

HARC NEWS

December MMXII

HARC Theme

Pages 1-2

Recent Events

Pages 3-6

Critical Theory
Reading Group

Page 7

HARC Fellowships 2013-2014

Activisms

2013 is the centenary of the death of Emily Wilding Davison, alumna of Royal Holloway, and HARC is taking 'Activisms' as its theme for 2013-14. Political, social, economic, artistic, educational and historical are just some of the categories to which the theme would apply; protest theatre, cinema, writing and songs, equality campaigns, the environment, civil disobedience, and peace movements are a few of its many manifestations.

Fellowship and Project applications on this theme are invited to reach the HARC Administrator no later than the first day of Term 2, Monday 7th January.



HARC Fellowships are open to all FTE staff in the College, but may be of particular interest to those intending to apply for the new AHRC Fellowships scheme, in which applicants have to demonstrate prior institutional support. However, an AHRC application does not have to be directly consecutive upon the tenure of a HARC Fellowship.

HARC expects to support ambitious, interdisciplinary projects that engage the imagination and touch upon salient intellectual, civic, and public issues. **The closing date for applications is Monday 7 January 2013. The outcome will be announced after Reading Week of Term 2.**

Please submit all applications/nominations to Sue Geddes, HARC Administrator (harc@rhul.ac.uk). For all enquiries please note that the Director, Professor John O'Brien, will be on leave in Term 2 and all enquiries on this or other matters should be addressed to the Deputy Directors, Dr Julia Gallagher, PIR julia.gallagher@rhul.ac.uk or Dr Akil Awan, History akil.awan@rhul.ac.uk

The Fellowships will provide each successful applicant with funding which may be applied towards the pursuit of research in various ways, for example teaching buyout, funding and organizing of research events, conferences, so as to allow the Fellow(s) to pursue her/his research in any field associated with the humanities. Research must be of an interdisciplinary nature.

HARC Fellow(s) typically organize speaker or other events dealing with their chosen topic, with the participation of internal or external contributors, at any level.

Professor Sara Ahmed

On 24th October 2012 the Department of Geography hosted the lecture "Welcoming Strangers: Conditional Will, Conditional Hospitality" by Professor Sara Ahmed from Goldsmiths, University of London. Professor Ahmed's moving lecture explored how conditional hospitality - the act of welcoming strangers on condition they participate in the right way - rests on 'conditional will'. It examined how becoming part of a social or institutional body involves a will duty (parts must be willing) and how parts who fail or refuse that duty are attributed as wilful. It related to her newly published book by Duke University Press, "On Being Included: Racism and Diversity in Institutional Life" which questions how diversity is used as evidence that institutions do not have a problem with racism. The lecture was followed by respondent Dr Debbie Lisle from Queen's University Belfast and a wine reception for the 70 strong audience. The audience was an interdisciplinary one from across RHUL and also included Geographers from the universities of Durham, Portsmouth, Exeter and QMUL. The event was co-organised by Dr Katherine Brickell and Dr Peter Adey and was supported by HARC along with the Politics, Development and Sustainability Research Group of the Department of Geography. It represented the first of many forthcoming events linked to the new MSc Geopolitics & Security at RHUL and tied particularly well with some of the bigger themes of the programme, namely the construction of territorial but also social and political thresholds - boundaries and borders that are protected, secured and lived.

