6:30-6:45

Nitzan Lebovic, Lehigh University

**Introduction to the Opposition Project**

The concept of opposition is originated in the 14th 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
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.

Elias Khourey, New York University

The Meaning of Opposition in the Times of Revolutions: Searching for Leadership

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

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).

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.

Discussion