

Lalangue and the Intersections of Politics, Law, and Desire

Birkbeck College, University of London
Tuesday 25th & Wednesday 26th April 2017

Rationale

In the autumn of 2014, Nathan Moore organised a reading group open to PhD students at the Birkbeck School of Law. Several of us attended the sessions, and experimented with various readings including the works of Guattari, Deleuze, and Lyotard. These fortnightly meetings provided a space where we could discuss key texts, and also engage with the post '68 philosophical and political trajectories. The problematics that we encountered often led to discussions well beyond our readings; into the question of language, the problems of critique, the crisis of the left, and psychoanalysis. The rationale of this conference is to open up this space to a wider audience where we could further interrogate these questions, without necessarily falling into what has been described as disciplinary dogmas and strictly applied divisions between various discourses.

We have brought together a variety of scholars working in diverse fields, that have all engaged with the question of language, from a number of perspectives, and its inescapable relation to the political. Our panels follow a schema that flows from the Lacanian concept of *lalangue*, to the Deleuzian *mot d'ordre*; from the question of the state-form and production of desire, to the speaking body (*corps parlant*) and the revolutionary subject.

We warmly welcome you to our initiative, and look forward to your participation, incisive questions, and critical engagement.

Serene & Leticia
London, 2017

Programme

Tuesday 25th April 2017 (Room B33, Main Building)

9.30 Registration

9.45 Welcome

Opening Lecture

10.00 Jean-Claude Milner (Université de Paris-VII), 'Back and Forth from Letter to Homophony'

11.00 *Questions and Discussion*

11.30 Break

Panel Two

11.45 Ed Pluth (San Francisco State University), 'Lalangue, Antiphilosophy, Utopia'

12.05 Véronique Voruz, (University of Leicester), 'Symptom as Subversion'

12.25 Serene Richards (Birkbeck College, University of London), 'Lalangue and the Inappropriate'

12.45 *Questions and Discussion*

13.10 Lunch

Panel Three

14.10 James Martin (Goldsmiths, University of London), 'The End(s) of Speech'

14.30 Laurent de Sutter (Vrije Universiteit Brussel), 'What: Hating Law: On the Perverse Enjoyment of Lawyers?'

14.50 *Questions and Discussion*

15.15 Break

Closing Lecture

15.30 Guillaume Sibertin-Blanc (University of Toulouse II le Mirail), 'On the *Mot D'ordre* – from Fanon to Benveniste'

17.00 Close

Wednesday 26th April 2017 (Room B33, Main Building)

Opening Lecture

10.00 Guillaume Sibertin-Blanc, a presentation of 'State and Politics: Deleuze & Guattari on Marx'

11.00 *Questions and Discussion*

11.30 Break

Panel One

11.45 Nathan Moore (Birkbeck College, University of London), 'What is the Image of Thought?'

12.05 Leticia Paes (Birkbeck College, University of London), 'We Do Not Yet Know What Law & Desire Can Do'

12.25 Lucie Mercier (Kingston University, CRMEP), 'The Symbolic as Multiplicity: Michel Serres on the Leibnizian Theory of Representation'

12.45 *Questions and Discussion*

13.10 Lunch

Panel Two

14.00 Andreja Zevnik (University of Manchester), 'Anxious Subjects: Political Transformations and the Politics of Race'

14.20 Elena Loizidou (Birkbeck College, University of London), 'Dreams and the Political Subject'

14.40 Andreas Philippopoulos-Mihalopoulos (University of Westminster), 'Fleshy Metaphors: Law as Matter'

15.00 *Questions and Discussion*

15.20 Break

Closing Lecture

15.30 Jean-Claude Milner, 'The Ideal Revolution, and the Master of those who Know' - a presentation on 'Relire la Révolution'

