

# Graduate Student Conference

The Department of French & Italian  
at Northwestern University is pleased to announce:

## Radicalisms Movements & Moments

at the John Evans Center  
Northwestern University

**May 29, 2015**

featuring keynote speaker

**Dr. Kevin Floyd**  
(Kent State University)

We invite proposals in English and French that deal with radicalisms—in all their forms—from a wide range of fields: literature, philosophy, visual arts, music, theatre, film, politics, etc...

For proposals, please submit a short abstract (250 words) that includes institutional affiliation, academic level and contact information. **Please submit your paper or panel abstracts by Friday, March 27, 2015 to [theNURadicals@gmail.com](mailto:theNURadicals@gmail.com)**

**CFP** What does it mean to be (a) radical? *Radical* has come to refer to a social and political stance considered to be an alternative, risky, or subversive way of thinking about established views and order. This conference seeks to explore the different meanings of radicalism and the forms it takes across a variety of fields of inquiry.

How do our actions and the ideas that inform them transcend the bounds of the mainstream and challenge the status quo? In what ways have the radicalisms of yesterday come to define and continue to challenge the existing state of affairs? From revolutionary political ideologies and polemical protest songs to iconoclastic avant-garde movements in the visual arts, radicalisms give rise to dissident and potentially dangerous ideas while helping to define new cultural norms.

As radical ideas circulate throughout society, they are often stripped of their subversive potency in order to make them more palatable for wider audiences. What are the conditions of possibility for the emergence of radicalisms, and what leads to their dissolution? How do they resonate after their creators disband or abandon their projects, and what transformations do they undergo over time? Are radical movements necessarily limited to self-selecting groups, or can a radical ideology or work of art maintain its radical character even as it engages with a larger populace? And what forms of elitism undermine the subversive claims of radicalism?

Is true radicalism ever possible?

### Topics may include but are not limited to:

- Avant-garde movements in literature, the arts, & politics
- De-/post-colonial struggles & thought
- Public & private spaces of resistance
- Revolutionary movements & moments
- Radical readings, performance, & the body as a site of resistance
- Biopolitics
- Radical space & time
- Implications & influences of technology
- Positionalities of race, class, gender, ability, sexuality, & ethnicity
- Sub-, trans-, & post-nationalism in concept & in practice
- Activist & prefigurative politics