

Transforming Cultures invites you to join a new Seminar Series:

'On Time'

Throughout the next few years this occasional series will bring together people and ideas around the broad idea of time. Of particular interest is the question of what is contemporary time as well as an ongoing exploration of the query 'Is time an emotion?' The thinking will be exciting, the discussion excessively friendly and everyone is invited to participate. The usual form will be one or two invited speakers of 20 minutes each followed by extensive group discussion. Occasionally pre-readings will be suggested. Come along to join the discussion.

First Time Seminar:

DATE: Thursday, April 23

TIME: 10 am - 12 pm

WHERE: UTS, Building 3, Level 2, Room 2.10

RSVP: Transforming.Cultures@uts.edu.au

Our invited speakers for this first seminar are Julia Horncastle and Amanda Third from Murdoch University, WA. Please find enclosed their abstracts and brief biographies:

Dr. Amanda Third

Terrorist Time: Terrorism, the Everyday and the Apocalyptic Implosion of Modernity'

'Think over my philosophy, Mr – Mr Verloc... Go for the first meridian. You don't know the middle classes as well as I do. Their sensibilities are jaded. The first meridian. Nothing better and nothing easier, I should think.'
Mr Vladimir in Joseph Conrad's *The Secret Agent*

Ghassan Hage has commented that, within the Western imagination, 'terrorism' marks 'the worst possible kind of violence.' Similarly, counterterrorist commentator Philip Jenkins claims that terrorism 'is perceived as a kind of ultimate evil.' In this paper, I am interested in understanding the process by which terrorism gets constructed as deadly and catastrophic - as both the epitome of evil and the scourge of modern (political) life. Understanding terrorism as a form of communication, this paper argues that terrorism 'from below' generates affect because it fundamentally challenges concepts of 'modern time'. I argue that modernity, as a project of order, is

based upon two different but mutually constitutive conceptions of time - namely, linear time and the time of routine - both of which come under attack in the context of terrorism. Drawing upon the work of Jacques Derrida, Henri Lefebvre, Zygmunt Bauman and Michel de Certeau, I demonstrate that it is this quality of terrorism - its undermining of the linear and routine time of modernity - that marks terrorism with its political power.

Bio Amanda Third:

Dr Amanda Third is Senior Lecturer in the School of Media, Communication and Culture and Director of the Centre for Everyday Life at Murdoch University. Her research interests include: the gendering of terrorism; the media and political resistance; the politics of embodied identity; representation and postcoloniality; and the social and cultural dimensions of new media technologies such as mobile telephony. This paper is drawn from a recently completed manuscript on North American popular cultural representations of female terrorists. Focusing on women active in underground 'revolutionary' organisations in the United States in the late 1960s and early 1970s (eg: Valerie Solanas, Society for Cutting Up Men and Patricia Campbell Hearst, Symbionese Liberation Army), this manuscript discusses how second wave feminism came to be 'cross-wired' with terrorism within the popular imagination. Dr Third is a member of the Inspire Foundation's Western Australian Advisory Board; a member of the Technology and Wellbeing Roundtable; and current President of the Cultural Studies Association of Australasia (CSAA). She also frequently feels like 'time is short' and loathes the fact that 'time is money'.

Dr. Julia Horncastle

'The Splitting of Figs: Queer Temporality and the Transformative Self'

This discussion paper addresses ways in which we might combine some unlikely bedfellows (Nietzsche, poetry, and contemporary queer experience) through the lens of temporality. By drawing on queer existential phenomenology the paper provides us with a way of examining the seamless temporality of "then" and "now". I will question whether the poetic and transformative oddities of queer being actually coalesce around what could be called a suspensive-temporal paradigm (in the sense of being in 'the now' which is a moment pour soi; neither future nor past fixated). At the (dis)juncture between abstract notions of our being in time and our practical arts of living, I suggest that ontological endeavours which examine everyday experience, can speak of being in terms of 'interstitialities' and 'thresholds'. These are moments of in-between-ness that exist in such places as the propinquities of poetry and the mundane, theory and practice, self and other, as well as the over-arching temporal components of a Western chronos: past, present and future.

The way that I link notions of time division, the arts of living queerly, and moments of in-between-ness, is to introduce them as problems for existential phenomenology and it is through them that I look at selfhood as transformative practice. In my view the latest queer work in phenomenology lends itself to unorthodox analyses of being, that is: being in relation to oddity, to orientation, to self-reference or care and the reality and appearance of life experience. What I will convey as part of my addition to the conversations that are already happening in queer phenomenology is that queer

being can be understood as transformative being and one way that I've come to structure this understanding is through a knowledge of what I call interstitiality or interstitial sensibility.

Although my broader analysis is of being (temporally *and* spatially configured) this paper creates a discussion space around the specificity of queer, poetic temporality.

Bio Julia Horncastle:

Dr Julia Horncastle teaches at Murdoch University, Western Australia, in the Gender and Cultural Studies program. She completed her PhD in April 2008, entitled, "Queer Being and the Sexual Interstice: A Phenomenological Approach to the Queer Transformative Self". A self-styled queer-feminist-phenomenologist, she is interested in the everyday realities of queer being and is currently working on a theory of queer ethics and sensibilities.

We are looking forward to seeing you at 'On Time'.