Dr Katherine Brickell



Antonioni and the Arts

A study day devoted to the late Michelangelo Antonioni (1912-2007) took place on Friday, 26 October, in Egham, co-sponsored by HARC, SMLLC, Media Arts, and the Institut Français du Royaume-Uni. The centenary of the birth of this master of European modernist cinema was a chance to bring together a number of scholars and curators who have a particular interest in the interdisciplinary aspects of Antonioni's oeuvre. Dr Laura Rascaroli (U. of Cork) and Dr John David Rhodes (U. of Sussex), who edited the 2011 volume, *Antonioni: Centenary Essays*, offered a novel perspective on the work of the Italian filmmaker by focusing on the influence of art and architecture respectively. The two talks were preceded by a screening of two rare Antonioni documentaries: *Gente del Po* (1943-7) and *Lo Sguardo di Michelangelo* (2004). Documentaries are a very important but often less studied aspect of Antonioni's production. They also ideally frame his career since Antonioni began as a documentary film maker and ended his cinematic career with his tribute to the master of the Italian Renaissance, Michelangelo Buonarroti, in a short film of extreme beauty which helped the audience to reflect upon art and tradition. The general discussion that followed covered a number of fascinating topics relating to Antonioni's practice, including his consistently 'open', physical engagement with the human figure, as compared, for example, with that of Jean-Luc Godard.

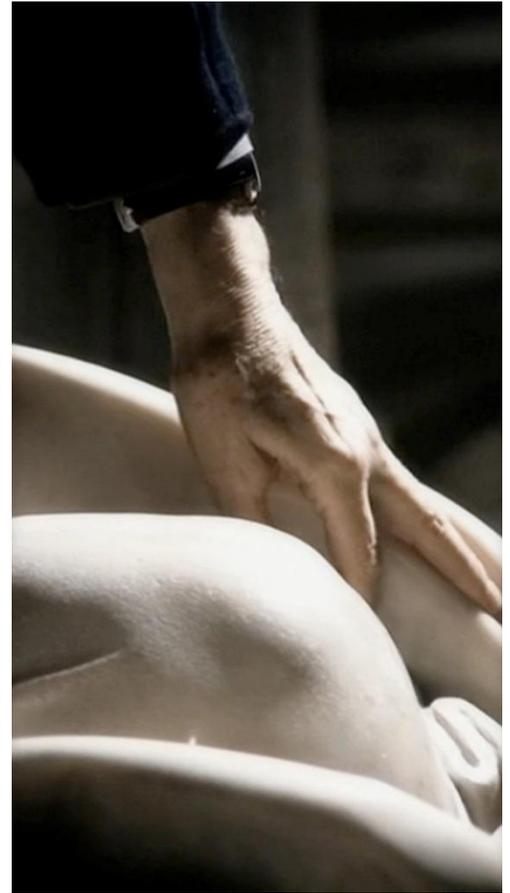


The second part of the study day was a lecture by film scholar and curator, Professor Dominique Païni (École du Louvre, Paris), who presented with slides his plans for the forthcoming centenary exhibition on Antonioni in his home-town of Ferrara. Prof. Païni revealed that the physical challenge of the exhibition space, the Renaissance Palazzo dei Diamanti, created the opportunity to present Antonioni's work as a series of contrasts arising from the idea that cinema is, after all, narrative sculpture in movement, and that shapes are born out of the most basic contrast, that of light and dark. Both the lecture and ensuing discussion brought into focus a series of important characteristics of the work of Antonioni: the identification of women and the nation, ideal masculinity and Italian art and tradition, the critique of humanism and the classical heritage, and the ambiguous relationship between Antonioni and Italy's post-war tradition of social and political engagement (*impegno*) which characterised the work of many of his contemporaries working in film and literature.

The entire event was recorded by the film-maker, Alessandro Zangirolami, and is available for viewing via

<http://vimeo.com/smlc/videos>

Dr. Giuliana Pieri (SMLLC), Ms. Eleonora Raspi (SMLLC), Prof. James S. Williams (SMLLC)



History and Development Policy in South Asia

Policymaking, media and scholarship came together at an event hosted by the Centre for South Asian Studies on 21st November. The evening workshop, titled 'History and Development Policy in South Asia', brought RHUL scholars into dialogue with attendees from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and The Samosa, a prominent British-Pakistani news and activism website. We highlighted the diversity of research on development in South Asia across the departments of History, Politics and International Relations, and Music, building links with members of other professional communities. The workshop also probed the relationship between scholarship and policy in order to help us think through the ways that we can interact with non-scholars. The event was held at the Royal Asiatic Society, London.

