

The Democratization of Vulnerable Bodies: Feminist Readings of Neoliberal Authoritarianism

Seminar Description

The current scenario, marked by the crisis of democracies and the global rise of the extreme right, leads to the question: What is the relationship between these phenomena and the neoliberal economic system? The early history of neoliberalism, which began with the alliance between the Chicago Boys trained by Milton Friedman and authoritarian forces, indicates that neoliberal policies themselves harbor authoritarian tendencies. The research field of decolonial feminism currently includes approaches that examine this linkage and emphasize the gender-political connections. They offer conceptual tools for critical diagnosis of the present and produce resistant knowledge in dialogue with social struggles and political movements such as *Ni Una Menos*, the feminist strike movement. Some of their key focuses are the rehabilitation of the concept of patriarchy, the relationship between economic violence and gender-based violence, the gendered and colonial dimensions of austerity policies, the politics of states of exception and shock therapies, the financialization of reproductive labor, the effects of bio- and necropolitics on subjectivities and the treatment of the life and death of particular bodies. Race, gender, and class are central concepts in these reflections. We will discuss seminal texts in this debate to create a cartography of the key concepts these authors use to explore the intersections between authoritarianism and neoliberalism. It will lead us to understand the dynamics of neoliberal authoritarianism and the transnational uses of these theories.

The seminar will be held in English, but if students have knowledge of Spanish and/or Portuguese, this would be an advantage, as some additional texts will be provided in original languages-

Introduction

Wednesday, January 11th, AM 205
16.15 – 17.45

Decolonial Feminism: Situated Knowledge and Epistemic Frictions

Friday, January 20th, GD 05
11:15-12:45

Curiel, Ochy; Barros, Bruna; Oliveira, Jess. Berta Cáceres and Decolonial Feminism. *WSQ: Women's Studies Quarterly* 49, 2021, pp. 64-81.

Break

14:15-15:45

Cusicanqui, Silvia Rivera. The Notion of "Rights" and the Paradoxes of Postcolonial Modernity: Indigenous Peoples and Women in Bolivia. *Qui Parle* 18 (2), 2010, pp. 29-54.

16:15-17:45

Safatle, Vladimir (2020). Beyond the Necropolitics Principle: Suicidal State and Authoritarian Neoliberalism. *Crisis and Critique* 7 (2), pp. 362-7614:15-15:45

Accumulation through Dispossession, Debt, and Austerity

Saturday, January 21st, HG 104

11:15-12:45

Cavallero, Luci, and Verónica Gago. 2021. *A Feminist Reading of Debt*. London: Pluto Press, 5-17.

Break

Chakravartty Paula et Silva Denise Ferreira da, « Accumulation, Dispossession, and Debt: The Racial Logic of Global Capitalism—An Introduction », dans *American Quarterly*, vol. 64, Johns Hopkins University Press, n° 3, 28 septembre 2012, pp. 361-385.

16:15-17:45

Silva, Denise Ferreira da. *Reading the Dead: A Black Feminist Poetical Reading of Global Capital*. In: King, Tiffany Lethabo; Navarro, Jenell; Smith, Andrea (eds.). *Otherwise Worlds: Against Settler Colonialism and Anti-Blackness*. Durham; London: Duke University Press, 2020, pp. 38-51.

Extractivism and Ecology

Friday, January 27th, GD 05

11:15-12:45

Fernandes, Sabrina (2022). *Right-Wing Authoritarianism Against Nature—The Latin American Context*. In B. Nehe & International Research Group on Authoritarianism and Counter-Strategies (ed.), *Global Authoritarianism: Perspectives and contestations from the South*, pp. 57-75.

Break

14:15-15:45

Tosold, Léa. *Territorializing Existence as Resistance: A Fanonian Reading on the Mundurucu and the Riverside Peoples Collective Self-Determination Process in Amazonia*. In: Gibson, Nigel C. (ed.). *Fanon Today: Reason and Revolt of the Wretched of the Earth*. Daraja Press, 2021, pp. 507-531.

