

Reading group, Spring 2016

The idea of the university and its histories

Distribution of Labor:

Participants who are taking the reading group for credit will be expected to contribute reading responses to a collaborative Google document (min: one page/weekweek). They will also be expected to lead discussion of readings. How frequently and in what format will depend on the number of students enrolled and will be subject to negotiation during the first meeting. A 5-10 page argumentative paper based on readings from Part I will be submitted mid-term. We will return to these papers in a roundtable discussion at the end of the term in which participants will be required to respond (5-10 min written/oral response) to one or two colleagues' papers in light of the readings of Part II. Finally, all participants, including those not taking the course for credit, will contribute to discussion of collaborative writing and research opportunities that may extend beyond the term. Possible collaboration projects may include: abstract or panel submission, editing, organizing; preparation and editing of essays for a publishable zine; conference or journal essay drafting, workshopping, editing.

Description:

Imagine a friend who chose, or was forced to choose, or never got the opportunity to be but forced to choose, or was forced not to have the chance to not choose, to do something other than pursue a PhD in the humanities. What's the relation between what they do and what you do? More specifically, how does the thinking that they do - the thought, we might say, that you'd be egregiously remiss not to count as thought - relate to the thinking that you do? And would the relation be the same if you were differently or otherwise institutionally attached? The gambit of this reading group is that these questions couldn't be posed without presuming the problematic of the university. The university: crucial to modern thought, no doubt; but whose? Besieged, without question; but by whom? Much maligned, maybe; but who cares? The university is in crisis, so we hear, so we feel and fret, and so we know. But what is this crisis about? Rather than assaying the concept of crisis, and thereby alluding to the dynamics of capital, the end(s) of theory, or political impasse, this reading group aims at greater purchase on the idea of the university as an idea in order to emphasize articulations between society and state.

This quarter we'll zigzag between texts that thematize the idea of the university and others that present as histories of universities in Europe, the U.S., and Latin America, less enamored of writing ideality. In the latter we'll pay particular attention to the historicity of the concepts by which the relation between universities and modern states gets elaborated. In the former, we'll ponder how an idea like the university sticks around and what this persistence might cost. We will spend much of our time loitering around Kant's "Conflict of the Faculties", and thus perhaps affirming one tradition of university-writing over others. But even with an anchor as sea-worthy as Kant, the going may be rough. The idea of the university does not reside squarely within any particular disciplinary, professional, methodological, or subject-positional purview, and thus vitiates any promise – however illusory or fantastic – of competence and mastery, so we will be obliged to query these texts as a way to move forward anyway: to read, write, and study the university. But moving forward in spite of ourselves will be not only our practice but itself a theme, as we attempt to theorize an oscillation between materiality and ideality in

critical theory and critical practice when the site in question is the site of operation.

Reading Schedule:

Part I: Kant's idea

"In many respects, if there is any institution that Europe can most justifiably claim as one of its inventions, it is the university" - Alain Renaut

1. The Conflict of the faculties

*Kant: Conflict of the Faculties

*Bruce Robbins: Less disciplinary than thou: criticism and the conflict of the faculties

*Michael Clarke: Kant's rhetoric of enlightenment

Peter Gilgen: Structure, but in ruins only: on Kant's history of reason and the university

*Derrida: *Moclos*; or, the conflict of the faculties

Kant: "on the common saying"

Kant: What is enlightenment?

Foucault: What is critique?

Butler: What is critique?

2. University and revolution

*Stathis Kouvelakis: *Philosophy and Revolution*, intro and ch. 1 on Kant and Hegel

*Rei Terada: Hegel's bearings

* Charles E. McClelland: *State Society and University in Germany 1700-1914*: Ch 1-3 (1-98)

Herbert Marcuse: *Reason and Revolution: Hegel and the rise of social theory*, "the political philosophy" (169-223)

*Rebecca Comay: *Mourning sickness: hegel and the french revolution*, introduction (1-7), "the kantian theater" (26-54)

Stephen D'Irsay: *Histoire des universités françaises et étrangères des origines à nos jours*, "l'age de la encyclopedie", "revolucion et refonte imperiale" (105-177)

Derrida: the future of the profession or the university without condition

Charles Griffin: "the enlightenment and Latin American independence"

3. The German idea of the (german research) university

*Schleiermacher: "Occasional Thoughts on Universities in the German Sense: With an Appendix Regarding a University Soon to Be Established"

*Fichte: "Deduced Scheme for an Academy to be Established in Berlin" Humboldt: on the spirit and organizational framework of intellectual intuitions in berlin

*Humboldt: concerning the inner and outer organizational framework of the higher education

