How to affiliate with the Critical Theory Cluster

Email critical theory@northwestern.edu to introduce yourself.

You can use the critical theory listserv (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/
Introduction

Over the past four 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 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 the possibility of graduate student accreditation through the Interdisciplinary Graduate Certificate in Critical Theory.

The Cluster promotes intellectual exchange between graduate students and faculty with related interests in different departments and programs. It facilitates reading groups, workshops, and other initiatives by and for graduate students, and a coherent program of interdisciplinary coursework.

Activities regularly organized by the Cluster include: welcome events for new graduates, faculty-graduate book dialogues, conferences, the "Critical Theory in Critical Times" workshop, events organized by Northwestern's Cornell University School of Criticism and Theory fellowship awardees, workshops with visiting speakers including Max Kade visiting Professors, and an annual tri-university fall doctoral institute rotating between Northwestern University, the Goethe University of Frankfurt am Main and the Ecole Normale Supérieure, Paris.

Northwestern offers the Paris Program in Critical Theory, directed by Avalon Foundation Professor of Humanities, Samuel Weber. It affords advanced graduate students, from a variety of disciplines, a unique opportunity to spend one year in Paris familiarizing themselves with French and European theoretical research.

Northwestern also offers an undergraduate minor in Critical Theory. The Critical Theory Cluster facilitates associated events organized by and for undergraduates (often in conjunction with graduate students), including the Critical Theory Research Workshop. For information about Northwestern’s undergraduate minor and the popular undergraduate Paris Program in Critical Theory, Literature, and the Media contact Michael Loriaux (mloriaux@me.com).

For more information about the graduate cluster, contact co-directors.
Critical Theory Cluster Reading Groups

Veena Das’ Life and Words: Violence and the Descent into the Ordinary
Contact: p-deutscher@northwestern.edu

Paul of Tarsus Reading Group/Research Workshop
Texts from Agamben, Badiou, Schelling, Locke, Deleuze, Nietzsche, and often has guest speakers.
Contact: virgilbrower3@yahoo.com

Biopolitics Reading Group
Foucault’s philosophy and its insights for the modern social sciences.
Contact: williamcaldwell2019@u.northwestern.edu

Time: Reality, Dimension, Perception
Contact: tatiana.poddubnykh@gmail.com

German Critical Theory Group
Focuses on German Idealism, Kant and Hegel, Frankfurt School and Hermeneutics. Aims to be an interdisciplinary group.
Contact: danieltrujillo2012@u.northwestern.edu

Marx’s Capital Reading Group
Contact: jdakotabrown@gmail.com or clemensackermann2011@u.northwestern.edu

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: annaterwiel2014@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
The Critical Theory Research Workshop and the After-Life of Phenomenology Workshop are sponsored or co-sponsored by the Kaplan Institute for 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. It is funded 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 Mara Jacqueline Weber at maraweber2014@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.

For further information and participation, contact: Morganna Lambeth, morganna.lambeth@gmail.com.
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 may 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, 2015 to: Dominique Licops: 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 Northwestern’s 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.
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

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
(p-fenves@northwestern.edu).

Sam Weber
Critical Theatre Studies/Theaterwissenschaft
(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)

Domestic Fellowship Opportunity

The Critical Theory Cluster administers one sponsored fellowship annually for the School of Criticism and Theory at Cornell University. 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, or email: a-parkinson@northwestern.edu.

Conference Funding Opportunity

Limited conference funding (to a maximum of $300) is available annually to 3-4 graduate students. To apply, email criticaltheory@northwestern.edu 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.
To obtain the ICCT certificate, declare your cluster affiliation to tara.sadera@northwestern.edu. You must 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
## Cluster Courses (2014/2015) counting towards the Interdisciplinary Graduate Certificate in Critical Theory (ICCT)

### African American Studies
- **AF AM ST 469** Poststructuralism and Black Politics – Bamor Hesse – FQ
- **AF AM ST 420** Expressive Arts and Cultural Studies – Alex Weheliye – WQ
- **AF AM ST 480** Intro to Comparative Race & Diaspora – Michelle Wright – SQ

### Art History
- **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) – Stephen Eisenman – FQ
- **ART HIST 460** Art, Affect, and the End of Psychoanalysis – Huey Copeland – FQ

### Art Theory and Practice
- **ART 372** “On the social and aesthetic possibilities of synesthesia” – Carolyn Christov-Bakargiev – FQ
  
  *Note this is a special opportunity: Carolyn Christov-Bakargiev was the curator of the 2012 Documenta and will be visiting Northwestern 2013-2016 in fall of each year. Offering a critical theory intensive course at 300-level open to graduate students from other departments.

