

Critical Scholarship

and

Social Transformation

Workshop: Theorizing Violence

The humanities and social sciences are paying increasing attention to the study of violence in relation to bodies, discourses, economies, affects, nature, culture, technologies, ideologies, assemblages, networks, entanglements, social formations, and latent potentialities. This workshop aims to bring together scholars - working at various stages in their academic/intellectual careers and across disciplinary boundaries - to explore the basis and possibilities of theorizing violence, as it applies to subjectivity, the material, the social, the political and the philosophical.

Theorizing Violence focuses on the specific problems and possibilities of theorizing violence both from Marxist and non-Marxist critical perspectives. Rather than focusing on empirical documentations and analyses of the horrors of violent events this workshop seeks to examine the problem of theorizing violence more generally. Among the questions participants will address are: In what ways might analytical distinctions between pain, force, destruction, and violence be changing and what do those changes imply for the connections between physical and ontological or metaphysical violence? How has recent thinking advanced understandings of the relationship between violence and the body? What theoretical trajectories bear on the relationship between violence, non-violence, counter-violence, anti-violence, and pacifism, especially in relation to social movements/protests? How does violence operate as a spectacle? What are the political and ethical implications of its aestheticization? What are the possibilities and limits of an ethics of witnessing violence?

The CSST Program

The Critical Scholarship and Social Transformation (CSST) Program is a new hub of interdisciplinary critical social inquiry at York University. The aim of the CSST Program is to incubate and support research that both advances critical theory and research methods and embraces the transformation of social and political life.

15-16 May 2016

Vari Hall

Room 1154

Workshop Program available at:

<http://criticaltransformation.blog.yorku.ca/events-and-news/>