

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

# ETHICS AND/OFF CONTIN- GENCY

**ÉTIENNE  
BALIBAR**

**ALAIN  
BADIOU**

**HANS  
ULRICH  
GUMBRECHT**

*u<sup>b</sup>*

UNIVERSITÄT  
BERN



# ETHICS AND/OFF CONTIN- GENCY

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

## ÉTIENNE BALIBAR

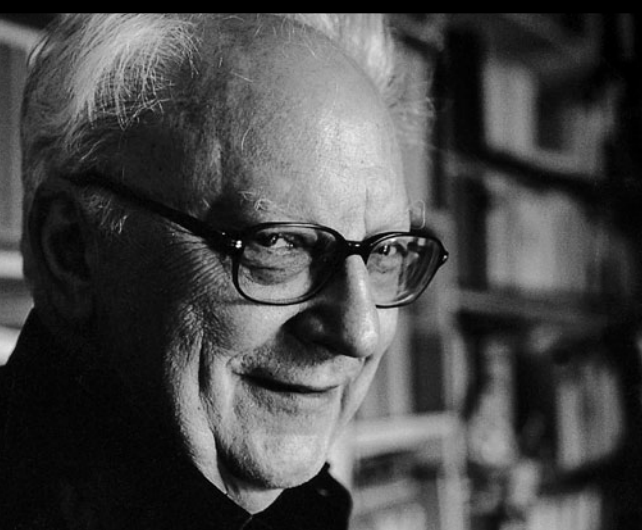
### Commonality vs. Individuality: An Ethical Dilemma?

Lecture **23 March 2015, 18.30–20.00**

Workshop **24 March 2015, 9.30–12.00**

Étienne Balibar is Distinguished Professor of French, Italian and Comparative Literature at the University of California Irvine. His interest in ideology, conjuncture (referring to economic and political aspects of a situation causing friction), and Marxism as philosophy pairs with his commitment to examining as well as influencing the lived reality of politics, focusing on emancipation and what he terms equaliberty. The breadth of his thought can be gauged from his published works ranging from *Lire le capital (Reading Capital)* which he co-authored in 1965 with his mentor Louis Althusser, *We, the People of Europe? Reflections on Transnational Citizenship* (2003), and *Equaliberty: Political Essays* (2014).

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](mailto:christina.cavedon@ens.unibe.ch)



## 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 Normale 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).

## 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 21<sup>st</sup>-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).

All lectures will take place at:  
Universität Bern  
Hochschulstrasse 4, 3012 Bern  
Room HS 220

All workshops will take place at:  
UniS, Schanzeneckstrasse 1  
3012 Bern, Room A-119