### Communication Studies
- **CS 453** Visual Communication – Robert Hariman – FQ
- **CS 475** Seminar in the Rhetoric of Contemporary Culture: Post-colonial and Transnational Discourse Analysis – Dilip Gaonkar – FQ

### German and Comparative Literary Studies
- **German 441** Studies in Communication and Culture (Adorno)/CLS 481: Studies in Literary Theory – Peter Brandes – FQ
- **German 401/cross-listed with Philosophy/CLS 486**: Hegel and Shakespeare – Anselm Haverkamp (visiting professor) – WQ
- **CLS 412** German Literature and Critical Thought, 1750-1832 – Sam Weber – WQ
- **German 441** Studies in Communication and Culture (Theories of Affect/Emotion)/CLS 486 Studies in Literature and the Disciplines – Anna Parkinson – SQ

### English
- **English 465/CLS 413** Studies in Colonial & Postcolonial Literature: Indian Ocean Modernisms – Evan Mwangi – FQ
- **English 385** Identification – James Hodge – WQ
- **English 441** Studies in 18th-Century Literature: Constructions of Gender and Race in Travel Writing of the Long Eighteenth Century – Helen Thompson – WQ
- **English 461/CLS 486** Studies in Contemporary Literature: International Law and Literature – Andrew Leong – WQ
- **English 383** Studies in Literary Theory: The Sublime – Emily Rorhbach – SQ

### French and Italian and CLS
- **French 460** The Avant-gardes in the World – Chris Bush – FQ
- **French 493** Theories of Colonial/Postcolonial Legacies Nasrin Qader – FQ
- **Italian 350-0** Advanced Topics in Italian Culture and Literature - Michelangelo Antonioni’s Advanced Modernity: Gender, Ecology, Fashion, and Architecture in Contemporary Life – Alessia Ricciardi – FQ
- **CLS 481** Studies in Literary Theory: The Homo Sacer effect: Agamben’s thought in context – Alessia Ricciardi – FQ

### Music
- **MUSICOL 435** Sound, Affect, and Signification – Ryan Dohoney – WQ

### Philosophy
- **PHIL 313** Kant, Crit. of Pure Reason: Dialectic – Rachel Zuckert – FQ
- **PHIL 423** Seminar in Contemporary Phil: The Future of Democracy – Cristina Lafont – FQ
- **PHIL 318** Studies in Contemporary: Habermas on Communicative Rationality – Cristina Lafont – WQ
- **PHIL 361** Topics in Social & Political Phil – Charles Mills – WQ
- **PHIL 415** Deconstruction & Feminism/CLS 481/GS 490 – Penelope Deutscher – WQ
- **PHIL 315** Studies in French Philosophy – Penelope Deutscher – SQ
- **PHIL 319** Existentialism and its Sources: Kierkegaard and Indirect Communication - Mark Alznauer – SQ
- **PHIL 414** Seminar in German Philosophy: Hegel’s Philosophy of Spirit – Mark Alznauer – SQ

FQ = Fall Quarter, WQ = Winter Quarter, SQ = Spring Quarter
## Political Science:
- **POLI_SCI 303 Modernity and Its Discontents** - Mary Dietz, SQ
- **POLI_SCI 390 Critical Studies in World Politics** - Michael Loraux, SQ
- **POLI_SCI 390 Politics of Religious Diversity** - Elizabeth Hurd, SQ
- **POLI_SCI 447 Critical Studies in World Politics** - Michael Loraux, SQ
- **POLI_SCI 464 Contemporary Political Thought (Arendt)** - Mary Dietz, SQ

## Religious Studies:
- **REL 395 Theories of Religion** - Molina, FQ
- **REL 471 Embodiment and Materiality** - Molina, FQ
- **REL 481 Theory and Method** - Traina, FQ
- **REL 339 The Art of Rabbinic Narrative** - Wimpfheimer, WQ
- **REL 471 Religion and Modernity** - Hurd and Orsi, WQ

## Sociology:
- **SOC 420 Sociology of Culture** - Wendy Griswold, FQ
- **SOC 406 Contemporary Social Theory** - Wendy Espeland, WQ
- **SOC 406 Classical Social Theory** - Chas Camic, SQ

