

Distinguished Lectures Series
Walter Benjamin Kolleg
Faculty of Humanities
University of Bern

ETHICS AND/OFF CONTIN- GENCY

**SLAVOJ
ŽIŽEK**

**TIMOTHY
CAMPBELL**

**MICHAEL
NAAS**

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UNIVERSITÄT
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ETHICS AND/OFF CONTIN- GENCY

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SLAVOJ ŽIŽEK

The Ethics of Christian Atheism
Lecture **25 May 2017, 18.30–20.00**
No Workshop

Slavoj Žižek is Professor of Philosophy at The European Graduate School (EGS), senior researcher at the Institute for Sociology and Philosophy at the University of Ljubljana, Global Distinguished Professor of German at New York University, International Director of the Birkbeck Institute for the Humanities, and founder and president of the Society for Theoretical Psychoanalysis, Ljubljana. Since *The Sublime Object of Ideology* in 1989, his first book in English, Žižek has published over 40 books, spanning from political theory to cultural studies and bringing together the influences of Hegelian idealism, Lacanian psychoanalysis, and Marxist thought. His most recent publication is *Lenin 2017: Remembering, Repeating, and Working Through* (2017). The *International Journal of Žižek Studies*, founded in 2007, is dedicated to the study of his work.



TIMOTHY CAMPBELL

Biopolitical Ethics and the Comic Self
Lecture **23 October 2017, 18.30–20.00**
Workshop **24 October 2017, 9.30–12.00**

Timothy Campbell is Professor of Italian Studies in the Department of Romance Studies at Cornell University and the editor of the series *Commonalities* for Fordham University Press. His research ranges from biopolitics and contemporary Italian thought to Fascist culture and modern Italian visual culture. In addition to the translations of Roberto Esposito's *Communitas* (2010) and *Bios* (2008), he is the author of *Wireless Writing in the Age of Marconi* (2006) and *Improper Life: Biopolitics and Technology from Heidegger to Agamben* (2011). His most recent book *The Techne of Giving: Cinema and the Generous Form of Life*, published in 2016 by Oxford University Press, addresses the possibility of conceptualizing a radical form of generosity that is able to escape both the grip of contemporary biopower as well as the comforting rhetoric of neoliberal charity.

MICHAEL NAAS

**Dumb Luck: Jacques Derrida
and the Question of Contingency**
Lecture **27 November 2017, 18.30–20.00**
Workshop **28 November 2017, 9.30–12.00**

Michael Naas is Professor of Philosophy at DePaul University in Chicago. His research covers the fields of philosophy and comparative literature, with a particular focus on ancient Greek thought and contemporary French philosophy and with a strong interest in thinkers such as Nietzsche, Heidegger, Derrida, Lyotard, and Levinas. He has edited and co-translated into English a number of Jacques Derrida's texts, such as *The Work of Mourning* (2011), *Learning to Live Finally* (2007), *Rogues* (2005), and *Adieu: To Emmanuel Levinas* (1999). His most recent publications, still engaging with the complexities of Derrida's thought, are *The End of the World and Other Teachable Moments: Jacques Derrida's Final Seminar* (2015) and *Miracle and Machine: Jacques Derrida and the Two Sources of Religion, Science, and the Media* (2012).

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

The workshop of Prof. Timothy
Campbell will take place at:
UniS, Schanzeneckstrasse 1,
3012 Bern / Room A-119

The workshop of Prof. Michael
Naas will take place at:
UniS, Schanzeneckstrasse 1,
3012 Bern / Room B-102