

SOCIETY FOR CRITICAL EXCHANGE

WINTER THEORY INSTITUTE

February 6-9, 2014

TWELVE DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARS FROM ACROSS THE U.S. IN THREE DAYS OF ENGAGING DISCUSSION.

About SCE The SOCIETY FOR CRITICAL EXCHANGE is North America's oldest scholarly organization devoted to theory. Our various interdisciplinary projects, conferences, and symposia serve to advance the role of theory in academic and intellectual arenas. Our projects encompass a broad spectrum of disciplines, most prominently literary studies, legal studies and practices, economics, composition, and pedagogy.

The 2014 Institute The Society for Critical Exchange (SCE), in collaboration with the University of Houston-Victoria, School of Arts and Sciences is pleased to announce the topic of the fifth annual SCE Winter Theory Institute: *Dead Theory*.

Jacques Derrida was certain that he would be forgotten as soon as he died, but he also thought that he would live on in cultural memory. Additionally, he promised himself that he would never write "following the death" of his friends, yet he still wrote about Paul de Man, Emmanuel Levinas, Roland Barthes and others after they passed. What is the relationship between death and theory? Does theory take on a different "life" after the death of the theorist? Or even have a life of its own? What does it mean to say that theory is living or dead? Is the "life of theory" dependent upon the life of the theorist? For that matter what about literature and philosophy? What do we do when artists and thinkers request that their unfinished or unpublished work be destroyed upon their death? What do we say about people who do not honor this request? Can or should the unfinished work of the dead be finished by others? What are the obligations of critics to the dead?

The following presenters will be addressing these issues and other topics of interest.

Jeffrey R. Di Leo

Jeffrey R. Di Leo is Dean of Arts & Sciences and Professor of English and Philosophy at the University of Houston-Victoria. He is also Executive Director of SCE. His forthcoming books include *Turning the Page: Book Culture in the Digital Age* and *Corporate Humanities: Moving Beyond the Neoliberal Academy*.

"Notes from Underground"



Jeffrey R. Di Leo



Brian O'Keeffe

Brian O'Keeffe

Brian O'Keeffe specializes in French literature and literary theory, and works especially on the relation between literary theory and ethical philosophy. He teaches at Barnard College, Columbia University and is also Associate Director of the Barnard Center for Translation Studies.

"Death and Survival in Translation"

W. Lawrence Hogue

W. Lawrence Hogue is the John and Rebecca Moores Distinguished Professor of English at the University of Houston. He is the author of several books, including the forthcoming *Postmodernism, Traditional Cultural Forms, and African American Narratives*.

"Alive Theory Depends on the Uses of It"



W. Lawrence Hogue



Jean-Michel Rabaté

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Jean-Michel Rabaté, professor of English and Comparative Literature at the University of Pennsylvania, has authored or edited more than thirty books on modernism, psychoanalysis, contemporary art, philosophy and writers like Beckett, Pound and Joyce.

"Thanatogrammatology: Derrida on the Death Drive and Beyond"

Kir Kuiken

Kir Kuiken is Assistant Professor of English at the University at Albany, SUNY. He is the author of a forthcoming book with Fordham University Press titled *Imagined Sovereignities: Towards a New Political Romanticism*. His published work includes essays on Derrida, Heidegger, and Benjamin.

"Nancy and Blanchot: On the Question of Community and the Death of the Other"



Kir Kuiken



Herman Rapaport

Herman Rapaport

Herman Rapaport is Reynolds Professor of English at Wake Forest University. He has written a number of books on critical theory. Much of his work has focused on the writings of Jacques Derrida. "Writing as Ex-scription: Adonis After Derrida" appeared in *Performativity After Derrida*.

"Broken Worlds and The Afterlives of Theory"

Hassan Melehy

Hassan Melehy is Professor of French at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill. He has published articles and books on subjects ranging from Shakespeare to French theory to science fiction cinema to American literature. Currently he is writing a book about Jack Kerouac's transcultural poetics.

"Deleuze, Kerouac, Fascism, and Death"



Hassan Melehy



Nicole Simek

Nicole Simek

Nicole Simek is Associate Professor of French and Interdisciplinary Studies at Whitman College. Simek is the author of *Eating Well, Reading Well: Maryse Condé and the Ethics of Interpretation*.

"Theory's Ruins"

Paul Allen Miller

Paul Allen Miller is Carolina Distinguished Professor of Classics and Comparative Literature at the University of South Carolina. His works include *Lyric Texts and Lyric Consciousness*, *Latin Erotic Elegy*, *Latin Verse Satire*, *Postmodern Spiritual Practices*, and *Plato's Apology of Socrates*.

"Ghosts in the Politics of Friendship"



Paul Allen Miller



Henry Sussman

Henry Sussman

Henry Sussman is a Visiting Professor of Germanic Languages and Literatures at Yale University. Among his ten published critical studies are *The Aesthetic Contract* and *Around the Book: Systems and Literacy*. His *Playful Intelligence* is forthcoming from Bloomsbury in 2014.

"The Virtual Afterlives of Critics"

Christian Moraru

Christian Moraru is Professor of English at the University of North Carolina, Greensboro. His latest books include *Memorious Discourse: Reprise and Representation in Postmodernism and Cosmodernism: American Narrative, Late Globalization, and the New Cultural Imaginary*.

"Theory's Resting Place: Levinas, Henry James, and the Hereafter Gambit"



Christian Moraru



Zahi Zalloua

Zahi Zalloua

Zahi Zalloua is Associate Professor of French and Interdisciplinary Studies at Whitman College and editor of *The Comparatist*. He has published *Montaigne and the Ethics of Skepticism*, and has a forthcoming book entitled *Reading Unruly: Interpretation and its Ethical Demands*.

"Theory's Autoimmunity"

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The Institute will take place from **Thursday, February 6 to Sunday, February 9** from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Presentations will take place in the University of Houston-Victoria Publishing Center. The Publishing Center is located on the third floor of the Center building, room 301. Additional details regarding the Society for Critical Exchange or the upcoming Winter Theory Institute can be found at the Society for Critical Exchange's website: <http://societyforcriticalexchange.org/>.