Critique, Post-Critique and the Present Conjuncture

Wednesday May 25, 2022
9am-6pm
2022 International Communication Association (ICA) pre-conference
Université Paris Nanterre & online

Conference programme and schedule
8.30 Registration and coffee for in-person attendees: Lobby of Weber building

9.00 Welcome and introduction: Salle de conférence (main conference hall), Weber

9.05 to 10.30 Opening plenary: Critique, post-Critique and the Present Conjuncture

François Cusset, Université Paris Nanterre – ‘Critical swap: from social to techno - and left to right?’
Alan Finlayson, University of East Anglia – ‘This is Not a Critique: Politics in the Age of Ideological Entrepreneurship’
Lilie Chouliaraki, London School of Economics and Political Science – short response

10.30 to 10.45 Coffee break: Lobby of Weber

10.45 to 12.15 Parallel panel session 1

Panel 1.1: Critique, theory, ideology and description: Salle de conférence, Weber

1. Robert Porter, University of Ulster – ‘Universities and critique in an age of science’
2. Jorge I. Valdovinos, University of Sydney – ‘Reflections on the shifting boundaries between ideology and critique’
3. Joe Hughes, University of Melbourne – ‘Conspiracies of Theory’
4. Katy Highet, University College London – ‘The ethics and politics of critique, action and social justice’
5. Guobin Yang, University of Pennsylvania – ‘Writing about the COVID Pandemic: Between the Limits of Critique and the Limits of Life’

Panel 1.2: Critique, media, and digital culture: R14, Meier building

1. ‘Tim Highfield, University of Sheffield – ‘Critique and the digital present’
2. John Budarick, University of Adelaide – ‘A critique of crisis among the crisis of critique: Journalism and pluralism’
3. Scott Wark, University of Warwick and Thomas Sutherland, University of Lincoln – ‘Theorising Media Critically: Thinking After Contemporaneity’
4. Marlen van den Ecker, Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena and Mandy Tröger, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München – ‘On the Concept of Critique of the Network for Critical Communication Research (Germany)’
5. Göran Svensson, Uppsala University – ‘A new era for critique: Towards a criticality turn in studies of media, communication and journalism in the social sciences and the humanities’

12.15 to 13.15 Lunch break: Meier

13.15 to 14.45 Parallel panel session 2

Panel 2.1: Critique, post-critique, and political aesthetics: Salle de conférence, Weber
1. Jacob Johanssen, St. Mary’s University – ‘With and Without the Paranoid-Schizoid? Online Critique Between Affirmation and Negation’
2. Nick Holm, Massey University – ‘The beauty of critique’
3. Irina Kalinka, Brown University – ‘Reading in Dark Times’
4. Jonjo Brady, University of Ulster – ‘What if the problem is that there is Too Much Critique?’
5. Robert T. Tally Jr, Texas State University – ‘The Virtue of Critique’

Panel 2.2 Critique, race and reactionary politics: R14, Meier

2. Aurelien Mondon, University of Bath – ‘Populist hype, far right studies and the unbearable whiteness of being’
3. Ferruh Yilmaz, Tulane University – ‘The Ambiguity of Populist Logic’
4. Phoebe Braithwaite, Harvard University – ‘Unsafe Spaces and the Generosity of Major Differences’
5. Cat Tebaldi, University of Massachusetts Amherst – ‘Thoughtcrime: Pseudo-critique in Turning Point USA’s opposition to Critical Race Theory’

14.45 to 15.00 coffee break: Lobby of Weber

15.00 to 16.20 Parallel panel session 3:

Panel 3.1 Critique and the neoliberal university: Salle de conférence, Weber

2. Simon Ridley, Université Paris Nanterre – ‘The Alt-Right and the University: Degeneration of the Culture of Critical Discourse’
3. Leon Salter, Massey University – ‘Beyond Critique and into Action: (Re)Organising academic work in Aotearoa New Zealand’
4. Milly Williamson and Gholam Khiabany, Goldsmiths, University of London – ‘Critique and Contesting the Vocabularies of the Marketized University’

Panel 3.2 Critique, technology and ecological crisis: R14, Meier

1. Sebastián Lehuedé, University of Cambridge – ‘The Double Helix of Data Extraction: Radicalising Reflexivity in Critical Data Studies’
2. Benedetta Brevini, University of Sydney – ‘Critique and technology magic: reclaiming the environment.’
3. Nicholas Aranda, Kansas State University. – ‘On Mapping the Vernacular of Crisis, Event, & Conjuncture’
4. Eugenia Stamboliev, University of Vienna. – ‘Critical AI Ethics? Towards a political ethics of technology’
16.20 to 16.30 Short break

16.30 to 18.00 Final plenary discussion: Critical academy under attack:
Salle de conférence, Weber

Chaired and introduced by Gavan Titley, Maynooth University

Interview panelists:

Sahana Udupa, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München
Eric Fassin, Université Paris 8
Diana Mulinari, Lund University

18.00 End: in-person audience gathering for drinks somewhere nearby

Organization and registration

The conference is co-chaired by Sean Phelan (University of Antwerp/Massey University), Simon Dawes (Université de Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines) and Pieter Maeseele (University of Antwerp) in collaboration with the Culture/cultures/CREA 370 research group (François Cusset, Veronique Rauline and Thierry Labica) Université Paris Nanterre.

Advisory committee

Sarah Banet-Weiser (USC Annenberg)
Lilie Chouliaraki (LSE)
Mohan Dutta (Massey University)
Jayson Harsin (American University of Paris)
Thierry Labica (Université Paris Nanterre)
Robert Porter (University of Ulster)
Veronique Rauline (Université Paris Nanterre)
Gavan Titley (Maynooth University)
Sahana Udupa (Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München)

Institutional supporters

ICA Division: Philosophy, Theory and Critique
ICA Division: Race and Ethnicity in Communication
Department of Communication Studies, University of Antwerp
Centre d’histoire culturelle des sociétés contemporaines, Université de Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines
Université Paris Nanterre