Visit of Prof. Cary Wolfe to Utrecht University

Bruce and Elizabeth Dunlevie Professor in the Department of English and Founding Director of the 3CT: Center for Critical and Cultural Theory at Rice University. Founding Editor of the series Posthumanities at the University of Minnesota Press.

Sponsors: Amsterdam School for Cultural Analysis (UvA), Center for the Humanities (UU), Graduate Gender Programme (UU), Institute for Cultural Inquiry (UU), School of Liberal Arts (UU), Society for the Study of Biopolitical Futures (Rice University, Syracuse University).

—Q&A June 8, 3:15 - 5pm Drift 25, room 1.02
Interdisciplinary Animal Studies
Host: Iris van der Tuin (Liberal Arts & Sciences, Utrecht University)
This session is open to students in the School of Liberal Arts (Liberal Arts & Sciences and Language & Culture Studies). Interested students are invited to e-mail the abovementioned host at I.vanderTuin@uu.nl. The session is mandatory for students in the course De denkacademie (Thinking Academy).

—Public lecture June 9, 3:30 - 5pm Janskerkhof 2-3, room 0.13
Host: Kathrin Thiele (Gender Studies, Utrecht University)
This lecture is free and open to the public. The lecture is part of the Doing Gender lecture series. Registration is not compulsory, but highly appreciated: nog@uu.nl or 030 – 253 6001.

(Auto)Immunity, (Bio)Politics, and Posthumanist Social Theory
This lecture sets out from the premise that the immunitary paradigm is the fundamental logic of biopolitical formations—a contention made by Roberto Esposito in his reading of Michel Foucault’s work, a contention that draws on the work of Niklas Luhmann, Jacques Derrida, Donna Haraway, and others. Yet Esposito’s rendering of the relationship between immunity and community is problematic, and evades the very consequences that a more rigorous investigation of the systemic logic of immunity in terms of systems theory reveals. We will explore the consequences of this fact for thinking “the political” within a requisite theory of social complexity, and will explore its relations to theories of “control society” which also share the assumption that human beings are not the constitutive elements of either the social or the political.

—Masterclass June 10, 2 - 5pm Drift 6, room 0.07
Convenors: Tom Idema (Comparative Literature, Utrecht University) and Gregg Lambert (Dean’s Professor of the Humanities, Syracuse University; Society for the Study of Biopolitical Futures)
The Animal Turn, Posthumanism, and the Posthumanities
We invite PhD students and early career researchers whose research relates to the animal turn, posthumanism and the posthumanities to submit a one-page research outline and a question for Cary Wolfe before May 15 to Tom Idema T.J.Idema@uu.nl
Your question should engage issues relevant to Cary Wolfe’s work and the wider field of posthumanism and animal studies. During the masterclass, a maximum of six contributors will have the opportunity to present their research project and question in around 5 minutes, followed by a response by Cary Wolfe and general discussion. You can also present your research/question in groups of two or three.