Title: Autonomism, Communisation, Accelerationism

Rationale: Marxist theory has obstinately refused to die despite repeated official burial services. This course will introduce students to three of its most lively re-animations through an engagement with ‘classic’ Marx texts and concepts; with the work of contemporary political and aesthetic philosophers such as Antonio Negri and Franco-Berardi; with their lesser-known accomplices and critics; with feminist-Marxisms such as that of Silvia Federici and Tiziana Terranova; and with outright anti-Marxisms such as the renowned nihilist Nick Land.

Description: This course examines three contemporary Marxisms that have appeared in the wake of ‘no longer existing socialism’ —autonomist Marxism, communalization theory and left accelerationism. All have origins in the 1960s and 70s, but re-emerged in the crises and struggles of the early twenty-first century; autonomism with turn of millennium alterglobalism, communisation theory in the financial crash of 2008, and accelerationism in the aftermath of the social movements of 2011. All address a victorious capitalism characterized by high-technology, financialization, globalism and recurrent crisis. All break with Hegelian Marxisms and Soviet dialectical materialism to explore new questions of class composition, revolutionary subjectivity and communist possibility. Each speaks to the other, often critically, as when the mordant melancholia of communisation theory repudiates the chronic optimism of autonomist Marxism, only in turn to be challenged by the renewed prometheanism of accelerationism. All have their internal splits and fractions. This course aims to introduce the major texts of each of these currents in a way helpful both in the writing of comprehensive exams, theses and dissertations and/or in political practice.

Week 1: Introduction

Part 1. Autonomism

Week 2: Operaismo: The Copernican Inversion

Week 3: Antonio Negri: From Sabotage to Empire

Week 4: Post-Operaismo & Creative Autonomy

Week 5: Wages for Housework, Midnight Notes and the Global Proletariat

Part 2

Week 6: Bring Out Your Dead: Origins of Communisation

Week 7: This is Our Wager: Theorie Communiste

Week 8: Moving Contradictions & Surplus Populations: Endnotes
Week 9: Class, Race, Gender: The Subject in the Era of Riots.

Part 3: Accelerationism

Week 10: Nihilist Accelerationism: Nick Land

Week 11: Left Accelerationism: The Accelerationist Manifesto

Week 12: The Debate on Accelerationism

Weeks 13: Acceleration/ Emergency Brake/ Swerve

Readings


Part 1


http://www.marxists.org/reference/subject/philosophy/works/it/tronti.htm

https://libcom.org/library/capalist-use-machinery-raniero-panzieri


Wright, Steve. 2002. Storming Heaven: Class Composition and Struggle in Italian Autonomist Marxism


Oakland: PM Press. Extracts.

**Part 2**

Selected papers from:


Endnotes 3 (2013). *Gender, Race, Class and Other Misfortunes*.

**Part 3**


Williams, Alex and Srnicek, Nick. 2013. #Accelerate: Manifesto for an Accelerationist Politics. *Critical Legal Thinking* (May14), http://criticallegalthinking.com/2013/05/14/accelerate-manifesto-for-an-accelerationist-politics/.

Mackay, Robin and Avanessian, Armen, ed. 2014. #Accelerate#. Falmouth: Urbanomics.

**Class Requirements:**

1 in class seminar plus written thesis (5-10pp): 25%

1 major research paper (20-30pp): 60%

Class participation in seminars: 15%