

SOCIETY FOR CRITICAL EXCHANGE

WINTER THEORY INSTITUTE

February 5-8, 2015

FOURTEEN 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 2015 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 sixth annual SCE Winter Theory Institute: *Debt*.

What is debt? What is the relationship between debt and theory? What are the social, political, religious, ethical, economic and intellectual dimensions of debt? Who is the paradigmatic subject of debt? Is its meaning transhistorical or transcultural? Or is it imbued in ideology and thus irremediably discursive and historically contingent? Whose debt is acknowledged and whose is ignored? Is debt an ontological concern? What are the ethical and psychological dimensions of debt? Has the credit/debt relationship changed since the recent bank crisis? Can inquiry into debt ever be disentangled from neoliberalism? How has debt affected contemporary academic culture? How is debt related to obligation and gift? What is the importance of thinking beyond debt in the current conjuncture?

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

Elizabeth S. Anker

Elizabeth S. Anker is Associate Professor in the English Department at Cornell University. Anker is the author of *Fictions of Dignity: Embodying Human Rights in World Literature* as well as essays on sovereignty, animal rights, democracy, and constitutionalism.

"Debt, Speculative Fictions, and the Human"



Elizabeth S. Anker



Paul Allen Miller

Paul Allen Miller

Paul Allen Miller is Vice Provost and Carolina Distinguished Professor at the University of South Carolina. He is the author and editor of many books on Latin poetry, Greek philosophy, and French theory. His *Diotima Guerrière: French Feminists Read Plato* is forthcoming from Oxford.

"Debts and Credits: Accounting for My Life"

Christopher Breu

Christopher Breu is Associate Professor of English at Illinois State University. He is the author of *Hard-Boiled Masculinities* and *Insistence of the Material: Literature in the Age of Biopolitics*, both from University of Minnesota Press.

"Materialism: Debt and Sensuality"



Christopher Breu



Sharon O'Dair

Sharon O'Dair

Sharon O'Dair is Hudson Strode Professor of English at the University of Alabama. She has published many essays on Shakespeare, literary theory, and the profession of English studies and is author of *Class, Critics, and Shakespeare*.

"Managing Luck and Duty: On the Reciprocity of Debt and Ownership, with a Long Glance at the Early Modern"

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. His latest books include *Turning the Page: Book Culture in the Digital Age* and *Corporate Humanities in Higher Education: Moving Beyond the Neoliberal Academy*.

"Against Debt"



Jeffrey R. Di Leo



Andrew Ross

Andrew Ross

Andrew Ross is a social activist and Professor of Social and Cultural Analysis at NYU. A contributor to the Guardian, the New York Times, the Nation, and Al Jazeera, he is the author of many books, including most recently *Creditocracy and the Case for Debt Refusal*.

"Accumulation and Resistance in 21st Century Capitalism"

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*.

"Sublime Surplus: On the Aesthetics of Quantitative Easing"



Peter Hitchcock



Kenneth J. Saltman

Kenneth J. Saltman

Kenneth J. Saltman is Professor of Educational Leadership at University of Massachusetts Dartmouth. He is the author of numerous books on the cultural politics and political economy of education including most recently *The Politics of Education: A Critical Introduction*.

"The Austerity School"

Annie McClanahan

Annie McClanahan is an Assistant Professor of English at the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee, where she is completing two book projects: *Dead Pledges: Credit, Crisis, and 21st Century Culture*, and a co-authored book on theories of capitalist crisis.

"Debtors' Misprision"



Annie McClanahan



Nicole Simek

Nicole Simek

Nicole Simek is Associate Professor of French and Interdisciplinary Studies at Whitman College. Specializing in French Caribbean literature, Simek is the author of *Eating Well, Reading Well: Maryse Condé and the Ethics of Interpretation*.

"Literature's Purchase: Derrida and Chamoiseau in Crusoe's Footsteps"

Sophia A. McClennen

Sophia A. McClennen is Professor of International Affairs and Comparative Literature at Penn State University, where she directs the Center for Global Studies. Her most recent book is *Colbert's America: Satire and Democracy*.

"The Rights to Debt"



Sophia A. McClennen



Liane Tanguay

Liane Tanguay

Liane Tanguay is Assistant Professor of English at University of Houston-Victoria. She is the author of *Hijacking History: American Culture and the War on Terror*. Research interests include the neoliberal state of exception in popular culture.

"Terror and Debt in the Neoliberal Conjuncture"

Alexander Means

Alexander Means is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Social and Psychological Foundations of Education at SUNY Buffalo State. His research examines educational policy and governance in relation to political economy, urbanization, and social inequality.

"Generational Debt"



Alexander Means



Zahi Zalloua

Zahi Zalloua

Zahi Zalloua is Associate Professor of French and Interdisciplinary Studies at Whitman College and editor of *The Comparatist*. His books include *Montaigne and the Ethics of Skepticism* and *Reading Unruly: Interpretation and its Ethical Demands*.

"Beyond the Jew and the Greek"

The Institute will take place from **Thursday, February 5 to Sunday, February 8** 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).