*Schelling: lectures on university studies

Steffen: the idea of the university

* Charles E. McClelland: *State Society and University in Germany 1700-1914*: ch. 4 (99-150)

4. Histories of the University

*Jeffrey J. Williams: history as a challenge to the idea of the university

*Tirso Mejia-Ricart: intro

*Daniel Fallon: *The German University*, ch1-5

Alain Renaut: *Les revolutions de l'universite: essai sur la modernisation de la culture: "La référence allemande"*

Haskins: the rise of universities

Rudy: the universities of Europe, 1100-1914

Nietzsche: "on the future of our educational institutions"

Timothy Bahti: *History of the university: Kant and Humboldt*

Part II: Idea of the university in America:

"...se va abriendo campo a la idea de considerar a la universidad, no como una esperanza sino como una desilusión, no como un bien sino como un peligro..." -Francisco Perez Borga, 1914

5. A novel idea

*Cornejo Polar: *Discurso del rector de la universidad de San Marcos*

*Raul Bueno Chavez: *Antonio Cornejo Polar y la universidad popular latinoamericana*

*Gramsci: "the popular university"

Jose Vasconcelos: "Discurso en la universidad"

Darcy Ribeiro: *A universidade necesaria*

*Hernan Malo Gonzalez: *Pensamiento universitario ecuatoriano*, "la universidad institución perversa" (20-29), "el concepto de universidad dentro del dinamismo histórico" (32-51)

Arturo Roig: *Filosofía, universidad, y filosofo en America Latina*

6. Trans-atlantic import

*Andre Bernasconi: *Is there a Latin American model of the university?*

*Galo Gomez Oyarazun: *la universidad a través del tiempo*, "la universidad en america latina"(123-200)

Tirso Mejia-Ricart: *La universidad en la historia universal*: ch. 17-20

*Bernardo Sorj: *la democracia inesperada*

*Nelly Richard: "the social sciences: front lines and points of retreat"

Ortega y Gasset: *mision de la universidad*

Julio Ramos: *Divergent Modernities*

Rodolfo Kusch: “Una logica de la negacion para comprender a america”

7. Student protest

*Manifiesto liminar de la reforma universitaria 1918 (Universidad de Cordoba, Argentina)

*Pablo Buchbinder: ¿Revolución en los claustros?: La reforma universitaria de 1918

*Blanchot: *infinite conversation*, “exigency of discontinuity”

**El Grito*

Sanchez: genesis, desarrollo, y consolidación de los grupos estudiantiles de choque en la UNAM (1930-1990)

8. Chile: neoliberal case study?

Andres Bello: El discurso inaugural de la universidad de chile

*Raul Silva Castro: El pensamiento de Bello en el discurso de instalacion

Andre Bernasconi: Are there research universities in chile?

*Ivan Jaksic: Academic rebels in chile: the role of philosophy in higher education

Ivan Jaksic: In service of the nation: the establishment and consolidation of the universidad de chile 1842-79

*Pablo Oyarzun: Consideraciones sobre el tema de la misión de la universidad de chile

Pablo Oyarzun: Universidad y Creatividad

Sol serrano: universidad y nacion

Roberto Bolano: Nocturno de Chile

9. Idea of the university in Latin Americanism

Roberto Munizaga Aguirre: la crisis universitaria

*Willy Thayer: la crisis no moderna de la universidad moderna

Willy Thayer: Crisis categorial de la universidad

Willy Thayer: Filosofia de la reforma y reforma de la filosofia

Nelly Richard: “The language of criticism: how to speak difference?”

Willy Thayer: “the possibility of criticism: a response to Nelly Richard...”

Nelly Richard: “Ruptures, memory, and discontinuities”

*Nelly Richard: “El conflicto entre las disciplinas”

Patricio Marchant: “En que idioma se habla hispanoamerica?”

*Alberto Moreiras: Exhaustion of difference, “theoretical fictions and fatal conceits”, “restitution and appropriation” (76-161)

Beatriz Sarlo: “intelectuales”

David Lloyd and Paul Thomas: *Culture and the State*, ch. 4 “Facing the ethical state”

Sergio Villa-Lobos: El poema de la universidad: nihilismo e infrapolitica

10. Idea of the university as/and critique of capital

Bill Readings: The university in ruins

*Ronald Judy: “Untimely intellectuals and the University”

*Moten and Harney: *The Undercommons*

*Silvia Federici: African roots of US university struggles: from the occupy movement to the anti-student-debt campaign

Chris Newfield: *Unmaking the public university*

Sheldon Rothblatt: *The european and american university since 1800*

*Peter Wegner: *Periodizing Jameson*, "Unfinished business: on the dialectic of the university in Late Capitalism"