## ICCT Courses Offered in the Past Years

### Fall 2013
- **ENG 401** The Poetics of Time and the Problem of History (Susannah Gottlieb)
- **FRE 494** Interdisciplinary, Theoretical, & Critical Approaches (Christopher Bush)
- **GENDER 405** Advanced Feminist Theory (Mary G Dietz)
- **GER 403** Ger. Lit., Crit. Thought, and New Media 1900-45 (Peter Fenves)
- **PHIL 414** Seminar in German, Post-Kantian Ethics (Mark Alznauer)
- **COMM ST 415** Seminar in Rhetorical Criticism: Crowds, Mebs, Multitude and the Politics of Disorder (Dilip Gaonkar)
- **AF AM ST 401** Conceptual Methodologies (Barnor Hesse)
- **ART 372** - Art Theory and Practice Seminar: Worlding and Research in Art Today (Carolyn Christov-Bakargiev)

### Winter 2014
- **GER 402/PHIL 414/POL SCI 490** German Literature and Critical Thought/Seminar in German; From Hegel to Heidegger and Beyond (Christoph Menke)
- **PHIL 415** Seminar; Studies in French Philosophy (Penelope Deutscher)
- **GENDER 373** Queer Theory (Nick Davis)
- **GER 441** Studies in Communication and Culture: Psychoanalysis (Anna Parkinson)
- **REL 470** Theology and the Study of Religion (Helmer)
- **ENG 471** Diasporic Theory and Diaspora Tropes (Alex Weheliye)
- **AF AM ST 480** Postcolonial Studies (John D Marquez)
- **COMM ST 525** Modes of Cultural Analysis (Jan Radway)
- **COMM ST 525** Black Visual Cultures (Jasmine Cobb)

### Spring 2014
- **GER 401** German Literature and Critical Thought 1750-1832 (Samuel Weber)
- **AF AM ST 402** Memory Studies (Michelle M. Wright)
- **RTVF 403** Media Cultural Theory (Jeffrey Sconce)
- **ENG 481** Digital Age (Brian Edwards)
- **ENG 441** Judging Novels - Austen (Vivasvan Soni)
- **REL 474** Religion and Narrative (Barry Wimpfheimer)
- **FRE 490** Special Topics in Literature: The Proustian Legacy (Scott Durham)
- **FRE 493** Topics in Literary Theory (Michal Ginsburg)
- **COMM ST 525** Hypervisibilities (C. Riley Snorton)
- **PHIL 465** Seminar in Social and Political Theory; The Future of Democracy (Cristina Lafont)

* Weinberg graduate students 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.
Why do we urge language training strenuously?

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.

“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
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 and most involve your having first acquired an introductory or early intermediate level. Again this gives reason to start relevant language training as early as possible in your graduate enrollment.

The Chicago Area Consortium in German Philosophy

The Chicago Area Consortium in German Philosophy is a group of faculty and graduate students from Chicago area institutions, including Northwestern, DePaul, Loyola, UIC, University of Chicago, and Notre Dame, who share interests in German philosophy from Leibniz to the present. It hosts a workshop every spring, at which area faculty present work in progress with comments from graduate students on a particular theme or thinker (such as phenomenology and Hegel’s theoretical philosophy, or German Romanticism) and invites speakers throughout the year. Past speakers have included Steven Crowell, Lanier Anderson, and Paul Redding; this year, 2014-2015 visitors include Jay Bernstein (New School) and Lisa Shabel (Ohio State).
FALL EVENTS
October 6
Welcome Back Orientation

October 15
Graduate student reception for new critical theory students in association with Jay Bernstein’s visit. Organized by the Critical Theory Cluster graduate fellows, Contact janepryma2018@u.northwestern.edu

October 16-18
Jay Bernstein Visit (German Philosophy Consortium with Critical Theory Co-sponsorship)
Organized by Rachel Zuckert (Philosophy) and Alejandra Uslenghi (Spanish and Portuguese)
Talks on October 16th and 17th and a graduate workshop on October 17th.

