

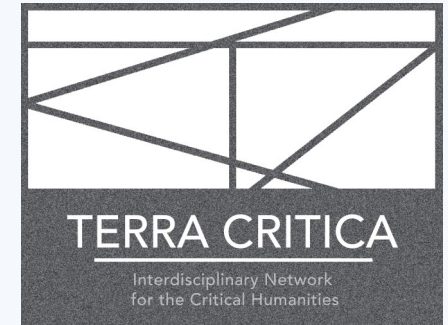


Universiteit Utrecht

Centre for the Humanities



and



THEORY LAB:

GET OVER YOURSELF! CRITIQUE AND DESUBJECTIVATION

WHEN AND WHERE

Date: 28 May, Wednesday

Time: 15:00 – 17:00h

Location: TBA

Registration: please register by email: cfh@uu.nl

CfH proudly presents a theory lab with **Terra Critica** and **Dr. Timothy O’Leary** (University of Hong Kong) as the main speaker on critique as a desubjectivizing practice that both requires and allows us to get over ourselves. This lab will present some aspects of the work recently done by *Terra Critica: Interdisciplinary Network for the Critical Humanities* (<http://terracritica.net>). The speakers will include the network’s coordinators **Dr. Birgit M. Kaiser** and **Dr. Kathrin Thiele** (both UU), **Dr. Timothy O’Leary** (Department of Philosophy, University of Hong Kong) and **Prof. Rosi Braidotti** (Director of the CfH, UU).

About the Lab

In *The Three Ecologies*, Guattari points out that any potential ecological “revolution” must take into account “molecular domains of sensibility, intelligence and desire”. Meanwhile, Foucault follows Nietzsche in holding that “every sentiment, particularly the noblest and most disinterested, has a history”. This talk will approach the question of these changing sentiments and domains of sensibility by sketching a Foucauldian model for understanding the historical transformation of experience. On that basis, it will present an account of critique in which critique is seen as the potentially transformational, experiential practice of engaging with the contemporary apparatuses of experience, or what T.S. Eliot calls the “mechanism of sensibility”. Critique, therefore, demands the folding back of experience onto itself. Understood in this way, critique can be seen as a desubjectivizing practice that both requires and allows us to get over ourselves. And it is this getting over ourselves that can, perhaps, lead to the kind of shift in the “molecular domains of sensibility” that is called for by Guattari.



Dr. Timothy O’Leary

Dr. O’Leary is an Associate Professor in the Department of Philosophy, at the University of Hong Kong. His major research interests are in the fields of ethics, politics, and the philosophy of literature and art, with a particular focus on 20th century European philosophy. He has published extensively on the work of Michel Foucault, including his latest book “Foucault and Fiction: The Experience Book” (Continuum, 2009), which develops a unique approach to thinking about the transformative power of literature by drawing upon the much-neglected concept of experience in Foucault’s work. At HKU, he has taught courses on Foucault, Nietzsche, happiness, contemporary European philosophy, philosophy of art and literature, Plato, and the philosophical problems of modernity.