Fall 2017 Shulman Lectures: Reports from Nonhuman Worlds

The Whitney Humanities Center is pleased to announce the Fall 2017 Shulman Lectures in Science and the Humanities, “Reports from Nonhuman Worlds.” The opening lecture, “Atomic Sex: Lucretius’s Material Republic,” will be given by Jacques Lezra on Monday, September 18. Other speakers in the series will include Manuel DeLanda, October 2, and Claire Colebrook, November 6.

All lectures will be at 5 pm in Room 208 of the WHC and are free and open to the public.

Jacques Lezra, “Atomic Sex: Lucretius’s Material Republic,” September 18

Jacques Lezra is Professor of Hispanic Studies at the University of California Riverside. He has taught at Yale, the University of Wisconsin Madison, and NYU and held visiting positions in comparative literature at Harvard and at UC Irvine. In 2010 he was awarded the Robert Frost Chair in Literature at Middlebury College’s Bread Loaf School of English. His most recent book is Contra todos los fueros de la muerte: El suceso cervantino (2016), a collection of articles and unpublished essays as well as chapters from his first book, Unspeakable Subjects: The Genealogy of the Event in Early Modern Europe (1997). Other works include Wild Materialism: The Ethic of Terror and the Modern Republic (2010) and (with Liza Blake) the edited volume Lucretius and Modernity (2016). Forthcoming are On the Nature of Marx’s Things: Translation as Necrophilology; Untranslating Machines: A Genealogy for the Ends of Global Thought; and a collection on allegory and political representation (coedited with Tarra Mendola).

Manuel DeLanda, “The Philosophy of Chemistry,” October 2

Manuel DeLanda is an artist and philosopher. Between 1975 and 1982 he was an independent filmmaker. His films were selected for the Whitney Biennial in 1978 and had one-man shows at Anthology Film Archives, Collective for Living Cinema, and Millennium. Recently he resumed his filmmaking career, showing his new work at Anthology and Laboratorio Alameda, in Mexico City. In 1982 he became a computer programmer and independent researcher in cognitive and computer science. Research on the sociology and history of computer science led to War in the Age of Intelligent Machines (1991), on the military origins of computer technology. Subsequent books include A Thousand Years of Nonlinear History (1997), Intensive Science and Virtual Philosophy (2002), A New Philosophy of Society (2006), Philosophy and Simulation (2011), and Philosophical Chemistry (2015.) He currently teaches in the architecture departments of Princeton University, the University of Pennsylvania, and the Pratt Institute.

Claire Colebrook is Edwin Erle Sparks Professor of English, Philosophy, and Women's and Gender Studies at Pennsylvania State University. She has written extensively on contemporary European philosophy, literary history, gender studies, queer theory, visual culture, and feminist philosophy. Her books include Deleuze and the Meaning of Life (2010), William Blake and Digital Aesthetics (2011), two recent collections of essays on extinction—The Death of the Posthuman and Sex after Life (both 2014)—as well as the coauthored volumes Agamben (with Jason Maxwell; 2015) and Twilight of the Anthropocene Idols (with Tom Cohen and J. Hillis Miller; 2016). She is now completing a book on fragility (of the species, the archive, and the earth).

The Shulman Lecture Series is organized in conjunction with a Yale College seminar taught by Paul North (German).

The Shulman Lectures are presented under the auspices of the Franke Program in Science and the Humanities, which is made possible by the generosity of Richard and Barbara Franke. The series is named after Robert Shulman, Sterling Professor Emeritus of Chemistry, Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry, and senior research scientist in diagnostic radiology, in recognition of his roles as a Founding Fellow of the Whitney and as an unwavering supporter of the integration of science and the humanities.

For more information contact the Whitney Humanities Center at 203 432-0670 or email whitneyhumanitiescenter@yale.edu