October 24-25
Symposium on Non Linear Time, Northwestern University
Organized by Emily Rohrbach (English) and Michelle Wright (English and African-American Studies)

October 31
23rd Biennial Meeting of the Hegel Society of America. “Hegel without Metaphysics”
Northwestern University. Organized by Mark Alznauer (Philosophy)

November 5
Critical Theory and Musicology Talk, James Currie, “When Genet Comes to Dinner: Music and Hospitality in Said’s Late Style,”
Organized by Ryan Dohoney, (Music Studies)

November 7
Graduate Student Conference in Political Theory, History, Tradition, and Revision
Keynote Kristie McClure (Political Science, UCLA)

November 13
Respondents Alessia Ricciardi and Penelope Deutscher. Organized by Italian Studies and Critical Theory Cluster

WINTER EVENTS
February 24-25

February 27

March 4

SPRING EVENTS
March 19-20
Alex García Düttmann, “Art, Politics, and Ideology. Adorno Revisited.” Organized by Department of German, Critical Theory Cluster Co-Sponsorship

APRIL 16-17
(Critical Theory Cluster Event) Gender and Vulnerabilities Workshop
Speakers: Veena Das, Sharon Holland, Sandrine Laugier, Ann Murphy, Yayo Okano, Patricia Paperman, Danielle Petherbridge.
MAY 1-2
(Center for Global Culture and Communication Event) Peter Szendy Public Lecture and Workshop
Organized by: Center for Global Culture and Communication

May 7-8
(Critical Theory Cluster Event) Lee Edelman and Lauren Berlant organized by Anna Parkinson (German) and Nick Davis (English and Gender and Sexuality Studies)

May 7
Lecture by Lee Edelman, discussant Michelle Wright (English and African-American Studies)

May 8
Dialogue: Lee Edelman and Lauren Berlant


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

TRI-UNIVERSITY CRITICAL THEORY DISSERTATION WORKSHOP

Five graduates from Northwestern's Critical Theory Cluster participated (Sep 29-Oct 2 2014) in the new Tri-University Critical Theory Dissertation Workshop, with students from the École Normale Supérieure and the Goethe Universität of Frankfurt. Participants also attended Samuel Weber's Paris Program in Critical Theory seminar and the E.N.S. conference "Derrida à venir;" The workshop will take place again in the Fall of 2015, hosted by Goethe University, Frankfurt and in 2016 at Northwestern. The NU participants were Caitlyn Doyle (CLS), Hye-Yun Kang (Political Science), Javier Burdman (Political Science), Christine Goding-Doty (Af-Am), and Charles Clarke (Political Science). Accompanying them were Northwestern cluster faculty Penelope Deutscher, Alessia Ricciardi, and Michael Loriaux.
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 is currently the curator of the 14th 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 "On the Social and Aesthetic Possibilities of Synesthesia" in Fall 2014.
Anselm Haverkamp

Anselm Haverkamp is Professor Emeritus of English at New York University where he taught – after holding positions at Konstanz, Freiburg, and Yale – since 1989. In 1994 he founded the Department of Cultural Studies at European University Viadrina in Frankfurt/Oder serving as Chair and Professor of West-European Literatures from 1996 to 2009. In addition he is Honorary Professor of Philosophy at the University of Munich, Distinguished Floersheimer Visiting Professor of Law at Cardozo Law School, New York, and ERC Research Professor of Rhetoric at Leuphana University, Lüneburg.

His research is situated at the intersection of literature, philosophy, rhetoric, and law. One of its main trajectories investigates theories of metaphor from Aristotle and Quintilian to Hans Blumenberg and Jacques Derrida.


Anselm Haverkamp will teach, German 401, cross-listed with Philosophy/CLS, “Hegel and Shakespeare” in Winter 2015.

Peter Brandes

Peter Brandes is DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) Visiting Associate Professor in the Department of German. He studied German Literature and Philosophy at the Universities of Göttingen and Hamburg. He received his PhD in 2001 from the University of Hamburg with a dissertation on Goethe’s “Faust” (Goethes “Faust”. Poetik der Gabe und Selbstreflexion der Dichtung. Wilhelm Fink Verlag, 2003). His second book (habilitation) examines the literary aesthetics of living images in 18th and 19th century literature (Leben die Bilder bald? Ästhetische Konzepte bildlicher Lebendigkeit in der Literatur des 18. und 19. Jahrhunderts. Königshausen & Neumann, 2013).

His teaching and research interests include: Goethe era, poetics of the gift, literature and philosophy, media aesthetics, literary theory, narratology, and comparative arts.

Peter Brandes is visiting through the 2014-2015 academic year, and will teach, “German 441: Studies in Communication and Culture (Adomo)/CLS 481: Studies in Literary Theory” in Fall 2014.