

The Department of French and Italian Lecture Series presents...

# HAND/MACHINE/WRITING/POLITICS IN 1960s ITALY

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**FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 2016  
4PM HARRIS-108**

Italy of the 60s--can we say "the last days of analogue"?--was a fruitful laboratory for thinking (political) autonomy and (factory) automation. Italian theorists "discovered" the young Marx and worked through a relation between labor and machines while cyberart flourished and intellectuals celebrated machinic writing. The optimism of this period may seem naive today if inserted into a genealogy that moves

through the digital, postfordist labor, globalization, accelerationism and so on. We might well critique the Italian situation as a kind of benevolent or soft capitalism that has now evolved into (the perhaps oxymoronic) "sustainable development"; or as "good design" that has evolved into the "design thinking" of engineers. What can we learn from 60s Italy--beyond nostalgia--that could be productive today?

Reception will follow. This event is free and open to everyone  
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