

The Syllabus

The Intellectual #36

June 05 - June 12, 2020

Academic

Sigmund Freud and Social Theory Manqué

Isaac A. Reed | Society

"What was lost when sociology lost Freud? And why do some non-Freudians--who do not find themselves enamored with Freud's theories--nonetheless find the loss of Freudian terms of art from the theoretical languages of the human sciences disturbing? Beginning with cues from Howard Kaye and Samuel Moyn, this short response to Dr. Kaye's recently published book explores these questions."

Entropic Anxieties: Thomas Pynchon's V. And Obsessional Modernism

Ron S. Judy | Critique: Studies in Contemporary Fiction

"...Thomas Pynchon's early work...embodies the imaginative anxiety of modernists...[and] gives a fairly holistic portrait of modernism's obsessive-compulsive tendencies...[that are] deeply invested with a certain "entropic anxiety" – i.e., anxiety about rising disorder and the decay of cultural organization– which also survives in the postmodern narrative Pynchon obsessively parodies."

King Mob: a Revolutionary anti-Art Criminal Community (1968–1970)

David A. J. M. Flores | Konsthistorisk tidskrift/Journal of Art History

"King Mob was a British avant-garde born from the dissolution of the English section of the Situationist International. Having inherited the latter's revolutionary, heterodox Marxism...King Mob theorized the activation and emergence of the lumpenproletariat as the new subject of history...they saw in an aestheticization of criminal activity the correct political path towards liberation..."

"Most Unusual" Beauty Contests: Nordic Photographic Competitions and the Construction of a Public for German Race Science, 1926–1935

Andrew D. Evans | Isis

"In the late 1920s and early 1930s, professional anthropologists and prominent race scientists in Germany served as judges in a series of mail-in photographic competitions designed to identify the most representative examples of the so-called Nordic race...Race scientists portrayed their audience as...desperately in need of racial knowledge that only experts in Rassenkunde could provide."

Inner-Space and Liquid Myths: J.G. Ballard as a Post-Secular Writer

Andrew D. Bowyer | Literature and Theology

"British novelist James Graham Ballard (1930–2009) was...a post-secular writer who saw the imagination as a means to confront trauma, probe memory, and salvage meaning in a secular age...[In] his 'autobiographical turn', I suggest that resonances with contemporary theology may be detected, particularly the disruptive, anti-fascist, postmodern, 'tehomitic' theology of Catherine Keller."

Precarious Futures: Kafka's Prose of Survival

Dominik Zechner | The Yearbook of Comparative Literature

"Philosophical readings from Walter Benjamin to Hans Blumenberg and beyond often emphasize the death-boundness of Franz Kafka's prose... [However,] a series of critical moments in Kafka's oeuvre...[see] finitude...called into question...[suggesting] an intense kinship between Kafka's works and other literary endeavors invested in probing the limits of finitude, most notably in works by Jorge Luis Borges."

Books

Foucault against Neoliberalism

Geoffroy de Lagasnerie, Matthew MacLellan | Rowman & Littlefield Publishers

"Had Foucault been seduced by neoliberalism? Did France's premier leftist intellectual, near the end of his career, turn to the right?"

Anatomy of Liberty in Don Quijote De La Mancha: Religion, Feminism, Slavery, Politics, and Economics in the First Modern Novel

Eric C. Graf | Lexington Books

"This book argues that Cervantes should be considered a major precursor to great liberal thinkers like Locke, Smith, Mill, Montesquieu, Voltaire, Jefferson, Madison, and Twain."

Modernism for the Masses: Painters, Politics, and Public Murals in 1930s New York

Jody Patterson | Yale University Press

"This book examines the public murals (realized and unrealized) of abstract painters and the aesthetic controversy, political influence, and ideological warfare that surrounded them."

Journalism & Essays

Is There Ethical Music Streaming under Capitalism?

Dayna Evans | VICE

"With a slew of potential alternatives to Spotify, both new and old, there's never been a better time to leave mainstream streaming services behind. Now it's the responsibility of music fans to jump ship."

Aesthetic Dissonance and Covid-19

Patrick Brugh | Proofed: Boydell and Brewer

"Zoomifying interactions won't replace the physical encounters we can't have with our friends and family, but it is changing the way we see and prioritize our relationships."

Homer Rather than Hegel: on Arendt's Political Thinking and its Roots in Literature

Mario Clemens | The Berlin Review of Books

"Weißflug has provided convincing evidence for Arendt's particular importance for our attempts to come to terms with the – at times rather frightening – political phenomena of the day."

Reports, Dissertations, & Miscellaneous

History of Literature – Science of Literature

Leonora Bruçaj | University of Prishtina

"Literature and the study of literature are two different fields. Literature is the art of beautiful speech, whereas the study of literature is completely a science."

Transnational Dimensions of Romanticism

Johannes Voelz | Handbook to American Romanticism

"...the literature of transnational romanticism can be linked to what Emerson called 'the age of Revolution' without requiring literary authors to singlemindedly champion all revolutionary causes."

Copyright, Music, and Race: the Case of Mirror Cover Recordings

Robert Brauneis | George Washington University

"Those doctrines concern copyright protection of musical works and sound recordings, and operated to deny composers and musicians rights in what they added to songs during the process of recording versions of them."

Videos

The Outer Worlds - Deleuzo-Landian Playthrough: Industry and Reterritorialization

Anonymous | Hermitix Podcast

"A philosophical/theoretical playthrough of the game The Outer Worlds, in which the character is literally made immanent to Deleuzoguattarian/Landian philosophy."

Bait, Lure, Macguffin: the Ends of the Anthropology of Art

Elizabeth Povinelli, Laura Ogden | Dartmouth

"This talk explores questions relating to landscape, the environment, extractive economies, and science stories in contemporary art."

Constructing the World

Hans Teerds | AA School of Architecture

"For Arendt, the term 'world' has a very specific meaning: it encompasses the interventions in the earth, the globe, to make it habitable. Arendt's term thus stresses the way we build houses and cities, infrastructures, institutions, as well as how we furnish spaces with tables, chairs, paintings and photographs."

Podcasts

The New Intellectuals: the Death and Life of Safdar Hashmi

Sudhanva Deshpande | Pluto Press: Radicals in Conversation

"For a generation that grew up without knowing Safdar Hashmi, the guest renders his passion, humour and humanism into an intimate portrait."

Living History in a Pandemic at Old Sturbridge Village

Tom Kelleher | Museum Archipelago

"The guest describes the difference between first and third person interpretation, and how visitors might react to seeing 19th century costumed interpreters with modern facemasks."

Escapism

Raphaële Chappe | The Podcast for Social Research

"Contemplating the character, varieties, and uses of escapism by studying the cases of Xavier de Maistre, Animal Crossing, classic Hollywood, sourdough baking, mixology, cooking, walking, The Voice, and Elizabeth Bishop."