An international program of study with leading figures in critical thought

The School

The School of Criticism and Theory was founded in 1976 by a group of leading scholars and critical theorists in the conviction that an understanding of theory is fundamental to humanistic studies. Today, in an unparalleled summer campus experience, the SCT offers professors and advanced graduate students of the humanities and related social sciences a chance to work with preeminent figures in critical thought—exploring the relationships among literature, history, art, anthropology, and the law; examining the role of ideological and cultural movements; and reassessing theoretical approaches that have emerged over the last fifty years. Cornell also offers participants the resources of one of the great research libraries in the United States.

The 2020 Faculty

SIX-WEEK SEMINARS

Matthew Engelke
Professor of Religion and Director of the Institute for Religion, Culture, and Public Life, Columbia University

“Magic”

Caroline Levine
David and Kathleen Ryan Professor of the Humanities and Pickel Family Chair of the English Department, Cornell University

“Formalist Methods, Political Consequences”

Marina Rustow
Professor of Near Eastern Studies, Professor of History, Khedouri A. Zilkha Professor of Jewish Civilization in the Near East, Director of the Geniza Lab and Director of the Near East Program, Princeton University

“Epistemology of the Archive and the Practice of Archival History”

George Yancy
Professor of Philosophy, Emory University; Montgomery Fellow, Dartmouth College

“Whiteness and the Phenomenology of Racial Embodiment”

MINI-SEMINARS

Karen Barad
Professor of Feminist Studies, Philosophy, and History of Consciousness, University of California, Santa Cruz

“Infinity, Nothingness, and the Un/doing of Self”

Behrooz Ghamari-Tabrizi
Professor of Near Eastern Studies and Director of the Sharmin and Bijan Mossavar-Rahmani Center for Iran and Persian Gold Studies, Princeton University

“Modernist Modernity: Reading Walter Benjamin Through Ali Shariati”

Béatrice Longuenesse
Julius Silver, Roslyn S. Silver and Enid Silver Window Professor of Philosophy, New York University

“Persons and the Unity of Mind”

Gary Tomlinson
John Hay Whitney Professor of Music and Humanities and Director of the Whitney Humanities Center, Yale University

“Humanists in the Future of Evolutionary Science”

The Program

In an intensive six-week course of study, faculty members and graduate students from around the world explore recent developments in critical theory.

Participants work with the SCT’s core faculty of distinguished scholars and theorists in one of four six-week seminars. Each faculty member offers, in addition, a public lecture and a colloquium (based on an original paper) which are attended by the entire group.

The program also includes mini-seminars taught by scholars who visit for shorter periods. Finally, throughout the six weeks, distinguished theorists visit the SCT as lecturers.

Admission and Costs

The application deadline is February 1, 2020, and admissions decisions are announced in March. All applications must be submitted online. The online application may be accessed at the site listed below beginning on November 1, 2019.

Tuition for the 2020 session is $3,000. Applicants may compete for partial tuition scholarships and are encouraged to seek funding from their home institutions. On-campus housing is available for an additional charge.

For application and program information: website: http://sct.cornell.edu/ e-mail: sctcornell-mailbox@cornell.edu phone: 607-255-9276

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Ithaca, NY 14853

VISITING GUEST LECTURERS

Anita Allen
Vice Provost for Faculty and Professor of Law, University of Pennsylvania

“My Passage: To India and Nepal: A Philosopher’s Journey”

Heather Love
Associate Professor of English, University of Pennsylvania

“From the Outside Looking In”

Carolyn Rouse
Professor and Chair of Anthropology, Princeton University

“Revisiting the Case Against Reparation”

Haiping Yan
Professor of Cross-Cultural Studies and Chair of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, Tsinghua University, Beijing, China

“Other Cosmopolitans, China and Beyond”