

6:30-6:45

Nitzan Lebovic, Lehigh University  
**Introduction to the Opposition Project**

The concept of opposition is originated in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, and like the concept of 'revolution,' arrives from an inter-planetary context. Since then, the concept kept a clear and unflinching commitment to opposition and critique. However, contemporary democracy has made a strong effort to hurt the legitimacy of opposition within the democratic system in favor of strengthening the power of the executive branch. My presentation will examine the implications of such a change on contemporary political culture, while describing the "Opposition Project" I edited during the past few months.

**Bio:** Nitzan Lebovic is an Assistant Professor of History and the Apter chair of Holocaust Studies and Ethical Values at Lehigh University. He published articles about German and German-Jewish culture, political film, and Israeli politics.

6:45-7:00

Manuela Bodjažijev, Humboldt University, Berlin  
**Global Democracy and Conjunctions of Racism in Europe**

Democracy is the most urgent theme at present. At this historical moment we are witnessing an unexpected proliferation of democratic expressions, as well as expressions of real fear; the worry is that the destructive forces of (financial) capital and right wing ideologies will provoke new forms of authoritarian statehood. The contemporary moment and its accompanying fears enabled a new form of racism in Europe.

**Bio:** Manuela Bojadžijev is an assistant professor at the Institute for European Ethnology at the Humboldt University of Berlin. Before, she has been working as a Lecturer at the Department of Sociology at Goldsmith College, the University of London, and as a Visiting Lecturer at the New York University branch in Berlin and at City University in London. Bojadžijev co-edited *Konjunkturen des Rassismus* (2001), and *Turbulente Ränder* (2008), as well as *Neue Perspektiven auf Migration an den Grenzen Europas* (Forthcoming). She is the author of *Die windige Internationale. Rassismus und Kämpfe der Migration* which is already in its second edition (Westfälisches Dampfboot, 2012).

7:00-7:15

John Savage, Lehigh University  
**Violence and Sovereignty in the Revolutionary French Caribbean**

This paper considers the way news of the metropolitan "Pre-Revolution" set off a chain of violent events in the French Caribbean well before the great uprising that launched the Haitian Revolution. I will suggest that this colonial violence can usefully be inscribed into a recent historiographical effort to reconsider the meaning of the broader French Revolution.

**Bio:** John Savage is Associate Professor of History at Lehigh University, where he teaches Modern European, Caribbean and Atlantic World History. He is most recently author of "Slave Poison/Slave Medicine: The Persistence of Obeah in 19th century Martinique" in *Obeah and Other Powers: The Politics of Caribbean Religion and Healing*, and co-editor of *Napoleon's Atlantic: The Impact of Napoleonic Empire in the Atlantic World*. He is currently at work on a study of the imposition of the Napoleonic legal Codes in the French Caribbean during the late slavery period and on a study of Tocqueville's anti-slavery politics.

7:15-7:30

Short Break

7:30-7:45

Raef Zreik, Carmel College, Tel Aviv University  
**Reflections on Revolution and Hope**

My paper will address the skepticism regarding any planned intervention in the course of history. I will draw on the works of Kant, Hegel, Marx and Foucault. A contemporary political philosophy forces us to reflect—following those thinkers—whether hope for change results from the existence of laws in history or their eradication; equally important is the query concerning the existence of freedom ensuing the exposure of laws and their revision. Are we, citizens in a contemporary democracy, analogous to the surfer riding the waves? Or are we those who ignore the waves, and with them chance for human agency?

**Bio:** Graduate of HU Columbia University and Harvard Law School where he earned his doctoral degree. Dr. Zreik teaches property law and jurisprudence at Carmel college and is the co-director of The Minerva Center for the Humanities at Tel-Aviv University. His fields of interest and research include legal and political theory.

7:45-8:00

Elias Khoury, New York University  
**The Meaning of Opposition in the Times of Revolutions: Searching for Leadership**

**Bio:** Elias Khoury is a Global Distinguished Professor at New York University and the editor of The Journal of Palestine Studies, and a novelist.

8:00-8:15

Zvi ben-Dor, New York University  
**Treason, Prophecy, and the Political Theology of Betraying Jerusalem**

One long line: A meditation on prophetic speeches delivered before and about defeat (Michiah, Jeremiah, Josephus) and their connection to the contemporary discourse about "treason" in Jerusalem.

**Bio:** Zvi Ben-Dor Benite is Professor of History and Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies at New York University. He is the author of the *Dao of Muhammad: A Cultural History of Muslim in Late Imperial China* (Harvard 2005); and *The Ten Lost Tribes: A World History* (Oxford 2009). He is also the co-editor of *Modern Middle Eastern Jewish Thought: Writings on Identity, Politics, and Culture, 1893-1958* (Brandeis, 2013).

8:15-8:30

Gil Anidjar, Columbia University  
**Opposition**

Proximate juxtapositions, necessary to the conduct of opposition, occasion famous and infamous predicaments, perverse effects or unavoidable consequences, a war of positions from the witness to the survivor, from contamination to co-optation, from collaboration to treason.

**Bio:** Gil Anidjar teaches in the Department of Religion, the Department of Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies and at the Institute for Comparative Literature and Society. His latest book, *Blood: A Critique of Christianity* is forthcoming from Columbia University Press.

8:30-9:15

Discussion