

## Seminar series on CONTEMPORARY CULTURAL THEORY

Organised by: Dr. Rick Dolphijn (Media and Culture Studies), Dr. Iris van der Tuin (Gender Studies)

Location: Muntstraat 2a room 002, Utrecht (June 30: Drift 21 Sweelinckzaal !)

Time: Wednesdays 11:00 - 12:45 (you can bring your lunch)

The Cultural Theory seminar is a close-reading seminar, which focuses on texts that are valuable to the humanities as a whole and is open to scholars, students and people working outside of academia. In the sessions we do not build up knowledge, which means that you can join in whenever you like. Yet we work with themes in order to structure our thoughts a little bit. Earlier we have discussed "naturecultures", "immanent times/ immanent spaces", "Linguistics/ signification/ communication", "After Finitude", "Signs & numbers; culture & nature", "Rewriting Enlightenment", and "Writing and Rewriting the Body". We hope many of you will be interested in contributing to our discussions. The reading material can be copied at Kromme nieuwegracht 20 (cursuspostvakken; ground floor).

### Theme eight: New Materialism - The Utrecht School

Whereas the Utrecht School in New Materialism does not exist as a totality, many scholars connected to the Faculty of Humanities of Utrecht University work on conceptualizing 'matter'. This eighth series of the Cultural Theory seminar discusses recent texts of these scholars. What coherence can be discerned in their work? How do they in diverse ways contribute to provoking a turn to matter in the humanities? How is this material turn interdisciplinary? The series opens with a session on the work of Rosi Braidotti, who coined the term 'new materialism' in the mid 1990s. All authors will be present when their work is scheduled for discussion. This time we close with a plenary discussion (all the authors will be present) in which the most important questions that haunted this series will serve as our guidance through the discussion.

1. 28 April Prof. Rosi Braidotti (forthcoming) 'Feminist Philosophy Revisited' in *Nomadic Theory: The Portable Rosi Braidotti*
2. 19 May Prof. Maaïke Bleeker (2008) 'Passages in Post-Modern Theory: Mapping the Apparatus' in *Parallax* 14:1
3. 26 May Dr. Iris van der Tuin (forthcoming) "'A Different Starting Point, A Different Metaphysics": Reading Bergson and Barad Diffractively' in *Hypatia: A Journal of Feminist Philosophy*
4. 2 June Prof. Joost Raessens (2009) 'The Gaming *Dispositif*: An Analysis of Serious Games from a Humanities Perspective' in U. Ritterfeld et al. (eds.) *Serious Games: Mechanisms and Effects*
5. 9 June Dr. Rick Dolphijn (forthcoming) 'The Intense Exterior of Another Geometry'
6. 16 June Dr. Kathrin Thiele (University Potsdam) "'to believe in this world as it is...": Immanence and the Quest for Political Activism'
7. 24 (!) June Dr. Birgit Kaiser (2010) 'two floors of thinking: Deleuze's aesthetics of folds' in S. van Tuinen and N. McDonnell (eds.) *Deleuze and The Fold: A Critical Reader*
8. 30 June Plenary discussion with the authors. Lunch afterwards.