

2019 FOCUS ON THE FUNK + 4TH FANON RENCONTRES

FANON, HOPE AND THE DAY AFTER

6 - 7 DECEMBER 2019

Room B33, Birkbeck College, University of London, Malet Street Building

What's the nature of hope in our time, horizon or possibility? This year's Focus on the Funk, curated in collaboration with the International Frantz Fanon Foundation aims to probe this question. Is it best to conceive hope as mere horizon and promise or as the envisioning of a past as future and a different beginning that can be actualised here and now?

Together with a group of artists, activist and thinkers from around the world, we shall also explore refer Fanon's notion of the human that is to come the day after revolution and decolonization, the pitfalls of nationalism and the need for Tricontinental solidarity.

We are interested in the "metonymy of colour", the institutional and aesthetic creativity that today's protest movements have taken up from the spirit of Bandung and the Tricontinental as part of a decolonial orientation towards a "different beginning": change, transformation, rupture, a vision or outline of what's to come.

We would like to visit this conception of hope and euechronia not in the sense of escapist alternatives to what is, but rather, in the sense of what is but not-yet. The void and the vortex, as theorised and experimented with by Amerindian timekeepers, contemporary clinic and critique, political and art practitioners like Decolonize this Place, Novara Media, South as a State of Mind, Colectiva Feminista en Construcción and La Colonie, among others.

This event is sponsored by the Birkbeck Institute for the Humanities

6 DECEMBER 2019

17.45-18.00. Frantz Fanon Foundation Introduction + Performance by Mireille Fanon Mendès-France and Nelson Maldonado-Torres + Focus on the Funk Collective

18.00-19.00: Keynote: Ash Sarkar, 'Transnational Solidarity and the Decolonial'

19.30-21.00: Recital: Aimé Césaire's *Cahier d'un retour au pays natal*, performed by Jacques Martial

7 DECEMBER 2019

9.00-10.00: Keynote: Jorge Garcia, “From the Time of Darkness to a New Dawn”

10.00-11.00: Panel: “What Hope? Fanon, Horizon, and Institutional Invention” with Jorge Garcia, Lara Sheehi, Stephen Sheehi, and Leticia da Costa Paes

11.00-12.00: Panel: “Utopia betrayed? Fanon Against Pessimism, Beyond Imagination” with Norman Ajari, Decolonize This Place, and Lewis R. Gordon

12.00-13.30: Screening: “The Shape of Now” by Manuel Correa (2019), followed by a Q&A with the film director

13.30-14.30: Lunch Break (lunch is not provided)

14.30-16.00: Panel: “Fanon Towards a Decolonial International” with Ramón Grosfoguel, Nelson Maldonado-Torres, Ash Sarkar, Mireille Fanon Mendès France, and Oscar Guardiola-Rivera

16.00-17.30: Panel “Fanon on the question: What If the Global South Ruled the World?” with Michael Walker, Azad Ashim Sharma, Kojo Koram, and Colectiva Feminista en Construcción

18.00-20.00: Closing Plenary: “Fanon’s Orientation: Decolonise the Place”: With Nitasha Dhillon, Amin Husain, Marz Saffore (Decolonize this Place), Kader Attia (La Colonie), and Colectiva Feminista en Construcción

The event will close with a short brief of the event by Mireille Fanon Mendès-France, Oscar Guardiola-Rivera and Nelson Maldonado-Torres