

CROSSING DISCIPLINES

Comparative Studies Colloquia on Interdisciplinarity

Figures of Critique in the Borderland: Deconstruction and the Postcolonial

Colloquium Leader

Axelle Karera, Ph.D.



This seminar will attend to some of the ways in which philosophers of race and “postcolonial” thinkers have engaged with the European philosophical archive (more specifically in this case, deconstruction and contemporary French theory). The aim of this meeting is to focus on some aspects of the debates that emerged from the confrontation between voices intervening from the “margins” of mainstream “Western” thought and discourses traditionally perceived to be at the center of knowledge production and/or epistemological practices. We will attempt to assess when, where, and how have these “philosophies from the borderlands” had important bearings on contemporary debates in political philosophy and social theory. The notions of ‘figures’ and ‘borderlands’ will be used in a broad sense, allowing us to concentrate not only on individuals but also on collective forms of criticism, not only on geographic frontiers but also on liminal and alternative spaces within the same geographic location.

Texts:

Achille Mbembe, “Introduction: Time on the Move” in *On the Postcolony* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2001), p. 1-23

Gayatri Spivak, “Can the Subaltern Speak?” in *Marxism and the Interpretation of Culture*, ed. C. Nelson & L. Grossberg (Basingstoke: Macmillan Education, 1988), p. 271-313

Optional Text:

“Intellectuals and Power: A Conversation between Michel Foucault and Gilles Deleuze” (NB: I can provide a PDF copy upon request)

Edward Said, *Orientalism* (New York: Vintage Books, 1979), p. 1-28

Axelle Karera, received her Ph.D. from The Pennsylvania State University in 2015 with a dissertation entitled “Re-theorizing Fanon through Derrida, Deleuze, and Mbembe”. Her areas of specializations are in 20th century continental philosophy, critical philosophy of race, Africana philosophy, and feminist philosophy. She has published in the *Journal of Critical Philosophy of Race* and her current work addresses questions of displacement, postcolonial forms of oppression and resistance, racism, and xenophobia as they paradoxically unfold within the context of globalization. These questions are approached through the lenses of a particular problematic: that of violence inflicted on so-called “citizens of the world” in an age of acute border control. Karera has begun working on her first manuscript, which is now tentatively entitled *When Death is Overwhelmed: War and Genocide in the Great Lakes Region*.

Wednesday, February 17, 2016
1-3 p.m. in CU 301

The **Crossing Disciplines** colloquia promote the exchange of ideas across disciplines, fomenting the Comparative Studies Ph.D. Program's philosophy that topics in the arts, humanities and social sciences are most fruitfully understood through comparative modes of analysis that include an ever-changing landscape of theory and methodologies. For more information, contact Michael J. Horswell, Ph.D. — horswell@fau.edu

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