Northwestern University Presents:

Thinking Out of The Box: 35 Years of The Paris Program in Critical Theory

Photo by Yue Zhuo, Installation of Xu Bing, Gravitational Arena, Pudong Art Museum, Shanghai

"The law of perspective can be considered a kind of language by which we describe the world. [...] Like all languages, perspective serves as an intermediary between our mental thoughts and the external world. But even as it shapes thinking, same as any language, it has blinds spots." (Xu Bing, Gravitational Arena)

December 6, 2024: Maison Heinrich Heine, Cité internationale universitaire de Paris

December 7, 2024: École Normal Supérieure

December 8, 2024: Cinéma Les 3 Luxembourg

DAY 1: Maison Heinrich Heine, Cité Universitaire

9h - 9h30

Coffee, Tea, Pastries

9h30

WELCOME, FRANZISKA HUMPHREYS, DIRECTOR, MAISON HEINRICH HEINE

9h45

INTRODUCTION, SAMUEL WEBER, DIRECTOR, PARIS PROGRAM IN CRITICAL THEORY

10h - 11h

Roundtable 1: Moderator: Sarah Lorgan-Khanyile (Harvard University)

Peter Jaros (Franklin & Marshall College), *Poor Form*

Katy Arnold (DePaul University), *Schuld*, *Uncanniness*, *Homelessness*

Patrick Crogan (University of the West of England, Bristol), *Critical Thinking in the Ailing University*

11h15 - 12h15

Roundtable 2: Moderator: Rosa Martins (DePaul University)

Nicoletta Pireddu (Georgetown University), *Parisian Minima Moralia: Reflections from a Privileged Life*

Laura Chiesa (University at Buffalo, SUNY), *Ecopoetically Uncanny: Film*, *Literature*, *Visual Arts*

Ricardo Ortiz (Georgetown University), *Iteration/Countertime: Latinx's Queer Différance(s)*

12h15 - 13h30

Lunch Break (Mason Heinrich-Heine)

13h30 - 14h30

Roundtable 3: Moderator: Amanda Parraguez (Northwestern University)

Steven Tester (Georg-August University Göttingen), Christopher Reid, (Goethe-University, Frankfurt/Main), *Scholar Minds*

Henry Southgate (University of Wisconsin, Madison), *It's going to get messier before it gets better*

Edward R. O'Neill (Quinnipiac University), *Videographic Criticism and Critical Genres*

DAY 1: Maison Heinrich Heine, Cité Universitaire Continued

14h45 - 15h45

Roundtable 4: Moderator: David E. Johnson (University Buffalo/SUNY)

Jan Cao (East China Normal University), *Ecology Without Culture*

Bishupal Limbu (Portland State University), *Environmentality without Environmentalism*

Lily Woodruff (Michigan State University), *Ecotemporality in Contemporary Art*

15h45 - 16h15

Break

16h15 - 17h15

Roundtable 5: Moderator: Márton Farkas (Harvard University)

Nell Wasserstrom (University of Lausanne), *Tous les matins du monde...*

Rob Ryder (Northwestern University), *On Treadmills*

Matt Gilmore (King's Academy), *Swimming Lessons*

17h15 - 18h30

Roundtable 6: Moderator: Robert Swistelnicki (Northwestern University)

Vinay Swamy (Vassar College), *French and Gender: Beyond the Binary*

Deborah Goldgaber (Louisiana State University), *How to Make Problems Appear*

Maziyar Faridi (Clemson University), *The Paris Program and its dhikrs*

18h30 - 19h

General Discussion: Moderator: Robert Swistelnicki (Northwestern University)

19h30 - 21h30

Dinner (Fondation Avicenne next to Maison Heinrich-Heine)

DAY 2: École Normal Supérieure, 29 rue d'Ulm, Salle Jean-Jaures

9h30 - 10h

INTRODUCTION, MARC CRÉPON (ENS-CNRS)

