



School of Criticism and Theory

Summer Session 2026: June 8 – July 16
at Cornell University



A six-week summer intensive
with leading figures in
critical thought



The School

Since its inception in 1976, the School of Criticism and Theory has been devoted to intensive intellectual inquiry and the vigorous exchange of ideas, cultivating a space where courageous discussion and innovative academic exploration can thrive. To this end, SCT brings together a diverse group of scholars from around the world, addressing an ever-expanding arrangement of cultural, political, and social movements, theoretical axes and intersecting debates across the humanities and social sciences. From inter-disciplinary scholarship that enables new knowledge, to collaborative conversation that yields new questions, SCT strives to respond to the complex and urgent struggles of our times with intellectual rigor and resilience.

Summer Program

In an intensive six-week course of study, faculty members, graduate students, and independent scholars explore recent developments in critical theory. The multi-layered dialogue that results, among both faculty and participants, is one of the hallmarks of SCT's culture. Participants work with the SCT's core faculty of distinguished scholars and theorists in one of three six-week seminars. Each faculty member offers, in addition, a public lecture and a colloquium (based on an original paper) which are attended by the entire group. The program also includes shorter workshops taught by international correspondent Deborah Amos and interdisciplinary artist Carla Liesching. The program begins with a lecture by leading political theorist, Alexander Livingston, along with a 50th anniversary conference organized by distinguished scholars and leaders of SCT, and ends with an exciting two-day participant-led conference. In addition, Cornell offers participants the resources of one of the great research libraries in the United States.

Admission

The online application deadline is February 1, 2026. Applicants must indicate which one of the six-week courses they wish to attend in order of preference. All participants are enrolled in both the journalism and visual workshops, as well as all the public lectures.



Carolyn Rouse

Director

Carolyn Rouse

Ritter Professor of Anthropology, Princeton University



Jason Frank

Major Seminars

The Democratic Theory of Counterrevolution — Jason Frank

John L. Senior Professor of Government, Cornell University

Charisma: Eros/Thanatos — William Mazzarella

Neukom Family Professor of Anthropology, University of Chicago



William Mazzarella

Orientalism/Capitalism — Chi-ming Yang

Professor of English, University of Pennsylvania



Chi-ming Yang

Workshops

Human Rights Reporting — Deborah Amos

Ferris Professor of Journalism in Residence, Princeton University

Unmaking the Archive — Carla Liesching

Lecturer in Lens-Based Media, Department of Art, Cornell University



Deborah Amos

Opening Lecture

Prophetic Witness and the Democratic Imagination — Alexander Livingston

Associate Professor of Government, Associate Director of the Society for the Humanities, Cornell University



Carla Liesching

50th Anniversary Conference

SCT@50: Method in the Humanities Now — June 16 & 17, 2026

Organized by distinguished scholars and leaders of SCT, Amanda Anderson, Jonathan Culler, Hent deVries, Peter Gordon, and Heather Love.



Alexander Livingston

Contact

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Apply by February 1, 2026

[Learn More](#)