Centre for the Study of Theory and Criticism

Course Proposal

The Subject of the Object

The title of this course, while playful, is also playing with the various ways in which a physical object can be approached: as a subject of study, subjected to human thought and perception; as an entity that has its own version of what we call “subjectivity”; as a thing, within a world of things, that impinges on us and may be crucial to our very sense of self.

Instructor: Peter Schwenger

Readings will likely be taken from the following texts, whole or in part:

- Behara, Katherine (ed.) *Object-Oriented Feminism*
- Bennet, Jane. *Vibrant Matter: A Political Economy of Things*
- Bogost, Ian. *Alien Phenomenology, or What It’s Like to Be a Thing*
- Bryant, Levi R. *The Democracy of Objects*
- Candlin, Fiona and Raiford Guins. *The Object Reader*
- Harman, Graham. *The Quadruple Object*
- Woodard, Ben. *Slime Dynamics*

Likely Topics

- The Thing (Brown, Grosz, Heidegger, Lacan)
- Subjects formed by Objects (Lacan, Latour, Winnicott)
- Gender Objects (Du Bois, Morton, Connell)
- Object Oriented Ontology (Harman)
- Ecology of the Object (Bennett, Bryant, Morton)
- Objects without Edges (Woodard)
- Individual Case Studies (Barthes, Stallybrass, Ingold)
- Collecting, Consumption, and Arranging (Benjamin, Corngold, Steinbach)
- Art and Objects (Hudek, Fried)