

course proposal for a cross-listed course between the Theory Centre and GSWS.
Winter 2024

Queer Temporalities

Is there such a thing as queer time? In recent years, much queer scholarship has focused on the idea of queer temporalities, opposing queer time to heteronormative time, from both individual and historical perspectives. The idea of queer time as being "at best contrapuntal, syncopated, and at worst, erratic, arrested" (McCallum and Tukhanen, 2011), has led queer scholarship to consider the implications of being out of sync. This course will examine the "beginnings" of queer time, from Bersani and Edelman's responses to AIDS and their challenge to reproductive futurism, to Halberstam's and Freeman's critiques of hetero-temporality. It will then move on to considerations of the queer archive and queer nostalgia, asking the question of what it means to "look backward" (Love) to a history that is often shameful, elusive and opaque. The last section of the course will examine queer futurities and intersectionalities, including discourses on trans temporalities, queer necropolitics and the queer posthuman. Throughout the course, we will be asking whether thinking temporality through a queer lens offer a way of challenging linear models of progress and normativity, and what might be meant by such a challenge.

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