17.00 Close

Notes on Participants

Jean-Claude Milner is Professor Emeritus of Linguistics at the Université de Paris-VII. A linguist, philosopher and essayist, Milner was president of the Collège International de Philosophie from 1998 to 2001. During his years at the École normale supérieure, Milner was a student of Louis Althusser, Jacques Lacan and Roland Barthes, and served as the secretary of the Cercle d'épistémologie de l'École. Milner was a co-founder of the renowned journal, *Cahiers pour l'Analyse*. In 1971, Milner spent time at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he translated Noam Chomsky's *Aspects of the Theory of Syntax* into French. Milner's interest in linguistics led to a number of publications including *L'Amour de la Langue* (1978), *Les Noms Indistincts* (1983), *Introduction à une Science du Langage* (1989), among others. From the early 1990s, Milner's work has sought to engage with the role of Judaism in Europe, writing a series of provocative analyses of anti-Semitism and the 'Jewish question,' including *Les penchants criminels de l'Europe démocratique* (2005) and *Le juif de savoir* (2006). Milner's most recent works include *Controversies* (2014), a dialogue with Alain Badiou, and *Relire la Révolution* (2016).

Guillaume Sibertin-Blanc is an Associate Professor at the University of Toulouse II le Mirail, a member of the International Centre for the Study of Contemporary French Philosophy (ENS Ulm) and a member of the International Society for Psychoanalysis and Philosophy. His research interests include contemporary French philosophy, critical anthropology, Marxist and post-Marxist philosophy, psychopathology and psychoanalysis. Guillaume is co-director of the collection '*Champs e3 ContreChamps*' and co-editor of the journal '*Actuel Marx*.' He is the author of numerous works including *Deleuze et l'Anti-Oedipe: La Production du Désir* (2010) and *Philosophie politique (XIXe-XXe siècles)* (2008). His latest work *Politique et État chez Deleuze et Guattari: Essai sur le matérialisme historico-machinique* (2013) has recently been translated into English and published with MIT Press, Semiotext(e).

Elena Loizidou is a Reader in Law and Political Theory at Birkbeck College, School of Law. Elena's research interests include anarchism and political theory, theories of gender and sexuality, and law and culture. She is the author of numerous works including *Judith Butler: Ethics, Law, Politics* (2007), and has published in journals including *Law and Critique*, the *Australian Feminist Law Journal*, the *Journal of Law and the Humanities*, among others.

James Martin is Professor of Politics at the department of Politics and International Relations at Goldsmiths, London. James is a political theorist with interests in public speech, argument, and their effects on subjectivity. Between 2013 and 2015 James was a Leverhulme Research Fellow working on a project on affects and political speech. He is a founding member of the Association for Psychosocial Studies and co-editor of the Palgrave journal, *Contemporary Political Theory*. James is the author of numerous books including *Politics and Rhetoric: A Critical Introduction* (2013), and *Piero Gobetti and the Politics of Liberal Revolution* (2008).

Lucie Mercier Lucie Kim-Chi Mercier is a postdoctoral Researcher in Philosophy at the Centre for Research in Modern European Philosophy (CRMEP) at Kingston University, London. Her areas of interest include French 1960s philosophy, German critical theory and the relationships between philosophy, race and postcolonialism. She has published in the *Palgrave Encyclopedia of Imperialism and Anti-Imperialism, Theory, Culture and Society* and *Radical Philosophy*. She is currently working on a project attempting to position Michel Serres's early works within the structuralist constellation.

Nathan Moore is Senior Lecturer in Law at Birkbeck College, School of Law. Nathan's research interests include contemporary continental philosophy, architecture, critical criminology, psychoanalysis, law and film. He is the author of numerous works, and is currently working on a manuscript on the concepts of control and population, through the philosophy of Gilles Deleuze, among others. His journal articles include 'Get Stupid: Film and Law via Wim Wenders and Others,' *Cardoza Law Review* (2010), 'Nova Law: William S. Burroughs and the Logic of Control,' *Law and Literature* (2007), and with Anne Bottomley (Kent Law School), 'Law, Diagram, Film: Critique Exhausted,' *Law e3 Critique* (2012).

