

**TOWARD
THE CRITIQUE
OF VIOLENCE
IN 1920s
AND 2020s**



MONDAY MAY 23, 2022 9AM - 6PM
Norris Lake Room (9AM-1PM) and Kresge 2415 (2PM-6PM)

Northwestern Department of
German
WEINBERG COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES

co-sponsored by the Department of Philosophy
and the Comparative Literary Studies Program

Norris Lake Room 9AM - 1PM

WELCOME

Jörg Kreienbrock (NORTHWESTERN)

OPENING REMARKS

Julia Ng (GOLDSMITHS) and Peter Fenves (NORTHWESTERN)

10AM - 11:15AM

I. *Toward the Critique of Violence* in Relation to Literary Critiques of Violence

- *Toward the Critique of Violence* in Chinua Achebe's *Arrow of God* -- Omoyemi Ajisebutu (NORTHWESTERN)
- Putting the Myth in Mythical Violence: Musil's Take on Violence and the Law -- Maggie Marusek (FU BERLIN)
- Literary Tropes, Mythic Repetition: Benjaminian Fate in the Poetry of Sandra Simonds -- Miriam Bilsker (U. OF CHICAGO)

11:30AM - 1PM

II. The Textuality of *Toward the Critique of Violence*

- Janus Words: Auto-Antonymic Ambiguity in Benjamin's *Toward the Critique of Violence* -- Yu-jin Chang (EMERSON)
- God's Judgment on Korah's Horde -- Timothy Cannon (NORTHWESTERN)
- Darstellung in Benjamin's *Toward the Critique of Violence*: Presentation, Representation, Performance
-- Bernardo Barzana (NORTHWESTERN)
- Toward Non-Stupid Tautology and Non-Demonic Ambiguity -- Timothy Messen (EMORY)

LUNCH BREAK

Kresge 2415 2PM - 6PM

2PM - 3:15PM

III. *Toward the Critique of Violence* Today

- The Force of Powerlessness: Acting Beyond Power, according to Walter Benjamin
-- Jonas Heller (UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO/FRANKFURT)
- Earth, Heavenly Body: Geo-Ethics in Walter Benjamin's *Toward the Critique of Violence* (and Elsewhere)
-- Matthew Gilmore (NORTHWESTERN)
- Walter Benjamin and Abolitionism in Theory and Practice -- Ashley Bohrer (NOTRE DAME)

COFFEE BREAK

3:45PM - 5PM

IV. *Toward the Critique of Violence* under the Optic of Marx, Freud, and Du Bois

- Wald und Gewalt: A Critical Forest Excursion with Marx -- Christian Obst (BROWN)
- Technologies of Violence and their Destruction -- Eleonora Giannisi Antonakaki (NORTHWESTERN)
- Dark Violence and Black Critique: Reading Walter Benjamin's *Toward the Critique of Violence*
with W. E. B. Du Bois's *Black Reconstruction* -- Marlon Millner (NORTHWESTERN)

5:15PM - 6PM

Closing Discussion among Audience and Participants