10h - 11h

Roundtable 7: Moderator: Roman Hutter (Northwestern University)

Jörn Etzold (Ruhr University Bochum), *Toward an Infrastructural Critique*

Nikolaus Müller-Schöll (Goethe-University, Frankfurt/Main), *Playing in the Ruins*

Julia Ng (Goldsmith's, University of London), *Critical Space-Times*

11h - 12h

Roundtable 8: Moderator: Lily Woodruff (Michigan State University)

Ethan Kleinberg (Wesleyan University), *An Outlaw Historian*

Jeffrey Geiger (University of Essex), *Nous sommes dans le bain: Jean Rouch and Performance*

Jennifer Croft (University of Tulsa), *Critical Theory and the Transit of Language*; reading excerpt from her novel, *The Extinction of Irena Rey*

*__The Guardian:__ "*The International Booker-winning translator takes a deep dive into the complexities of the role in her ambitious second novel.*"

12h - 13h30

Lunch Break (École Normale)

13h30 - 14h30

Roundtable 9: Moderator: Sarah Dwider (Northwestern University)

Amr Kamal (The City College of New York-The Graduate Center-City University), *Theory and Singularity: An Ariadne Thread*

Victoria Duckett (Deakin University), *The Earth Above*

Michał Kłosiński (The University of Silesia in Katowice), *Utopia and Biopolitics in Digital Games*

DAY 2: École Normal Supérieure, 29 rue d'Ulm, Salle Jean-Jaures Continued

14h30 - 15h30

Roundtable 10: Moderator: Bernardo Barzana (Northwestern University)

Caitlin Bruce, (University of Pittsburgh), *Graffiti Bans: Opacity and the Right to the Street*

Wenhan Zhang (Loyola University, Chicago), *La communauté désœuvrée or Playful Critique*

Eleonora Antonakaki Giannisi (Northwestern University), *The Finality of Life*

15h30 - 16h

Break

16h - 18h

Roundtable 11: On The Future of Critical Theory

Chair and Moderator: Michael Loriaux (Northwestern University)

Kevin McLaughlin (Brown University), *Popularity as Problem – The Case of Critical Theory*

Isabelle Alfandary (Paris III)

Marc Crépon (ENS-CNRS), *La philosophie critique comme désincorporation*

Julia Ng (Goldsmiths/University of London)

Michael Levine (Rutgers University)

Susan Bernstein (Brown University), *Reading*

Mark Robson (University of Dundee)

Sam Weber (Northwestern University), *The Way of the Living*

DAY 3: Screening of Evans Chan, "Raise the Umbrellas"
Les 3 Luxembourg, 67 rue Monsieur le Prince, Paris 5e

10h30

Accueil, Olivier Masseglia, Cinéma les 3 Luxembourg

10h45

Presentation of the Film, Evans Chan, Director (and former Paris Program student)

11h - 13h

Screening of Film

13h - 13h30

Discussion

— Occupy Central, smoke from teargas grenades fired at demonstrators–
Raise the Umbrellas
Image courtesy of the Berlin International Literature Festival (ilb)

Malik Berkati, https://j-mag.ch/raise-the-umbrellas-une-immersion-intense-dans-le-mouvement-des-parapluies-de-2014-a-hong-kong/***:***

Ce documentaire du réalisateur hongkongais Evans Chan est remarquable dans son mécanisme à double structure consistant à documenter avec précision le mouvement de 79 jours qui a fait trembler le gouvernorat d'Hong Kong en 2014 et de contextualiser ce soulèvement pacifique et le replacer sur la ligne d'histoire de la région.

This conference has been made possible through the generous support of a number of Northwestern University institutions, including the Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences, the Alice Kaplan Institute for the Humanities, the Buffett Institute for Global Affairs, the Program for Comparative Literary Studies, the French Interdisciplinary Group, the School of Communication, the Critical Theory Cluster and the German, French and Italian, Spanish and Portuguese, Art History, English, Philosophy and Political Science departments.