

# SOCIETY FOR CRITICAL EXCHANGE

## WINTER THEORY INSTITUTE

### February 4-7, 2016

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

**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 2016 Institute** The Society for Critical Exchange (SCE), this year co-sponsored by the Slought Foundation, the Theory Reading Group of Temple University's English Department, and the University of Houston-Victoria, is pleased to announce the topic of the seventh annual SCE Winter Theory Institute: *American World Literature*.

"American World Literature" refers to the intersections of the global dimensions of American literature, its representations of itself in the larger world, with other literatures in English, whether originally so or now via the commercial culture of rapid and pervasive translation. What does it mean, for instance, that Henry James's *The Golden Bowl* is being read in conjunction with *Gilgamesh*? Is this a moment of great opportunity, provocative challenge, or high stakes but largely hollow scholarly self-promotion? Is a new canon emerging, is this the beginning of the uprising of the multitude against empire, or what exactly is happening to critical humanistic studies with respect to American literatures?

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

#### Emily Apter

Emily Apter is Chair of Comparative Literature at New York University. She is the author of many books, including *Against World Literature: On The Politics of Untranslatability* and *The Translation Zone: A New Comparative Literature*.

*"Political Serials: Altman's Tanner '88 to House of Cards"*



Emily Apter



Tracy McNulty

#### Tracy McNulty

Tracy McNulty is Chair of Comparative Literature at Cornell University. She is the author of *The Hostess: Hospitality, Femininity, and the Expropriation of Identity* and *Wrestling with the Angel: Experiments in Symbolic Life*.

*"Intersubjective Acts: The Transhistorical Transmission of Desire"*

#### Jonathan Arac

Jonathan Arac is Mellon Professor of English and Founding Director of the Humanities Center at the University of Pittsburgh. His next book will be *Against Americanistics*, and he is exploring the "Age of the Novel" in the U.S.

*"Amitav Ghosh's Ibis Trilogy in American World Literature"*



Jonathan Arac



Christian Moraru

#### Christian Moraru

Christian Moraru is Professor of English at the University of North Carolina, Greensboro. His books include *The Planetary Turn: Relationality and Geoaesthetics in the Twenty-First Century* (coedited with Amy J. Elias) and *Reading for the Planet: Toward a Geomethodology*.

*"Easing into the World: Contemporary American Literature as Geopositioning"*

#### Jeffrey R. Di Leo

Jeffrey R. Di Leo is Dean of Arts & Sciences and Professor of English and Philosophy at the University of Houston-Victoria. He is also Executive Director of SCE. His books include *Corporate Humanities in Higher Education: Moving Beyond the Neoliberal Academy* and *Turning the Page: Book Culture in the Digital Age*.

*"Who Needs American Literature?"*



Jeffrey R. Di Leo



Daniel T. O'Hara

#### Daniel T. O'Hara

Daniel T. O'Hara, Professor of English and Inaugural Mellon Professor of Humanities at Temple University, is the author and editor or co-editor of fifteen books in modern literature and critical theory. His book *Virginia Woolf and the Modern Sublime: The Invisible Tribunal* is forthcoming.

*"Ancient Practices, Transhuman Poetics: Images of Voice in the Whitman Tradition"*

#### Eduardo Cadava

Eduardo Cadava is Professor of English at Princeton University. He is the author of *Words of Light: Theses on the Photography of History*, *Emerson and the Climates of History*, *Fazal Sheikh: Portraits* (with Fazal Sheikh), *La imagen en ruinas*, and *Paper Graveyards: Essays on Art and Photography*, among others.

*"Melville in Palestine"*



Eduardo Cadava



Donald E. Pease

#### Donald E. Pease

Donald E. Pease is the Ted & Helen Geisel and Founding Director of the Futures of American Studies Institute at Dartmouth. The editor or co-editor of 10 volumes, Pease is the author of *Visionary Compacts: American Renaissance Writings in Cultural Context* and *The New American Exceptionalism*.

*"The Uncanny Re-Worldings of 'American' Literature"*

#### Robert L. Caserio

Robert L. Caserio, Professor of English and Comparative Literature at Penn State University, is the author of two books and some sixty essays about English and American literature. His book *The Cambridge Introduction to British Fiction, 1900-1950* is forthcoming.

*"Last American Stories and Other Stories"*



Robert L. Caserio



Gabriel Rockhill

#### Gabriel Rockhill

Gabriel Rockhill is Associate Professor of Philosophy at Villanova University and Director of the Critical Theory Workshop in Paris. He has published widely on the themes of history, politics and aesthetics, including *Radical History & the Politics of Art* and *Logique de l'histoire*.

*"Writing Revolution: Whitman's Literary Democracy"*

#### Peter Hitchcock

Peter Hitchcock is Professor of English at Baruch College and the Graduate Center of CUNY. He is also Associate Director of the Center for Place, Culture and Politics. His most recent book is *The Long Space: Transnationalism and Postcolonial Form*.

*"Worlds of Americana and the Ends of Globalization"*



Peter Hitchcock



Jean-Michel Rabaté

#### Jean-Michel Rabaté

Jean-Michel Rabaté is Professor of English and Comparative Literature at the University of Pennsylvania, a curator of Slought Foundation, and an editor of the *Journal of Modern Literature*. He has authored or edited more than thirty books on modernism, psychoanalysis and philosophy.

*"The Pathos of History: Trauma in Siri Hustvedt's The Sorrows of an American"*

#### Aaron Jaffe

Aaron Jaffe is a Professor of English at the University of Louisville and Director of the Commonwealth Center for the Humanities and Society. He has published extensively on modern and contemporary literature and cultural theory, including *Modernism and the Culture of Celebrity* and *The Way Things Go: An Essay on the Matter of Second Modernism*.

*"Experience and Experiment: Flusser's New World"*



Aaron Jaffe



Alan Singer

#### Alan Singer

Alan Singer writes on aesthetics, literary theory, and visual arts. He is the author of several books that explore the vital reciprocity between aesthetic value/experience and human agency, most recently *The Self-Deceiving Muse: Notice and Knowledge in the Work of Art*.

*"Un-making American Literature/Mind-Making Fictions of the Literary"*

The Institute will take place from **Thursday, February 4 to Sunday, February 7** from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Presentations will take place in Philadelphia, PA. 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/>. For questions and inquiries please contact SCE Executive Director Jeffrey R. Di Leo at [DiLeoJ@uhv.edu](mailto:DiLeoJ@uhv.edu).