

Distinguished Lectures Series,  
Center for Cultural Studies,  
University of Bern

# TOWARDS A NEW POETICS OF COMMUNITY

**GIORGIO  
AGAMBEN**

**JEAN-LUC  
NANCY**

**ROBERT  
YOUNG**

Introductory lecture by Thomas Claviez

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UNIVERSITÄT  
BERN

# TOWARDS A NEW POETICS OF COMMUNITY

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## THOMAS CLAVIEZ

**A Metonymic Society?**  
**Towards a New Poetics of Community**  
Introductory lecture  
**27 September 2010, 18.30–20.00**

Thomas Claviez is currently Professor for Literary Theory and Director of the Center for Cultural Studies at the University of Berne. He is the author of *Grenzfälle: Mythos – Ideologie – American Studies* (1998) and *Aesthetics & Ethics: Moral Imagination from Aristotle to Levinas and from Uncle Tom's Cabin to House Made of Dawn* (2008), and has edited several volumes. Currently he is editing a book on *The Conditions of Hospitality* and working on a monograph with the title *Towards a New Poetics of Community*.



## GIORGIO AGAMBEN

**OPUS DEI.**  
**An archaeology of the "office"**  
Lecture **4 October 2010, 18.30–20.00**  
Workshop **5 October 2010, 9.30–12.15**

Giorgio Agamben holds the Baruch Spinoza chair at the European Graduate School in Saas-Fee and was formerly Professor of aesthetics at the Università IUAV di Venezia

and the Università degli Studi di Verona. Trained in law, philosophy and philology, Prof. Agamben defies traditionally set boundaries both in academia and politics. *La comunità che viene* (*The Coming Community*, 1990) is a reply to Blanchot's *La communauté inavouable* (*The Unavowable Community*, 1984), which itself is a critique of Jean-Luc Nancy's ideas of community. These thoughts are expanded in *Homo sacer. Il potere sovrano e la nuda vita* (*Homo Sacer: Sovereign Power and Bare Life*, 1995) which positioned Prof. Agamben as one of today's leading philosophers by addressing urgent ethical questions of contemporary life. *Stato di eccezione* (*State of Exception*, 2003) tackles much debated issues regarding human and civil rights in a post-9/11 world.



Robert Young is Silver Professor of English and Comparative Literature at New York University. He is one of the early pioneers and most influential scholars in the field of postcolonial literatures, an interdisciplinary field involving research that includes areas of history, theory, philosophy, anthropology and translation studies. Prof. Young has gained international renown with *White Mythologies* (1990) and *Colonial Desire* (1995). Prime concerns in his work are people and culture, margins and peripheries, and the knowledge and experience such communities produce.



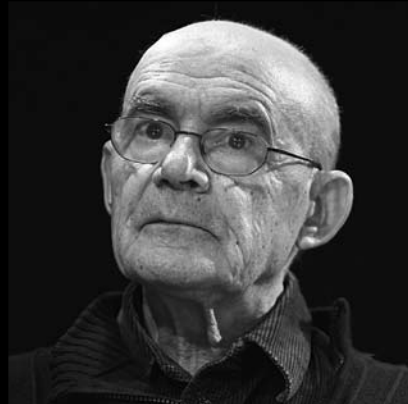
**Community and Ethos**  
Lecture **18 October 2010, 18.30–20.00**  
Workshop **19 October 2010, 9.30–12.15**

## ROBERT YOUNG

**Singular Poiesis, Common Praxis**  
Lecture **15 November 2010, 18.30–20.00**  
Workshop **16 November 2010, 9.30–12.15**

## JEAN-LUC NANCY

Jean-Luc Nancy is Professor emeritus of the University of Strasbourg and holds the Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel Chair at the European Graduate School. He is a leading French philosopher whose work is deeply invested in European philosophy, with influences ranging from Georges Bataille and Maurice Blanchot to René Descartes, G.W.F. Hegel, Friedrich Nietzsche and Martin Heidegger. He is the author of *La communauté désœuvrée* (*The Inoperable Community*, 1982), in which he examines community as an idea that has dominated modern thought and traces its relation to concepts of experience, discourse and otherness. Further publications include *Être singulier pluriel* (*Being Singular Plural*, 1996).



All lectures will take place at:  
Universität Bern, Hochschulstrasse 4, 3012 Bern, Room HS 220 (first floor).

All workshops will take place at:  
Haus der Universität, Schösslistrasse 5, 3008 Bern.

All are welcome to join the workshops. Since there is a limited amount of seats, please write to [annie.cottier@ens.unibe.ch](mailto:annie.cottier@ens.unibe.ch) if you would like to participate in a workshop.