



The European Graduate School EST. 1994

Seminar with Professor Catherine Malabou (4.5 ECTS credits)
Division of Philosophy, Art and Critical Thought
August Session / August 20–22 2019

PHILOSOPHY AND ANARCHY

The issue of anarchy is at once metaphysical and political. Nevertheless, philosophy and politics have always turned their back on each other when defining it. One of the fundamental motivations of my lectures is to understand the reason of such a non-dialogue.

Different, sometimes contradictory, signs are making manifest the necessity of a new interrogation on anarchy in the current global political situation, far beyond the idea of a violent strategy against the State. How are we to understand and interpret those signs ?

In contemporary Western philosophy, destruction or deconstruction of metaphysics has been presented by prominent thinkers like Levinas, Derrida or Schürmann as the liberation of an an-archic way of thinking. The possibility of questioning and acting beyond the « archè », beyond the principle (commandment and beginning at the same time), has opened new perspectives in ontology and ethics. Levinas, for example, characterizes the relation to the Other in terms of « an-archic responsibility ». Interestingly, such an ontological and ethical anarchy has always been strictly distinguished from political anarchism.

Can we envisage a confrontation between the two traditions? Is "post anarchism" a satisfactory way of setting it up ?

CLASS SCHEDULE

AUGUST 20th

MORNING ARCHIC PARADIGM IN POLITICS

. General Introduction. Anarchy in-between philosophy and politics and lecture: Aristotle Politics. C. D. C. Reeve - Politics (Hackett Classics) - Hackett Pub Co (1998). Chap. I, III, VII.

Reading : Deleuze: "What is a dispositif"?

AFTERNOON ARCHIC PARADIGM IN METAPHYSICS

Lecture: Schürmann, Reiner, Heidegger on Being and Acting : From Principles to Anarchy, Bloomington : Indiana University Press, 1987. Mainly Introduction

Reading: Agamben "What is a commandment ?"

AUGUST 21st

MORNING ARCHIC PARADIGM IN ETHICS

Lecture: Emmanuel Levinas: Otherwise Than Being or Beyond Essence, trans. Alphonso Lingis, Leuven: Martinus Nijhoff, 1974.

Reading : Anarchy Alive, Uri Gordon, chap. VI.

AFTERNOON ARCHE-WRITING and the TRANSCENDENTAL

Lecture : Jacques Derrida, On Grammatology, tr. Gayatri Spivak, Johns Hopkins UP, 1967, mainly 60-62 and 130-132

and "Violence and Metaphysics", in Writing and Difference, tr. Alan Bass, Chicago : The University of Chicago Press, 1980. 118-133.

Reading : "On Anarchism, Interview with Judith Butler"

AUGUST 22nd HOW NOT TO BE GOVERNED ?

MORNING

Lecture: Michel Foucault, "Governmentality", in Essential Works of Foucault, 1954-1984, ed. by James Faubion, New York : The New Press, 1994, 223-238.

"What Is Critique ?", In The Politics of Truth, ed. by Sylvère Lotringer and Lysa Hochroth, New York : Semiotext(e), 1997, 41-83.

Reading: Todd May, The Political Philosophy of Post-structuralist Anarchism, Pennsylvania University Press, 1994. 1.2.3.

AFTERNOON: WHAT IS PROPERTY ?

Proudhon, Pierre-Joseph, "What Is Property ?", In Property Is Theft ! A Pierre-Joseph Proudhon Anthology, ed. by Lain Mc Kay, California, AK Press, 2011. 259-280, very end of the book, the two paragraphs "Characteristics of communism" and "Determination of the 3rd society."

Conclusion