Laurent de Sutter is Professor of Legal Theory at Vrije Universiteit Brussel. His research interests include contemporary continental philosophy, legal theory, aesthetics and psychoanalysis. Laurent is a managing editor of the series '*Perspectives Critiques*' (Presses Universitaires de France) and '*Theory Redux*' (Polity Press), a member of the editorial board of '*Décalages: An Althusser Studies Journal*' and of '*Law e3 Literature*,' as well as a member of the scientific council of the Collège International de Philosophie (Paris). He is the author of many works including *Accélération* (2016), *Métaphysique de la putain* (2015), and *Après la loi* (Forthcoming).

Leticia Paes is an Associate Tutor and Doctoral researcher at Birkbeck College, School of Law. Her research interests lie in contemporary continental philosophy, critical studies, legal theory and psychoanalysis. She was a lecturer and co-ordinator of the Human Rights Centre at *Pontifícia Universidade Católica de Rio de Janeiro* (PUC/Rio - Brazil). She worked for several years with human rights in Brazil and coordinated the academic research on mental health and legal studies.

Andreas Philippopoulos-Mihalopoulos is Professor of Law & Theory and Director of the Westminster Law & Theory Lab. Andreas's research interests are radically interdisciplinary and include critical legal theory, sociolegal studies, philosophy, psychoanalysis, architecture, art, theology and ecophilosophy. Andreas has been awarded the Oxford University Press National Law Teacher of the Year Award 2011. He is the author of numerous works including *Spatial Justice: Body, Lawscape, Atmosphere* (2015) and *Law and Ecology: New Environmental Foundations* (2011).

Ed Pluth is Professor of Philosophy and Chair of the Department of Philosophy at California State University, Chico. He specialises in psychoanalytic theory and contemporary continental philosophy. Ed is the author of numerous works including *Signifiers and Acts: Freedom in Lacan's Theory of the Subject* (2007), and *Badiou: A Philosophy of the New* (2010). Ed has also published in a number of journal articles including *Angelaki*, *Continental Philosophy Review*, and *S: Journal of the Jan Van Eyck Circle for Lacanian Ideology Critique*.

Serene Richards is an Associate Lecturer and Doctoral researcher at Birkbeck College, School of Law. Her research interests lie in contemporary continental philosophy, legal theory, political philosophy and psychoanalysis. She has published in the journals *Birkbeck Law Review* and *Continental Thought and Theory: A Journal of Intellectual Freedom*, and is currently working on a book chapter for *Essays on the Undead – A Critical Review* (Forthcoming 2017).

Véronique Voruz is Associate Professor of Law at the University of Leicester, Associate Professor in Psychoanalysis at Kingston University, and a practicing analyst of the New Lacanian School and World Association of Psychoanalysis. Her research interests include the work of Michel Foucault, psychiatry/psychoanalysis and critical criminology. She is the joint editor of *The Late Lacan: An Introduction* (2007); deputy managing editor of *Culture/Clinic* (University of Minnesota Press: 2013); joint managing editor of *La cause de désir* (official publication of the École de la cause freudienne). Véronique also wrote the introduction for (with Dr Suzanne Yang), and translated, Dr Biagi-Chai's book, *Serial Killers: Criminology, Responsibility, Psychiatry* (2011).

Andreja Zevnik is a Lecturer in International Politics at the University of Manchester. Her research interests include theories of subjectivity, political violence and resistance, aesthetic politics, law and psychoanalysis. She is a member of the editorial board for the *Journal of Narrative Politics*. Her recent works include *Lacan, Deleuze and World Politics: re-thinking the ontology of the political subject* (2016) and *Lacan and Deleuze: A Disjunctive Synthesis* (Ed. with Boštjan Nedoh, 2016).

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Conference organized by:

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