

# SOCIETY FOR CRITICAL EXCHANGE

WINTER THEORY INSTITUTE

February 9-12, 2012

TWELVE DISTINGUISHED SCHOLARS FROM ACROSS THE U.S. IN THREE DAYS OF ENGAGING DISCUSSION

SOCIETY FOR CRITICAL EXCHANGE

## About SCE

The SOCIETY FOR CRITICAL EXCHANGE is North America's oldest scholarly organization devoted to theory. Our various interdisciplinary projects, conferences, and symposia serve to advance the role of theory in academic and intellectual arenas. Our projects encompass a broad spectrum of disciplines, most prominently literary studies, legal studies and practices, economics, composition, and pedagogy.

## The 2012 Institute

The Society for Critical Exchange (SCE), in collaboration with the University of Houston-Victoria School of Arts and Sciences, is pleased to announce the topic of the third annual SCE Winter Theory Institute: *Criticism after Critique*.

How do we engage in criticism at a time when critique seems to have run its course? What does sustained theoretical research and discussion look like when the notion of critique is under attack? Might we be confronting an Aesthetic, Practical, Philosophical, New Formalist, or New New Critical emphasis on the literary text? What, if anything, is the political project of literary and cultural criticism after critique?

*The following presenters will be addressing these issues and other topics of interest.*

### Charles Altieri

Charles Altieri has written several books and many essays on topics extending from Ovid and Longinus to contemporary poetry. His most recent books are *The Particulars of Rapture* and *The Art of Modernist American Poetry*. His book *Wallace Stevens and the Phenomenology of Value* is awaiting publication.

*"Appreciating Appreciation"*



### Christian Moraru

Professor of English at University of North Carolina, Greensboro, Christian Moraru specializes in critical theory, contemporary American literature, and comparative literature. His latest books are *Rewriting: Postmodern Narrative and Cultural Critique in the Age of Cloning* and *Cosmodernism: American Narrative, Late Globalization, and the New Cultural Imaginary*.

*"Critique and Its Postnational Aftermath: Dialogism and the Planetary Condition"*



### Robert Chodat

Robert Chodat teaches courses on post-WWII fiction and on relations between literature and philosophy. He is the author of *Worldly Acts and Sentient Things: The Persistence of Agency from Stein to DeLillo*, as well as articles in *New Literary History*, *Contemporary Literature*, and *Contemporary Pragmatism*.

*"Bumps on the Head, Touchstones of Intimacy, and the Vulnerability of Criticism"*



### Brian O'Keeffe

Brian O'Keeffe specializes in French literature and literary theory, and works especially on the relation between literary theory and ethical philosophy. He teaches French and comparative literature at Barnard College, Columbia University and is also Associate Director of the Barnard Center for Translation Studies.

*"Jacques Rancière and the Adventures of Critical Thought"*



### Allen Dunn

Allen Dunn is the Carroll Distinguished Teaching Professor in the Department of English at the University of Tennessee. For the past eleven years, he served as the editor of *Soundings: An Interdisciplinary Journal*. With Thomas Haddox, he has edited the forthcoming *The Limits of Literary History*.

*"Who Killed Critique? Restoring a Discourse of Values to Contemporary Criticism"*



### David Shumway

David Shumway teaches at Carnegie Mellon University. His theoretical interests concern the historical and institutional production of knowledge, cultural politics, and theories of identity. His books include *Michel Foucault and Creating American Civilization: A Genealogy of American Literature as an Academic Discipline* and *Modern Love: Romance, Intimacy, and the Marriage Crisis*.

*"Criticism and Critique: A Genealogy"*



### Sue-Im Lee

Sue-Im Lee is Associate Professor at Temple University, specializing in contemporary fiction (author of *A Body of Individuals: The Paradox of Community in Contemporary Fiction*) and Asian American studies (co-editor of *Literary Gestures: The Aesthetic in Asian American Writing*).

*"Doing Criticism, Making Value Judgments"*



### Nicole Simek

Specializing in French Caribbean literature, Nicole Simek is the author of *Eating Well, Reading Well: Maryse Condé and the Ethics of Interpretation*. She has published articles on Baudelaire's figuration of the reader, female friendship in French literature, Caribbean women's autobiography, parody in French Caribbean novels, and trauma theory, and has co-edited volumes devoted to literary cannibalism and representations of trauma in French and Francophone literature.

*"The Criticism of Postcolonial Critique"*



### Leerom Medovoi

Leerom Medovoi is a Professor of English at Portland State University. He writes about 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century American culture in global contexts, age studies, ecocriticism, globalization, and political theories of war. His work has appeared in *Cultural Critique*, *Social Text*, *Minnesota Review*, *American Literary History*, and *New Formations*.

*"Biopolitical Variations and the Implications for Critique"*



### Alan Singer

Alan Singer teaches courses in literary aesthetics, critical theory, the history of criticism, and the history of the novel. His works include *A Metaphysics of Fiction: Discontinuity and Discourse in the Modern Novel*, *The Subject As Action: Transformation and Totality in Narrative Aesthetics and Aesthetic Reason: Artworks and the Deliberative Ethos*, and *The Self-Deceiving Muse: Notice and Knowledge in the Work of Art*.

*"Living in an Aesthetic Regime: The False Feeling of Life"*



### Hassan Melehy

Hassan Melehy is the Associate Professor of French and Director of Graduate Studies at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. He specializes in early modern French and comparative literature, contemporary critical theory, and film studies. He is the author *Writing Cogito: Montaigne, Descartes, and the Institution of the Modern Subject* and *The Poetics of Literary Transfer in Early Modern France and England*.

*"Critiques of Early Modern Criticism: Poetics, Historicism, and the Pitfalls of Periodization"*



### Zahi Zalloua

Zahi Zalloua is Associate Professor of French at Whitman College and editor of *The Comparatist*. He has published *Montaigne and the Ethics of Skepticism*, and edited or co-edited a number of volumes on literary theory, trauma studies and globalization, including most recently *Montaigne After Theory, Theory After Montaigne*.

*"Ideology is not all: Criticism after Žižek"*



The Institute will take place from **Thursday, February 9 to Sunday, February 12** from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Presentations will take place in the University of Houston-Victoria Publishing Center. The Publishing Center is located on the third floor of the Center building, room 301. Additional details regarding the Society for Critical Exchange or the upcoming Winter Theory Institute can be found at the Society for Critical Exchange's website: <http://societyforcriticalexchange.org> or by contacting Executive Director, Jeffrey R. Di Leo ([dileo@symploke.org](mailto:dileo@symploke.org)).