

Contemporary French Thought: Paths of Deconstruction (MT 2020)

Seminar 1: Being Mortal (Ian Maclachlan, Merton College)

Primary Reading:

Georges Bataille, *L'Expérience intérieure* ([1943] available in Gallimard 'Tel' collection), esp. Parts I, II and III

Emmanuel Levinas, *Le Temps et l'autre* ([1948] available in PUF 'Quadrige' collection)

Maurice Blanchot, *L'Espace littéraire* ([1955] available in Gallimard 'Idées' collection), esp. Part I 'La solitude essentielle' and Part IV, Chs I 'La mort possible' and II 'L'expérience d' "Igitur"

Possible further reading:

Besides reading the remaining sections of the works listed above, it may also be helpful to look at Blanchot's earlier essay 'La littérature et le droit à la mort', in *La Part du feu* (1949), pp. 293–331.

Secondary Reading:

Paul Hegarty, *Georges Bataille* (2000)

Benjamin Noys, *Georges Bataille: A Critical Introduction* (2000)

Patrick ffrench, *After Bataille: Sacrifice, Exposure, Community* (2007)

Mark Hewson and Marcus Coelen (eds), *Georges Bataille: Key Concepts* (2016)

Colin Davis, *Levinas: An Introduction* (1996)

Seán Hand, *Emmanuel Levinas* ('Routledge Critical Thinkers', 2009)

Leslie Hill, *Blanchot: Extreme Contemporary* (1997)

Ullrich Haase and William Large, *Maurice Blanchot* ('Routledge Critical Thinkers', 2001)

Joseph Libertson, *Proximity: Levinas, Blanchot, Bataille and Communication* (1982)

Seminar 2: Being in Common (Ian Maclachlan, Merton College)

Primary Reading:

Jean-Luc Nancy, *La Communauté désœuvrée* (2nd edn 1990 [1986]), esp. Parts I and II ('La Communauté désœuvrée' and 'Le Mythe interrompu')

Jacques Derrida, *Le Monolinguisme de l'autre* (1996)

Possible further reading:

Besides reading the remainder of Nancy's *Communauté désœuvrée*, you could also read his *Être singulier pluriel* (1996), esp. 'De l'être singulier pluriel'

Jacques Derrida (with Anne Dufourmantelle), *De l'hospitalité* (1997)

Maurice Blanchot, *La Communauté inavouable* (1983)

Secondary Reading:

B. C. Hutchens, *Jean-Luc Nancy and the Future of Philosophy* (2005), esp. Ch. 6 ('Communitarianism')

Ian James, *The Fragmentary Demand: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Jean-Luc Nancy* (2006), esp. Ch. 4 ('Community')

Marie-Eve Morin, *Jean-Luc Nancy* (2012), esp. Ch. 3 ('Community')

Leslie Hill, *Nancy, Blanchot: A Serious Controversy* (2018)

On Derrida, parts of the following are particularly helpful in this area:

John D. Caputo (with Jacques Derrida), *Deconstruction in a Nutshell* (1997)

Geoffrey Bennington, *Interrupting Derrida* (2000)

Jacques Derrida, *Deconstruction Engaged: The Sydney Seminars*, ed. Paul Patton and Terry Smith (2001)

Herman Rapaport, *Later Derrida: Reading the Recent Work* (2003)

Penelope Deutscher, *How to Read Derrida* (2005)

Judith Still, *Derrida and Hospitality: Theory and Practice* (2010)

Seminar 3: Making Sense (Marie Chabbert, Oriel College)

Primary Reading :

Jacques Derrida, 'Différance', *Marges de la philosophie*. Paris: Les Éditions de Minuit, 1972.

Jean-Luc Nancy, *Le Sens du monde*. Paris: Galilée, 1993 (especially pp. 9-98).

Catherine Malabou, *La Plasticité au soir de l'écriture. Dialectique, destruction, déconstruction*. Paris: Éditions Léo Scheer, 2005) (especially pp. 25-58).

Secondary Reading :

Geoffrey Bennington, 'Différance', *Jacques Derrida*. Chicago, Chicago University Press, 1993.

Leslie Hill, *The Cambridge Introduction to Jacques Derrida*. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 2007.

Christina Howells, *Derrida: Deconstruction from phenomenology to ethics*. Cambridge: Polity Press, 1998.

Ian James, *The New French Philosophy*. Cambridge: Polity Press, 2012. (especially Chapter 2, 'Jean-Luc Nancy: The Infinity of Sense' and Chapter 4 'Catherine Malabou: The Destiny of Form')

Marie-Eve Morin, *Jean-Luc Nancy*. Cambridge: Polity, 2012.

Ian James, *The Fragmentary Demand. An Introduction to the Philosophy of Jean-Luc Nancy*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2006.

Christopher Watkin, *Phenomenology or Deconstruction: The Question of Ontology in Maurice Merleau-Ponty, Paul Ricœur, and Jean-Luc Nancy*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2009 (esp. 'Jean-Luc Nancy: Sense')

Christopher Watkin, *French Philosophy Today: new figures of the human in Badiou, Meillassoux, Malabou, Serres and Latour*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2018.

Seminar 4: Becoming (Marie Chabbert, Oriel College)

Primary Reading:

Henri Bergson, 'La Durée' through to 'Biologie et philosophie', *L'Évolution créatrice*. Paris: Presses Universitaires de la France, 2007 (pp. 1-53).

Gilles Deleuze, Félix Guattari, 'Devenir-intense, devenir-animal, devenir-imperceptible...', *Mille Plateaux*. Paris: Les Éditions de Minuit, 1980 (especially pp. 285-308, pp. 333-351).

Secondary Reading:

Elizabeth Grosz, *In the Nick of Time: Politics, Evolution and the Untimely*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2004 (especially 'Bergson and Becoming', 'The Philosophy of Life').

Elizabeth Grosz, 'Deleuze, Bergson, and the Concept of Life', *Revue internationale de philosophie*, 241.3 (2007), 287-300.

Keith Ansell-Pearson, *Bergson: Thinking Beyond the Human Condition*. London: Bloomsbury, 2018.

Keith Ansell-Pearson, 'On Bergson's Reformation of Philosophy', *Journal of French and Francophone Philosophy*, 24.2 (2016) 84-105.

Keith Ansell-Pearson, *Germinal Life: The Difference and Repetition of Deleuze*. London: Routledge, 1999.

Clare Colebrook, *Gilles Deleuze*. Oxford: Routledge, 2002. Durham: Duke University Press, 2004 (especially Chapter 7, 'Becoming').

Todd May, *Gilles Deleuze. An Introduction*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2005.

Gerald L. Bruns, *On Ceasing to Be Human*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2011 (esp. 'Becoming Animal: Some Simple Ways').

Rosi Braidotti, *Metamorphoses: Towards a Materialist Theory of Becoming*. Cambridge: Polity Press, 2002.