, Biopolitics, and Neoliberalism*

**Workshop:** Hacer Escuela/Making School #2, in Philadelphia, USA (Mar 29-30, 2019)

*Hacer Escuela/Making School: Rethinking the Pedagogy of Critical Theory*

**Talk:** Gabriela Balcarce (University of Buenos Aires), Resistance and Argentinian Feminism, in Evanston, IL (Apr 16, 2019)

*After Foucault... | Biopolitics Speaker Series*



## EVENTS

### AY 2018-19 (CONT)

**Reading Group:** Eruptions of Memory by Nelly Richard, in Evanston, USA (Apr 22, 2019)  
*Trauma, Politics, and the Uses of Memory*

**Talk:** Gabriel Giorgi (New York University) A Democratic Hate: Writing the 'Wars of Subjectivity' in Latin America, in Evanston, USA (Apr 25, 2019)  
*After Foucault... | Biopolitics Speaker Series*

**Workshop:** Eruptions of Memory by Nelly Richard, in Evanston, USA (May 3, 2019)  
*Trauma, Politics, and the Uses of Memory*

**Workshop:** Democracy, Critique, and Europe's "Crisis": Black Feminist and Decolonial Troubles, in Evanston, USA (August 29, 2019)  
*Decolonizing Critical Theory*

### AY 2019-20

**Graduate Pedagogy Workshop:** The Ambulant Pedagogy of Latin American Critical Gender and Queer Theory, in Evanston, USA (October 18-20, 2019)  
*The University and Its Publics: North, South, and In Between*

**Talk:** Biopolitics Speaker, TBD  
*After Foucault... | Biopolitics Speaker Series*

**Talk:** Mario Bellatín, in Evanston, USA (January 27, 2020)  
*After Foucault... | External Funding*

**Faculty Visit:** Daniel Link and Mariano Seoane, in Evanston, IL (Jan 27 – Feb 7, 2020)  
*After Foucault... | External Funding*

**Conference:** Critique of Violence, in Evanston, USA (May 2020)  
*External Funding*

**Conference:** A Critical Education, in Santiago, Chile (June 2020)  
*Closing Conference*

## PRE-DOCTORAL FELLOWS

Each sub-project includes an exchange of graduate fellows, who travel to the partnering institution for a six-month period to provide research assistance for the new course development and conduct their own research under the supervision of the hosting sub-project collaborator.

This "Mellon International Pre-Doctoral Fellowship" provides graduate students with an experiential learning opportunity to syllabus development, an essential skill for them to have in the academic job search and any future academic position.



**Serah Kasembeli**

Stellenbosch University  
Sub-project: Indian Ocean  
Epistemologies

Collaborator: Evan Mwangi  
09/13/2017 - 03/17/2018



**Rodrigo Farias**

Universidad Diego Portales  
Sub-project: Aesthetics and the Critique of  
Political Theology

Collaborator: Peter Fenves  
04/1/2018 - 06/29/2018



**Athi Mongezeleli Joja**

University of Witswatersrand  
Sub-project: Appropriation and its  
Discontents

Collaborator: Huey Copeland  
06/1/2018 - 03/31/2018



**Sheyla Huyhua Munoz**

Pontificia Universidad del Peru  
Sub-project: Anarchisms and Marxisms in  
the Andes

Collaborator: Jorge Coronado  
10/01/2018 - 03/23/2019



## PRE-DOCTORAL FELLOWS



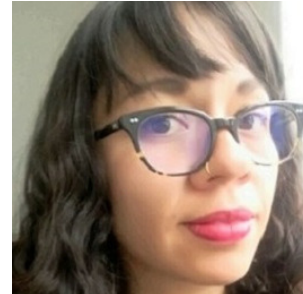
**Candice Jansen**

WiSER

Sub-project: Trauma, Politics, and the  
Uses of Memory

Collaborator: Anna Parkinson

02/01/2019 – 06/30/ 2019



**Cintia Velasco**

National Autonomous University of Mexico

Sub-project: Critical Epistemology -  
Knowing through Gender and the Decolonial

Collaborator: Jose Medina

12/01/2018 – 01/31/2019



**Lisandro Andrés Mendieta**

Universidad Tres de Febrero

Sub-project: After Foucault...

