

Call for Papers
Resistance, Radicalisms, and Aesthetics
A Graduate Student Conference
Department of French and Italian
Northwestern University

The organizers of the Graduate Student Conference in the Department of French and Italian at Northwestern University are pleased to announce this year's conference: *Resistance, Radicalisms, and Aesthetics* on **June 1st-2nd, 2017**. Our keynote speaker is **Dr. Gabriel Rockhill** (Villanova University) https://www1.villanova.edu/villanova/artsci/philosophy/people/facstaff/biodetail.html?mail=gabriel.rockhill@villanova.edu&xsl=bio_long.

As we bear witness to the return of a politics of the spectacle and the re-emergence of discourses of populism, the urgency of reformulating the relationship between aesthetics and politics presents itself once more. While new nationalist rhetoric proposes a politics of rootedness – one that we could call radical in many ways – perhaps a fruitful resistance could emerge from an alternative radicalism that roots itself in concepts, histories, and literatures. Such a conceptualization would reaffirm textual and cultural forms of expression as crucial sites of resistance, while leaving open to interpretation the categories of politics and aesthetics.

Among the questions we hope to explore in this conference will be the role of aesthetics in movements of resistance and insurrection, how the concept of radicalism is applied across the humanities, and how radical aesthetic projects have historically challenged (and continue to challenge) existing forms of power and domination. We are particularly interested in submissions that engage with the wider application of the terms 'resistance', 'radical,' and 'radicalism' in literature and visual culture.

We invite submissions from all disciplines addressing, but not limited to, the following questions:

- What does it mean to be radical today?
- Does the notion of radicalness imply a rootedness?
- How is visibility/visual cultural production radical as a form?
- In what ways are social inequality, class, race, and gender implicated in radical aesthetics?
- How can aesthetics propose an ethics without falling back onto morality?
- How can radical aesthetics overcome the limits imposed by identity politics?
- Is art reduced to subjective experience or expression?
- What is an aesthetic event?
- What role does art play in activism? What popular traditions have been (or still are) political?
- What sorts of historical frameworks are we to use when investigating art and politics?
- How can we conceptualize resistance as dynamic and transformative rather than reactionary and static?
- What is the status of radical authors in the world literary canon?
- What radical opportunities are opened up by translation and transnational exchange?

We welcome proposals from Literary Studies, Philosophy, Political Science, Art History, and other fields on topics relating to radical aesthetics, radical philosophies, and political art and literature. Presentations will primarily be in English, but we welcome submissions for a French panel. Please submit **abstracts (250-300 words)** and a **short bio** as DOC or PDF to nu.radical.aesthetics@gmail.com for consideration.

Submission Deadline: March 6th, 2017.

Decisions will be sent out in early April.

Inquiries should be addressed to the organizers of the conference:

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