

The Art of Questioning

2014-2015

The Art of Questioning is a reading group on methodologies for Doctoral research organized and run by Dr Daniel Rubenstein.

These will run on Wednesdays on alternate weeks to Test Lab. They will begin at 4:30 and will take place in room B301.

Any queries, please contact Dr Daniel Rubenstein d.rubinstein@csm.arts.ac.uk

In this series of seminars we will attend to the question of method. What does it mean to have a method? How can the methodology of your project be developed and brought to light? We will approach this question by looking at a number of contemporary (and not so contemporary) writers who have different and often contradictory approaches to method. From the highly methodological to knowingly avoiding the entrapments of a system. In each case we will be asking how the limits of one's own language contort and determine the tasks of thinking. This condition of questioning the basic assumptions of one's discipline or technique can be called 'art'. This also forms the research questions of one's thesis.

This is a seminar for everyone doing a PhD. It does not matter precisely what your thesis is on or what stage you're at right now.

PhD Seminar Reading list

Wed 22 Oct – begins at 4:30 in Room B301

Introduction to PhD seminars. How to surf. Basic principles of thinking.

No indicative reading. Hand-outs will be provided.

Wed 05 Nov- begins at 4:30 in Room B301

What is this thing called 'thing'

Heidegger, "The Thing"

In: Heidegger, Martin. Bremen and Freiburg Lectures : Insight Into That Which Is and Basic Principles of Thinking. Translated by Andrew J Mitchell. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2012

Pecha Kucha: Learning to hear what/how/when an object speaks.

Task: choose an object that has some odd or weird or compelling link to your own being; bring it to the class and explain in 5 minutes precisely what it means to you (later to be developed into your 'style').

Wed 19 Nov- begins at 4:30 in Room B301

Foucault: How to live a non-fascist life.

In: Deleuze, Gilles, and Félix Guattari. *Anti-Oedipus: Capitalism and Schizophrenia*. Translated by Robert Hurley, Mark Seem and Helen R Lane. London: The Athlone Press, 1996

Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak: Can the Subaltern Speak?

SPIVAK, G. C. 1994. "Can the Subaltern Speak?," In: WILLIAMS, P. & CHRISMAN, L. (eds.) *Colonial Discourse and Post-Colonial Theory: A Reader*, New York: Harvester & Wheatsheaf.

Wed 03 Dec- begins at 4:30 in Room B301

Uses and abuses of violence

Benjamin – Critique of violence.

Wed 14 January- begins at 4:30 in Room B301

We need to talk about... Nothing can be outside the text

Derrida – *Of Grammatology*. Part I: Writing before the letter pp. 1-93.

In: Derrida, Jacques. *Of Grammatology*. Translated by Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1998

Wed 28 January- begins at 4:30 in Room B301

Eternal return

Nietzsche, *The Gay Science*;

F. Nietzsche, §§341-342, in *The Gay Science*, trans. Josefine Nauckhoff. Cambridge: Cambridge UP 2001: 194-5.

F. Nietzsche, "On Vision and Riddle" and "The Convalescent," in *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*, trans. Adrian Del Caro. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2006: 123-7; 173-9.

Blanchot – the Gaze of Orpheus

Wed 11 February- begins at 4:30 in Room B301

Dialogue

The Bakhtin School – Selected readings

Voloshinov, V.N. "Discourse in Life and Discourse in Poetry." In Bakhtin School Papers. Edited by A Shukman. Translated by John Richmond. RPT Publications in association with Dept. of Literature, University of Essex, 1983

Wed 25 Feb- begins at 4:30 in Room B301

Post-modern fables

Lyotard and Nancy – Ground of the image, first essay.

In: Nancy, Jean-Luc. The Ground of the Image. Translated by Jeff Fort. New York: Fordham University Press, 2005

Lyotard, Jean-François, 2003. "A Postmodern Fable," in: Postmodern Fables, translated by Georges van Den Abbeele, third edition. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota press. pp. 83-101.

Wed 11 March- begins at 4:30 in Room B301

Libidinal economy

The tensor.

In: Lyotard, Jean-Francois. Libidinal Economy. Translated by Iain Hamilton Grant. London: Continuum , 2004

Wed 25 March- begins at 4:30 in Room B301

Irigaray. 'Plato's Hysteria'

In: Irigaray, Luce. Speculum of the Other Woman. Translated by Gillian C. Gill. Ithaca, N.Y.: Cornell University Press, 1985

Adriana Cavarero, feminist deconstruction of the metaphysical tradition in Western philosophy

Cavarero, Adriana, 1995. In Spite of Plato: A Feminist Rewriting of Ancient Philosophy, translated by Serena Anderlini-D'Onofrio and Aine O'Healy, New York: Routledge.

Wed 29 April- begins at 4:30 in Room B301

Deleuze and Guattari – A Thousand Plateaus – Rhizome.

In: Deleuze, Gilles, and Felix Guattari. A Thousand Plateaus. Translated by Brian Massumi. London: Continuum, 2003

Wed 13 May- begins at 4:30 in Room E307

Deleuze and Guattari – replay. What is philosophy.

In: Deleuze, Gilles, and Felix Guattari. What Is Philosophy? Translated by Hugh Tomlinson and Graham Burchill. London, New York: Verso, 1994

27 May- begins at 4:30 in Room J205

Liotard, J.F., 2004, Libidinal economy, Translated by Hamilton Grant. Continuum , London

10 June- begins at 4:30 in Room E307

Kierkegaard, Søren, 1985, Fear and trembling, Penguin Books ; New York, N.Y., U.S.A., Middlesex, England