Collaborators: Penelope Deutscher &  
Alejandra Uslenghi

09/15/2019 – 03/16/2020



**Victoria Gubbins**

Yale University

Sub-project: Technologies of Critique:  
New Sources for Critical Theory

Collaborator: Willy Thayer

09/2019 – 03/2020



**Matías Sánchez**

Universidad Metropolitana de Ciencias de la Educación

Sub-project: Technologies of Critique: New Sources for Critical Theory

Collaborator: Paul North

09/2019 – 03/2020

## TESTIMONIALS

"The time frame of the pre-doctoral fellowship was crucial because it facilitated academic interactions in class, in the Indian Ocean Epistemologies reading group, Program of African Studies, and other extra curricular activities, which enabled intellectual exchanges in my work. The fellowship also provided interaction with my advisor, Prof Mwangi, at Northwestern in the discussions on the materials for the course while at the same time provided the ability to work with my PhD supervisor Prof Steiner at Stellenbosch."

- Serah Kasembeli

"Working so closely with a faculty member was really good. One of the things my collaborator strongly encouraged was for me to connect with people. She also gave me a lot of freedom in our partnership. She gave specific enough direction but also broad enough scope for me to interpret things the way I thought was useful."

- Candice Jansen

"After [this fellowship], I can go back [to Mexico] and integrate some new topics, such as the debates of race that have been developing here in the United States...How [the topic of identity] is integrated in race studies and gender studies here is very interesting. I learned a lot from that."

I found very amazing people here. Sometimes it's not very easy to move from the place where you are comfortable...I thought that I was not prepared enough for sharing knowledge and thinking with people abroad, but I actually realized that I'm absolutely capable of teaching, sharing and learning from people from different countries. [This fellowship] helped me feel more confident about my abilities."

- Cintia Velasco

## MELLON POST-DOCTORAL FELLOW

JORGE SANCHEZ-CRUZ



### COURSES TAUGHT 2018-19

#### Queer Theory Latin America

Winter 2019

COMP\_LIT 307

SPAN 397

GNDR\_ST 341

- **23 students** across the School of Arts & Sciences, School of Communication, School of Education and Social Policy, and School of Journalism enrolled
- **47 majors** represented

#### Sexual Dissidence & Activism in Latin America

Spring 2019

COMP\_LIT 390

SPAN 397

- **17 students** across the School of Arts & Sciences, School of Communication, School of Education and Social Policy, and School of Journalism enrolled
- **39 majors** represented

# LOOKING FORWARD

In the final year of the grant, the CTGS project will focus on implementing new processes and systems at Northwestern to ensure key project deliverables will be sustained through time. After initial inquiries internally, the project team has determined three separate approaches in this regard:

1

## **Program of Critical Theory Curriculum - Requirement Update**

Over the next year, the CTGS project team will work in collaboration with faculty and staff affiliated with the Program of Critical Theory to introduce a new foundational area for the undergraduate minor and graduate certificate. This area will be called “Critical Theory in the Global South” and will be a complementary concentration in which students may focus their critical theory studies, in addition to Literary Studies, Philosophy, and the Study of Politics. To receive an undergraduate minor, students will be required to take at least 1 course in each of these foundational areas. To receive a graduate certificate, students will be required to take at least 2 courses in one or more of these foundational areas. This structural change to the curriculum has received input and agreement from the Graduate School, Program Director, the Associate Program Director, Director of Undergraduate Studies, the Director of Graduate Studies, and the Program Assistant. The changes intend to be formalized for the 2020-21 academic year.

2

## **Program of Critical Theory Curriculum - Course Offerings**

Currently, most courses developed through the project are introduced as special topics courses in the project collaborator’s host department. While this is a step forward in putting syllabi to use, the CTGS project would like to begin introducing these courses in a way that ensures their longevity and ongoing teaching beyond the project’s grant timeline. With the consult and input of affiliated faculty and staff, the CTGS project aims to submit proposals to the curriculum review committee. The project is currently in the process of strategizing the proposal process and weighing the benefits and limitations of different approaches.

3

## **Syllabus Collection Initiative**

The CTGS project also aims to make use of project syllabi externally to Northwestern through a new syllabus collection initiative. This initiative serves the purpose of developing an online “hub” of syllabi and pedagogical resources like bibliographies for critical theory scholars and students around the world. The initiative has 3 main objectives – (A) Publish all new syllabi in Northwestern’s digital publishing platform, Arch (B) Seek additional syllabus contributions from scholars unaffiliated with the project through a broad “call for syllabi” (C) Develop a new website showcasing all of the syllabi created and collected by the project. A memorandum of understanding (MOU) has been signed with the Northwestern Library to collaborate on this syllabus collection initiative. Existing resources will be used to operationalize this project and no additional funding will be required from the grant. Beyond August 2020, the end date of the current grant, the Northwestern Library will continue to preserve all materials published in Arch. An automated process will be put in place for the addition of new materials.