

THE NARCO-CULTURE OF NARCO-ACCUMULATION

A WORKSHOP

BIRKBECK, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

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Friday, March 15th 2019: 10.00 am – 17.00 pm



Jesús Malverde, *Figures*.

In this workshop we will discuss the social, political, cultural, as well as the capital-logics of contemporary narco-capitalism and its mobile territories (from the land in which drugs are cultivated, to the virtual world of laundering and finance in which its profits are realized and re-invested), especially as it is both juridically – and thus, militarily – constituted by and at the Mexican-US border. Violence and ‘wars’, of all kinds, are fundamental to these outlaw logics which have spawned a variety of cultural and subjectivizing forms (some of which will be highlighted by our guest speakers here). Indeed, this particular – and supposedly ‘Mexican’ – narco-cultural formation, which at first glance seems to present itself as

peripheral, is in fact becoming increasingly *central* to contemporary forms of capital accumulation and its representation: its presence both seen and heard in the daily news as well as in contemporary art, television, film, literature and music. In this workshop we hope to throw some light on some of these processes from a variety of critical perspectives.

PROGRAMME

10.15 am – 10.30 am

John Kraniauskas (Birkbeck)

Welcome and Introduction to Workshop

10.30 am – 12.00 am

Lucy Bollington (University College London)

PROPRIETY VISIONS

Joey Whitfield (University of Cardiff)

“UNA BESTIA LÚCIDA Y HERMOSA”: COCAINE AS AGENT IN *COCAÍNA (MANUEL DE USARIO)* BY JULIÁN HERBERT

Chair: Emily Baker (University of Cambridge)

LUNCH

13.30 pm – 15.00 pm

Carlos Oliva Mendoza (Universidad Autónoma de México, Mexico)

TRAFFIKING AND ACCUMULATION: TWO FORMS OF CAPITALISM IN TENSION

Andrés Saenz De Sicilia (University of Newcastle)

VIOLENCE AND THE SOCIAL LOGIC OF NARCO-CAPITAL

Chair: Mara Polgovsky Ezcurra (Birkbeck)

COFFEE AND TEA

15.30 pm – 17.00 pm

Gareth Williams (University of Michigan, USA)

THE QUESTION OF THE RIGHT NAME FOR WAR

Hermann Herlinghaus (University of Freiberg, Germany)

NARCONARRATIVES – NARCOETHNOGRAPHY – NARCOEPICS: CONCEPTUAL OPENINGS

Participants

Emily Baker teaches at Robinson College, Cambridge. She has written widely on contemporary Latin American literature. Her monograph *Nazism, the Second World War and the Holocaust in Contemporary Latin American Literature* is forthcoming.

Lucy Bollington is a Junior Research Fellow at the Institute of Advanced Studies at University College London. She has published widely on Latin American cultural studies and is completing a monograph on *Death and Power in Contemporary Mexican Culture*.

Hermann Herlinghaus is a Fellow at the Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies, Germany. He has published widely on Latin American cultural studies and theory, film, music and literature. His most recent publications include *Narcoepics: A Global Aesthetics of Sobriety* (Bloomsbury, 2013) and the edited collection *The Pharmakon: Concept Figure, Image of Transgression, Poetic Practice* (Heidelberg UP, 2018).

Carlos Oliva Mendoza teaches philosophy in the Faculty of Philosophy and Letters in the Universidad Autónoma de México (UNAM). His most recent publications are *Espacio y capital* (Guanajuato UP, 2016) and *Semiótica y capitalismo* (UNAM, 2013). He is currently working on a Spanish-language translation of Kojin Karatani's *Transcritique: On Kant and Marx*.

Mara Polgovsky Ezcurra teaches History of Art at Birkbeck. Her research focuses on contemporary Latin American art and cultural theory. Her book, *Touched Bodies: the Performative Turn in Latin American Art*, is forthcoming from Rutgers UP (2019).

Andrés Saenz De Sicilia is a Visiting Research Fellow at the Institute of Advanced Studies at the University of Newcastle. He has published widely on the work of Bolívar Echeverría and is currently completing a book on the concept of 'subsumption' in Kant, Hegel and Marx (to be published by Brill, 2019)

Joey Whitfield is a Leverhulme Early Career Fellow at the University of Cardiff. His most recent publication is *Prison Writing of Latin America* (Bloomsbury, 2018).

Gareth Williams teaches at the University of Michigan. He has written widely on Latin American literature and culture. His publications include *The Other Side of the Popular: Neoliberalism and Subalternity in Latin America* (Duke UP, 2011) and *The Mexican Exception: Sovereignty, Police and Democracy* (Palgrave, 2011).

For any further information, please contact Professor John Kraniauskas (j.kraniauskas@bbk.ac.uk).

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