

Distinguished Lectures Series
Center for Cultural Studies
Faculty of Humanities
University of Bern

ETHICS AND/OFF CONTIN- GENCY

**ALAIN
BADIOU**

New

**DRUCILLA
CORNELL**

**HANS
ULRICH
GUMBRECHT**

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UNIVERSITÄT
BERN

ETHICS AND/OFF CONTIN- GENCY

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ALAIN BADIOU

Event, Subject, Idea

Lecture **5 October 2015, 18.30–20.00**

Workshop **6 October 2015, 9.30–12.00**

Alain Badiou is Professor Emeritus of Philosophy at the École Normal Supérieure in Paris. One of France's most famous philosophers, he emphasizes that in order to have a hold on reality, philosophy must encompass revolt, logic, universality, and risk. He demonstrates the ongoing pertinence of theory and political practice inspired by Marxism and attacks established schools of thought such as hermeneutics and (post-)structuralism. Convinced that philosophical writing of the past fifty years has been too concerned with language, he introduces mathematics into the picture. Amongst his most influential works are *Ethics: An Essay on the Understanding of Evil* (2004), *Being and Event* (2005), and *Logics of Worlds: Being and Event II* (2009).

All workshops are open to Swiss and international graduate, post-graduate and post-doctoral students. If you would like to participate in a workshop, please write to christina.cavedon@ens.unibe.ch

New

DRUCILLA CORNELL

Negotiations and the Claims of Justice

Lecture **29 October 2015, 18.30–20.00**

Workshop **30 October 2015, 9.30–12.00**

Drucilla Cornell is Professor of Political Science, Comparative Literature and Women's & Gender Studies at Rutgers University, Professor Extraordinaire at the University of Pretoria, South Africa, and a visiting professor at Birkbeck College, University of London. Her background is in law and community organizing, where she is famous for her role in organizing a conference on deconstruction and justice at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law in 1989, 1990, and 1993. In addition to her academic work, she has also written four produced plays. Her most recent work is *Symbolic Forms for a New Humanity: Cultural and Racial Reconfigurations of Critical Theory (Just Ideas)*, co-authored with Kenneth Michael Panfilio.

HANS ULRICH GUMBRECHT

The World as a Universe of Possibilities: Absolute Freedom or Existential Overload?

Lecture **14 December 2015, 18.30–20.00**

Workshop **15 December 2015, 9.30–12.00**

Hans Ulrich Gumbrecht is the Albert Guérard Professor in Literature in the Departments of Comparative Literature and of French & Italian at Stanford University. As a public intellectual and highly prolific writer, he contributes to fields as diverse as the histories of national literatures in Romance languages, western philosophical traditions, or forms of aesthetic experience in 21st-century everyday culture. His latest books include *Atmosphere, Mood, Stimmung: On a Hidden Potential of Literature* (2012), *Explosionen der Aufklärung. Diderot, Goya, Lichtenberg, Mozart* (2013), and *After 1945: Latency as Origin of the Present* (2013).

The lectures of Prof. Badiou and Prof. Gumbrecht will take place at:

Universität Bern, Hochschulstrasse 4, 3012 Bern
Room HS 220

The lecture of Prof. Cornell will take place at:

Universität Bern, Hochschulstrasse 4, 3012 Bern
Room HS 201

The workshops of Prof. Badiou and Prof. Gumbrecht will take place at:

UniS, Schanzeneckstrasse 1, 3012 Bern
Room A-119

The workshop of Prof. Cornell will take place at:

Universität Bern, Hochschulstrasse 4, 3012 Bern
Room 331