

The Syllabus

The Intellectual #25

March 18 - March 25, 2020

ACADEMIC

Newtonianism and Information Control in Rome At the Wake of the Eighteenth Century

Daniele Macuglia | Annals of Science

"...Counterintuitively, the dissemination of Italian Newtonianism was largely a Catholic effort."

Identity, Kinship, and the Evolution of Cooperation

Burton Voorhees | Current Anthropology

"...individuals are motivated to cooperate with those perceived culturally as kin, while deviations from expected social behavior are experienced as a threat to one's social identity..."

A Collective Emotion in Medieval Italy: the Flagellant Movement of 1260

Piroska Nagy, Xavier Biron-Ouellet | Emotion Review

"...the Flagellant movement of 1260 as...social practice that finds its efficiency in the spiritual meaning of its collective display, demonstrating the rationality of a seemingly irrational religious phenomenon."

Tracing Tradition. The Idea of Cancerous Contagiousness From Renaissance To Enlightenment

Daniel Droixhe | History of European Ideas

"...This type of explanation was privileged during Classical Age, until experiments on animals or human beings infected by cancerous liquid took place during the Enlightenment..."

Connecting Twenty-First Century Connectionism and Wittgenstein

Charles W. Lowney | Philosophia

"[Wittgenstein's] observations align well with connectionist or neural network approaches...reflecting Wittgenstein's notions of language-games and family resemblance...[as well as his] private language argument..."

Defining a Metropolis: Ed Logue, Jane Jacobs, and the “Fiendishly Complex” Task of Urban Conception

John T. McGuire | Journal of Urban History

"...Logue centered on urban renewal through...economic revitalization...Jacobs, however, defined urbanization through...diverse, interlinked neighborhoods and local businesses..."

Hegel, Islam and Liberalism: Religion and the Shape of World History

Thomas Lynch | Philosophy & Social Criticism

"...Hegel does not provide resources for narrating a history of a more inclusive Europe, but...interrogating his philosophy...reveals the assumptions at work in contemporary debates about the liberalization of Islam."

BOOKS

The Human Factor: Gorbachev, Reagan, and Thatcher and the End of the Cold War

Archie Brown | Oxford University Press

"What were the values and assumptions of these leaders, and how did their perceptions evolve? ... Would any of the realistically alternative leaders of their countries at that time have pursued approximately the same policies?"

Modernism and Still Life: Artists, Writers, Dancers

Claudia Tobin | Edinburgh University Press

"This book proposes a radical alternative to narratives of modernism that privilege speed and motion by revealing forms of stillness and still life at the heart of modern literature and visual culture."

Homo Natura: Nietzsche, Philosophical Anthropology and Biopolitics

Vanessa Lemm | Edinburgh University Press

"Nietzsche coins the enigmatic term homo natura to capture his understanding of the human being as a creature of nature and tasks philosophy with the renaturalisation of humanity. Following Foucault's critique of the human sciences, this book discusses the reception of Nietzsche's naturalism in philosophical anthropology, psychoanalysis and gender studies."

JOURNALISM & ESSAYS

The Logic of the Rebel: on Simone Weil and Albert Camus

Robert Zaretsky | Los Angeles Review of Books

"The logic of the rebel is to want to serve justice so as not to add to the injustice of the human condition, to insist on plain language so as not to increase universal falsehood, and to wager, in spite of human misery, for happiness."

It Looks Like Art: Institutions, Academia, and Publicly Funded Art Under Late Capitalism

Allan Gardner | Mousse Magazine

"We need to make arts funding functional for the production of art, not just for repeating agreed social truths within an echo chamber."

Towards Neuro-Spatial Diversity: Thoughts on the Relationship Between Architecture and the Patterns of the Mind

Saba Salekfarid, Evan Bliss | Archinect

"Through our policies in the west beginning in the 20th century, we have attempted to mitigate the lack of integration of minority groups, especially in urban centers. The same cannot be said for neurodiverse individuals, a patently invisible and deeply underserved minority."

REPORTS, DISSERTATIONS, & MISCELLANEOUS

Horror of Personality: Exploring the Gothicisation of Mental Illness in American Fiction of the Long 1950s

Victoria M. Madden | The University of Edinburgh

"...this thesis confronts the driving factors behind why the gothic remains such an integral part of American culture at large... and concludes that a long history of female marginalization and androcentrism within both medical and popular culture continues to feed the gothicisation of mental illness within fiction of the United States."

"It Took a Global Conflict"—The Second World War and Probability in British Mathematics

John Aldrich | University of Southampton

"In the twentieth century probability became a 'respectable' branch of mathematics. This paper describes how in Britain the transformation came after the Second World War and was due largely to David Kendall and Maurice Bartlett who met and worked together in the war and afterwards worked on stochastic processes."

Memorializing Middle-Earth: Memory and Memorial As a Means of Healing in JRR Tolkien's the Lord of the Rings

Griffin King | King University

"Tolkien performs this critique of modernist forms of literary healing by reflecting on contemporary discourses using distinct groups within his narrative world such as the elves, hobbits, and the Oathbreakers."

VIDEOS

Art As Social History

Ulrick Jean-Pierre | Spencer Museum of Art

"This talk discusses the varied inspirations, techniques and creative practices that allow for the making of art that acts as social history."

Abstract Expressionism

Betsy Fahlman | Phoenix Art Museum

"This talk discusses American modernism - an era that had one foot in the 19th century and another in the 20th - asking how the movement changed over time, and what role the generation of artists advancing abstraction in the 30s and 40s played in these changes."

Signs and Wonders, the Photography of John Beasley Greene

Robin Kelsey | The Art Institute of Chicago

"This symposium examines the context and legacy of John Beasley Greene's 19th-century photographs of Egypt and Algeria - to ask how the 19th century still resonates today."

PODCASTS

Linguistics, Music, and Race

John McWhorter | Conversations with Tyler

"Linguistics can answer questions of all kinds, from why colloquial Indonesian should be the world's universal language (and Mandarin never will be), to the barbaric circumstances that gave rise to Creole languages, to the racial politics of Gershwin's Porgy and Bess, to what spurred the decline of American regional accents."

Connecting Modern Art Museums, Colonialism, and Violence

Ariella Azoulay | Art Movements

"Museums were not always there, waiting to be filled with objects. Rather, they reveal a vast amount of plunder that then created a need for buildings to collect all the 'artefacts'."

Brecht: an Introduction

Markus Wessendorf | A Correction Podcast

"Brecht saw theatre as a way of exposing social, political and historical - rather than individual and psychological - forces. He was against Stanislavski's realism, believing that theatre should render life strange to audiences for them to realise that the reality they inhabit is not a given, but the result of long processes; and thus alterable."

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