



The European Graduate School
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Seminar with Professor Christopher Fynsk (4.5 ECTS credits)
Division of Philosophy, Art and Critical Thought
October Session/October 25–27 2019

Rhythmic Figures

“All is rhythm”—Friedrich Hölderlin

This seminar approaches the question of rhythm at an ontological level, considering its part in the constitution of a “world” or a “form of life.” We will give special consideration to the role of art in the configuration of this fundamental rhythmic play, following authors such as Hölderlin, Heidegger, and Derrida, and attempt to grasp how an understanding of this play can inform our experience of the rhythms that encompass us (daily) or transport us. This meditation will not fail to shape a rethinking of the very notions of “world” or form of life.”

Special attention will be given to Heidegger’s account, from the mid-thirties, of how a rhythmic figure is drawn in and from a profoundly temporal and earthly experience. A fundamental ecological question emerges here that may have important bearing on our grasp (or our configuration) of our contemporary condition.

We will also turn to music for inspiration in this effort to think the rhythmic figure.

Readings:

Jacques Derrida, “The Double Session”

Martin Heidegger, Hölderlin’s Hymns, “Germania” and “The Rhein”

Martin Heidegger, “The Origin of the Work of Art”

Friedrich Hölderlin, "Remarks on Oedipus and Antigone"
Henri Lefebvre, Rhythmanalysis