DR DANIEL HAINES



RECENT EVENTS



Greece/Precarious/Europe

Saturday, 16 February 2013

The Hellenic Centre,

**16-18 Paddington Street London, London
W1U 5AS**

**10.30am-5.30pm, followed by a reception
(registration starting from 10.00).**

This one-day Colloquium aims to bring together academics, artists and writers, to discuss how contemporary Greek culture is transformed in the current economic and socio-political crisis, questioning established orthodoxies and hierarchies, looking for new ways of creating a Greek national/transnational imaginary and reassessing the relationship between the present and 'the archive' which determines the historical and cultural inheritance of Greece. The event is co-organized by the Hellenic Centre with the Centre for the Reception of Greece and Rome, Royal Holloway, University of London and the Subfaculty of Modern Greek, Oxford University with the support of the Humanities and Arts Research Centre at Royal Holloway. The event is convened by Dimitris Papanikolaou (Oxford), Efi Spentzou and Richard Alston (Royal Holloway).

Attendance is free but people need to register with the organisers for catering purposes.

For more details please contact:
Efi Spentzou (e.spentzou@rhul.ac.uk)
Or Richard Alston (r.alston@rhul.ac.uk)

FORTHCOMING EVENTS



'Crisis and Transition: The Participation of Young People in British Democracy'

Workshops on 8 and 15 March 2013, Royal Holloway (University of London)

Contact: Dr James Sloam, james.sloam@rhul.ac.uk

British democracy today is marked by crisis and transition. This is perhaps most obvious amongst young people (15-24 year olds). Over the past twenty years, trust in government and political parties has collapsed. Youth turnout in general elections has declined equally rapidly. Yet low levels of social mobility, high youth unemployment and frustration with public policy (particularly since the onset of the global financial crises) point to a broader marginalisation of younger citizens. This was illustrated by turbulent student demonstrations that took place in December 2010 and the rioting and looting that shook England in August 2011.

Confirmed speakers for the two events: Prof. Andy Furlong (Glasgow); Prof. Helen Haste (Bath/Harvard); Prof. Matt Henn (Nottingham); Dr Peter Hopkins (Newcastle); Dr Ben Kisby (Lincoln); Dr Peter Kraftl; Dr Andrew Mycock (Huddersfield); Prof. Jonothan Neelands (Warwick); Dr Therese O'Toole (Bristol); Dr Mark Shephard (Strathclyde); Prof. John Street (UEA).

FORTHCOMING EVENTS



Crisis, creativity and the self, 1550–1700

An interdisciplinary study day exploring changing conceptions of subjectivity and creativity in the long seventeenth century, with contributions by literary historians, art historians, historians of science and music historians. Keynote address by Professor John Butt (University of Glasgow)

Location: Senate House, room 261

Date: Tuesday 14th May, 10am-6pm

There are still some spaces left for speakers - if you would like to propose a paper topic, please contact stephen.rose@rhul.ac.uk



FORTHCOMING EVENTS



Critical Theory Reading Group:

January:

- Jan 8th – Dr Akil Awan - **Frantz Fanon**, *'On Violence' in The Wretched of the Earth (1961)*

February:

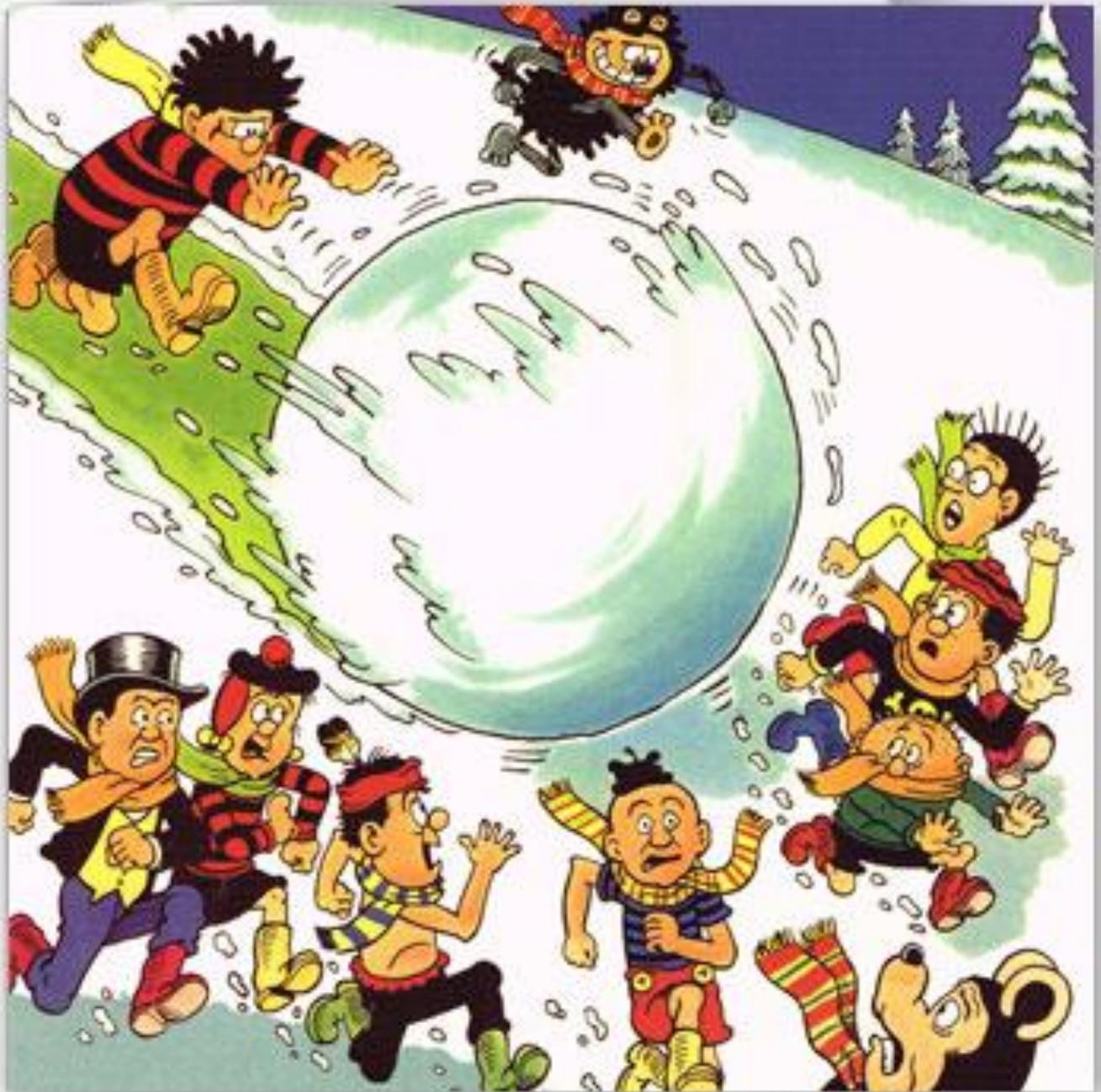
- Feb 5th - Dr Efi Spentzou - **Julia Kristeva**, *Powers of Horror. An Essay on Abjection*
- Feb 12th - Professor Mandy Merck - **Shulamith Firestone**, *The Dialectic of Sex*
- Feb 19th - Professor Richard Alston - *The Late Marxist Tradition/Post-Colonialism*

March:

- March 5th - Dr Nathan Widder - **Martin Heidegger**, 'The Principle of Identity' (from *Identity and Difference*)
- March 19th - Dr James Sloam - **Henrik P Bang**: *Culture Governance and the Rise of the Expert Citizen*

See www.rhul.ac.uk/harc/events for further details





Season's Greetings from HARC