THE THESIS ELEVEN CENTRE FOR CULTURAL SOCIOLOGY
THE 14TH ANNUAL LECTURE

BODIES IN PLURAL:
TOWARDS AN ANARCHA-FEMINIST MANIFESTO

Since the crisis of Marxism as a political ideology, it has become something like a common place to state that domination takes place through a multiplicity of axes, where gender, class, race, and sexuality intersect with one another. While a lot of interesting empirical work is being done under the heading of intersectionality, it is very rarely linked to the anarchist tradition that preceded it. In the following lecture, I would like to articulate this point by showing the usefulness but also the limits of the notion of intersectionality to understand mechanism of domination and then move on to argue for the need of an anarcha-feminist program (I.). Secondly, I will try to provide the philosophical framework for such an enterprise by arguing that it is in a Spinozist ontology of the transindividual that we can best find the conceptual resources for thinking about the plural nature of women’s bodies and thus of their oppression (II.). This will allow me to attempt to articulate the question “what it means to be a woman” in pluralistic terms and thus also to defend a specifically feminist form of anarchism (III.) In conclusion, I will go back to the anarcha-feminist tradition and will show why today it is the best possible ally of feminism in the pursuit of a critical theory of society (IV).

Dr Chiara Bottici
Associate Professor of Philosophy
New School for Social Research, New York

26 TUESDAY JULY 2016

TIME
6pm to 7.30pm

VENUE
Greek Community Centre
Mezzanine Level
168 Lonsdale Street (Cnr of Russell)
Melbourne

REGISTER NOW
IMAGINAL POLITICS

Philosophy is most of time the result of a contest between an entrenched vocabulary, which has become a nuisance, and half-formed new vocabulary which vaguely promises great things. In this talk, I will explore the contest between the entrenched vocabulary of imagination (and “the imaginary” as its necessary counterpart) and a half-formed vocabulary that promises a lot of interesting things: the vocabulary of the “the imaginal”. After introducing the concept of the imaginal, I will move on to show its force and, in particular, the role it plays in contemporary politics and in the so-called post-Fordist capitalism. This will lead us to explore the emancipatory potential that images, understood as representations that are also presences in themselves, can have in our time. In an epoch where the global society of the spectacle seems to have exhausted our creative capacity, re-orientation and subversion of the ongoing spectacle is the only possible homeopathic remedy left for us: curing the evil with small doses of the evil itself.

Dr Chiara Bottici
Associate Professor of Philosophy
New School for Social Research
New York

Chiara Bottici is a philosopher and a writer. She taught at the University of Frankfurt before joining the New School for Social Research, where she is currently Associate Professor of Philosophy. She is the author of Imaginal Politics: Images beyond Imagination and The Imaginary (Columbia University Press, 2014), A Philosophy of Political Myth (Cambridge University Press, 2007) and Men and States (Palgrave, 2009). With Benoit Challand, she also co-authored Imagining Europe: Myth, Memory, Identity (Cambridge University Press, 2013) and The Myth of the Clash of Civilizations (Routledge, 2010). With Benoit Challand, she also co-edited the collection of essays The Politics of Imagination (Routledge, 2011), whereas with Simon Critchley and Jacob Blumenfeld she more recently co-edited The Anarchist Turn (Pluto 2013). Her short stories have appeared in Il Caffe illustrato, while her novel Per tre miti, forse quattro just came out with Manni Editore.

READINGS

Imaginal Politics - Images beyond Imagination and The Imaginary (Columbia University Press, 2014) - Introduction and chapters 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7.

27 WEDNESDAY JULY 2016

TIME

10am to 1pm

VENUE

Tutorial Room 3
Elisabeth Murdoch Building
Victorian College of the Arts
University of Melbourne

RSVP

Wednesday 20 July
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