



# **TIME AND VIOLENCE**

**21-22 February 2020  
Comparative Literature Department  
Goethe University Frankfurt  
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# TIME AND VIOLENCE

## Workshop Theme

20th century philosophy abounds with a variety of exciting conceptions of temporality. Bergson's flow of duration, Heidegger's dramatic vision of temporal *ekstases*, Benjamin's weak-messianic idea of *Jetztzeit*, Arendt's idea of natality, Derrida's deferred difference, Agamben's time that remains – all these and other mutually conflicted visions offer possible ways of complicating our understanding of time. At least some of these ideas were directed against alienating and/or dehumanizing conceptions of time such as the mythical vision of circular temporality, biological determinism or the vision of time as measurable, empty and homogeneous. Thus, these positive visions can be seen as critical, emancipatory conceptual structures that break with the real and/or ideological modes of time that entrap us. From this point of view, the relation between various visions of time and the problem of violence becomes pertinent.

Is what we are dealing with here a clash between two forms of temporal violence – say: between the enslaving violence of the mythical time and the liberating violence of critical intervention – or are at least some of the positive visions of time – say: Bergson's duration – free of the moment of violence? Or, to put it in a more descriptive mode: What forms of violence are correlated with various conceptions of time? But also conversely: what forms of temporality are embedded in various modes of violence as described theoretically, but also as represented in literature and visual art? And: can we perceive various forms of human violence as desperate attempts to oppose the very violence of time?

During our workshop we will address these and other questions concerning the relations between time and violence in an interdisciplinary mode, with philosophy, psychoanalysis, theology, literature, literary theory, and visual art as our fields of reference.

Special emphasis will be put on long, in-depth, free discussion of individual papers. A close reading and discussion of time and violence in Shakespeare's *Hamlet* will be an integral part of the workshop.

The workshop is the sixth part of a series of gatherings that fall under the epigraph of "Violence in Philosophy and Literature". These gatherings were particularly devoted to discuss "Language and Violence" (Tel Aviv University), "Space and Violence" (Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw), "Thinking and Writing – Disruption" (ZfL Berlin), "Violence Incorporated" (University of Chicago), and "Sound and Violence" (Collège International Paris) in both fields.

*Organizers: Ilit Ferber (Tel Aviv), Adam Lipszyc (Warsaw), Nassima Sabraoui (Frankfurt), Caroline Sauter (Frankfurt).*

## PROGRAM

*Friday, 21 February*

### INTRODUCTION

NASSIMA SAHRAOUI (Frankfurt), CAROLINE SAUTER (Frankfurt) (9:45)

*Violent Times*

### I. PHILOSOPHIZING VIOLENCE

MAURICIO GONZÁLEZ ROZO (FRANKFURT) (10-11)

*On the Destructive and/or Saving Character of Time in the Moral World*

Chair: Ilit Ferber (Tel Aviv)

### II. HYSTERICAL/HISTORICAL VIOLENCE OF PROTEST

JENNY WILLNER (MUNICH) (11:30-12:30)

*Conversion, Perversion, Revolution. Hysteric Time-Travel in Sándor Ferenczi*

NASSIMA SAHRAOUI (FRANKFURT) (12:30-13:30)

*The Temporality of Resistance. A Blink in History: Instants and Turns*

Chair: Caroline Sauter (Frankfurt)

### III. THE TIME IS OUT OF JOINT...

Reading Session (15-17:30)

WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE: *Hamlet. Prince of Denmark*

Chair: Maren Scheurer (Frankfurt)

*Saturday, 22 February*

### IV. DESTRUCTIVE BODIES

ILIT FERBER (TEL AVIV) (10-11)

*Jean Améry on Time and the Body's Decline*

ADAM LIPSZYC (WARSAW) (11-12)

*Green Death, Red Meat: Time and Violence in Maria Lassnig*

Chair: Nassima Sahraoui (Frankfurt)

### V. INFERNAL & DIVINE LOVE

PAWEŁ MOŚCICKI (WARSAW) (13:30-14:30)

*Infernal Temporalities. Dante in the World of Today*

CAROLINE SAUTER (FRANKFURT) (14:30-15:30)

*„flashes of fire, a raging flame”: Dream-Time and the Violence of Love in the Biblical Song of Songs*

Chair: Adam Lipszyc (Warsaw)