16:15-17:45

Bombardi, Larissa. *Geography of Asymmetry: The vicious cycle of pesticides and colonialism in the commercial relationship between Mercosur and the European Union – OCAA*.

Vulnerability and Solidarity

Saturday, January 28th, HG 104

11:15-12:45

Segato Rita, *The Virtues of Disobedience*: In: Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung.

Break

14:15-15:45

Basso, Ianina Moretti; Canseco, Alberto. *Eroticizing the Struggle against Precarity*. *Cadernos Pagu* 61, 2021, pp. 1-15.

16:15-17:45

Final discussion

List of Seminar Readings

- Associação dos Povos Indígenas do Brasil; Amazon Watch. Complicity in Destruction IV: How Mining Companies and International Investors Drive Indigenous Rights Violations and Threaten the Future of the Amazon. 2021.
- Basso, Ianina Moretti; Canseco, Alberto. Eroticizing the Struggle against Precarity. *Cadernos Pagu* 61, 2021, pp. 1-15.
- Bombardi, Larissa. Geography of Asymmetry: The vicious cycle of pesticides and colonialism in the commercial relationship between Mercosur and the European Union – OCAA. <https://ocaa.org.br/en/publicacao/geography-of-asymmetrythe-vicious-cycle-of-pesticides-and-colonialism-in-the-commercial-relationship-between-mercosur-and-the-european-union/>
- Cusicanqui, Silvia Rivera. The Notion of “Rights” and the Paradoxes of Postcolonial Modernity: Indigenous Peoples and Women in Bolivia. *Qui Parle* 18 (2), 2010, pp. 29-54.
- Curiel, Ochy; Barros, Bruna; Oliveira, Jess. Berta Cáceres and Decolonial Feminism. *WSQ: Women's Studies Quarterly* 49, 2021, pp. 64-81.
- Ejército Zapatista de Liberación Nacional. The Second Declaration of the Lacandon Jungle. June, 1994. Available at: <https://schoolsforchiapas.org/library/declaration-lacandon-jungle-2/>
- Cavallero, Luci, and Verónica Gago. 2021. A Feminist Reading of Debt. London: Pluto Press, 5-17.
- Chakravartty Paula et Silva Denise Ferreira da, « Accumulation, Dispossession, and Debt: The Racial Logic of Global Capitalism—An Introduction », dans *American Quarterly*, vol. 64, Johns Hopkins University Press, n° 3, 28 septembre 2012, p. 361385.
- Fernandes, Sabrina (2022). Right-Wing Authoritarianism Against Nature—The Latin American Context. In B. Nehe & International Research Group on Authoritarianism and Counter-Strategies (ed.), *Global Authoritarianism: Perspectives and contestations from the South*, pp. 57-75.
- Safatle, Vladimir (2020). Beyond the Necropolitics Principle: Suicidal State and Authoritarian Neoliberalism. *Crisis and Critique* 7 (2), pp. 362-76
- Segato Rita, The Virtues of Disobedience. In: Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung. <https://www.rosalux.de/en/publication/id/40778/the-virtues-of-disobedience>.
- Silva, Denise Ferreira da. Reading the Dead: A Black Feminist Poethical Reading of Global Capital. In: King, Tiffany Lethabo; Navarro, Jenell; Smith, Andrea (eds.). *Otherwise Worlds: Against Settler Colonialism and Anti-Blackness*. Durham; London: Duke University Press, 2020, pp. 38-51.
- Tosold, Léa. Territorializing Existence as Resistance: A Fanonian Reading on the Munduruku and the Riverside Peoples Collective Self-Determination Process in Amazonia. In: Gibson, Nigel C. (ed.). *Fanon Today: Reason and Revolt of the Wretched of the Earth*. Daraja Press, 2021, pp. 507-531.