Deconstruction in Conversation: Conversation in Deconstruction

A Centre for Philosophy of Education Symposium

Thursday 11th April

3.30pm – 7pm, King Alfred Centre Boardroom. University of Winchester
Sparkford Road, Winchester SO22 4FB. https://goo.gl/maps/8ruvJ8Msc2z

First panel 3.45-5.15pm
Break 5.15-5.30pm
Second panel 5.30-7pm

This expeditiously organized symposium brings together an international group of researchers to think about the notion or practice of conversation in the context of deconstructive thought, while, at the same time, attempting to practice deconstructive thought in a conversational context.

If you are interested in attending, please email emile.bojesen@winchester.ac.uk as places are limited.

First panel 3.45-5.15pm:

The Politics of the Seminar in Dissemination: On Deconstructive Pedagogy

This presentation asks about the central role played by the "seminar" in the history of deconstruction. In it, I argue that the seminar was not simply an imposed pedagogical form for Derrida, but one he embraced and constantly reflected upon. But what is a seminar? And what is a seminar in deconstruction?

Adam Rosenthal, Texas A&M University
**Cor((p)s)don; Or, Listening Telephonidiomatically**

Taking the “endless conversation” between Cixous and Derrida as a point of departure, this short presentation shows how the aural quality of their writings paradoxically tests the limits of the concept of conversation. It puts the question of (se) donner le mot into constellation with the themes of the telephone and the vocable as they arise in their calls, lectures, and written texts, discerning a tension between conversation and the password of conversion.

Naomi Waltham-Smith, University of Warwick

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**Queer shame and Derrida’s fraternity**

In this brief presentation I will reflect some of the challenges in “teaching gender studies” in contemporary higher education in “Eastern Europe,” and broadly link these challenges to the contemporary crisis of democracy. I then will turn to Gábor Thurzó’s *Days and Nights* (1944), an obscure Hungarian novel no one heard of, to suggest that its complicated web of queering friendship may provide important political insights of resistance or resilience when considered through the lens of a combination of Eve Sedgwick’s and José Munoz’s work on queer shame and Derrida’s readings on fraternity.

Eszter Timár, Central European University

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**Break 5.15-5.30pm**

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**Second panel 5.30-7pm:**


In the context of his politico-institutional engagements within GREPH (Groupe de Recherches sur l’Enseignement PHilosophique), Jacques Derrida taught a seminar at École Normale Supérieure in the years 1974-1975. The seminar remains unpublished today. In it, Derrida develops a series of deconstructive analyses aimed at the complex articulation between society, economy, politics and education — with special interest in the teaching of philosophy, of philosophy understood as propaedeutics and pedagogic power. The seminar’s ambiguous performance is particularly interesting, as Derrida finds himself teaching a philosophy class whose
main target is the sociopolitical instance of philosophy, its institutions and the reproductive effects of education. The seminar also features Derrida’s first substantial engagements with sociological and economic theories — both in the form of liberal discourses underpropping capitalism, and (mainly) through readings of their Marxist critics (Marx and Engels, Lenin, Gramsci, Althusser, Balibar, etc.). In my presentation, I will focus on two notions that Derrida scrutinizes more particularly in the course of the seminar: “reproduction” and “sexual difference”.

Thomas Clément Mercier, Charles University, Prague

TBC

Emma Williams, University of Warwick

Against Conversation

Description: This short presentation aims at the critical limits of the philosophical concept of conversation, particularly as it sides with Gadamerian hermeneutics and ironically remains deaf to what Derridean deconstruction has to say.

Rodrigo Therezo, Albert-Ludwigs-Universität, Freiburg