The Center for Cultural Studies hosts a weekly Wednesday colloquium featuring work by faculty & visitors. The sessions consist of a 40-45 minute presentation followed by discussion. We gather at noon, with presentations beginning at 12:15 PM. Participants are encouraged to bring their own lunches; the Center provides coffee, tea, & cookies.

APRIL 10

Elizabeth Jacqueline Marcus
Literatures, Cultures, and Languages, Stanford University

The Arrest of Ziad Doueiri and the Laws of Cultural Critique

Elizabeth Marcus is a Mellon Fellow in the Scholars in the Humanities program. Her research focuses on the francophone and Arab worlds. Her current book project, *Difference and Dissidence: Cultural Politics and the End of Empire in Lebanon*, uses post-independence Lebanon as a case study of multilingualism and decolonization.

APRIL 17

Vanessa Ogle
History, UC Berkeley

“Funk Money”: Decolonization and the Expansion of Tax Havens, 1950s-1960s

This talk explores the emergence of modern tax havens. Asking why tax havens expanded significantly between 1945 and 1965, it points to decolonization and colonial systems of taxation as one answer. It thus sheds light on today’s tax avoidance industry, with lasting implications for the rise of inequality in Europe and North America.

APRIL 24

Ahmed Kanna
Anthropology, University of the Pacific

De-Exceptionalizing the Arab Gulf: Bringing back Class Struggle & Social Reproduction

Urban knowledge professionals on the Arab Gulf city have framed it as a “laboratory,” disconnecting it from its historical contexts. Kanna argues that a Marxist perspective can best highlight how such discourses promote imperial and capitalist class power in the Gulf. The paper shows how the Gulf is an unexceptional zone of capital accumulation continuous with similar regimes in the Global North.

MAY 1

Nidhi Mahajan
Anthropology, UC Santa Cruz

Moorings: Trade Networks and States in the Western Indian Ocean

Sailing vessels or dhows have long connected different parts of the Indian Ocean. Today, dhows function as an economy of arbitrage, servicing minor ports during conflicts. This talk focuses on the contemporary dhow trade in port cities that have “free trade” policies. Mahajan argues that these notions of free trade are entangled with war, conflict, and broader geopolitical concerns across the Indian Ocean region.

MAY 8

Banu Bargu
History of Consciousness, UC Santa Cruz

Catching a Moving Train: Decolonizing Aleatory Materialism

This paper analyzes Althusser’s aleatory materialism through his engagement with historical materialism and Marx’s “primitive accumulation.” It identifies two legacies of Marx’s reflections on the origins of capitalism and discusses how Althusser attempted to rework Marx to reach a non-teleological conception of history. Taking both thinkers to task on their approach to colonialism, the paper moves toward decolonizing the aleatory materialist imaginary.

MAY 15

David Kazanjian
English and Comparative Literature, University of Pennsylvania

“I am he:” Revising the Theory of Dispossession from Colonial Yucatán

Kazanjian examines a colonial legal case that challenges a fundamental presupposition of dispossession: that the dispossessed had possession over that which was stolen from them. This case features two people who seem to have lived dispossession outside the terms of possession, countering their dispossession in ways that call for a revision of contemporary understandings of dispossession.

MAY 22

Shadi Rohana
Lenguas Asiáticas y Africanas, El Colegio de México

Cervantes and the Arabs: Don Quixote in Translation

This talk traces the Arab and Andalusian presence in Cervantes’ *Don Quixote* from 1605, and how this presence was later translated into modern Arabic during the 20th century. The talk will also discuss the reception of *Don Quixote* in various Arabic speaking contexts.

MAY 29

Ashwini Tambe
Women’s Studies, University of Maryland

Tropical Exceptions: Racial Logics in Twentieth Century Intergovernmental Age of Consent Debates

This talk traces how intergovernmental efforts at setting common age standards for sexual consent and marriage occasioned elaborate posturing and coding of racial difference. In discussing two UN cases, Tambe demonstrates how seemingly neutral age categories became a means to express geopolitical hierarchies and undercut formal liberal relationships of equivalence.
THE HUMANITIES INSTITUTE PRESENTS:

LAURIE HALSE ANDERSON Author
Book Launch: SHOUT
April 2 / 7 PM / Cowell Ranch Hay Barn

PAOLO GERBAUDO King’s College, London
The Digital Party: Political Organization and Online Democracy
May 2 / 1:30 PM–3 PM / Humanities 1, Room 210

NATHANIEL DEUTSCH UC Santa Cruz
& RACHEL DEBLINGER UC Santa Cruz
Anti-Semitism and the Internet
May 9 / 6:30 PM–9 PM / Computer History Museum
1401 North Shoreline Blvd., Mountain View

Norman O. Brown Conference:
Into the Future
May 17–18 / Humanities 1, Room 210

Faculty Ethics Bowl:
Ethics and the Far Future
May 20 / 5 PM–6:30 PM / Forager, San Jose

CENTER FOR PUBLIC PHILOSOPHY PRESENTS:

C. THI NGUYEN Utah Valley University
The Gamification of Public Discourse
May 30 / 3:15 PM–5 PM / Humanities 2, Room 259

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY PRESENTS:

ANNAPURNA PANDEY UC Santa Cruz
Documentary Screening: Road to Zuni
April 26 / 6 PM–7:30 PM / Social Sciences 1, Room 110

INSTITUTE OF THE ARTS AND SCIENCES PRESENTS:

QUESTION BRIDGE: Black Males
Blueprint Panel Discussion
April 3 / 6 PM–8 PM / Oakes Learning Center

TRACTION: Art Talk
WITH STEPHANIE SYJUCO UC Berkeley
April 9 / 7 PM–9 PM
Digital Arts Research Center (DARC) 108

LUCY LIPPA PARD Author Six Years
First Annual Helen Mayer Harrison Memorial Lecture
April 23 / 6 PM–8 PM
Horticulture Building, UC Santa Cruz Arboretum

Leonardo Art & Science
Evening Rendezvous (LASER)
May 21 / 7 PM–9 PM
Digital Arts Research Center (DARC) 108

Film Screening: Speculative Futures
May 28 / 7 PM–9 PM
Digital Arts Research Center (DARC) 108

LATIN AMERICAN AND LATIN STUDIES/GROUPO RE-EXISTIR PRESENTS:

PATRICIA PINHO UC Santa Cruz
Demand Justice for Marielle Franco
March 16 / 1 PM–3 PM / Pacific Avenue at Cooper Street

RESEARCH CENTER FOR THE AMERICAS PRESENTS:

April 27 / 8 AM–12 PM / Santa Cruz Museum of Art & History

Stories Under the Influence:
Beyond Borders
March 28 / 6 PM–8 PM / Santa Cruz Museum of Art & History

Rethinking Gendered Violence and Immigrant Lives
SYMPOSIUM
May 2 / 9:30 AM–3 PM / Merrill Cultural Center