



Hannah Arendt teaching at the New School for Social Research.

Conjugating the Present

Words inherited from Hannah Arendt

30 November and 1 December 2023

International seminar coorganised with the Seminari de Filosofia i Gènere-ADHUC Centre de Recerca Teoria, Gènere, Sexualitat, the CCCB, and with the collaboration of the International Consortium of Critical Theory Programs, we revisit Hannah Arendt's thought to examine some of the contemporary political and philosophical challenges that she addressed in her work and that are still valid today.

Hannah Arendt has become a major reference point when thinking about the problems of our world. Her efforts to understand a time in crisis, dominated by the emergence of totalitarianisms, led her to think of new conceptual tools to grasp the political experience. From thinking about the *vita activa* and the category of natality, to claiming the creation of new rights through reflection on political participation and concerted action, Arendt's thought continues to inspire the political and philosophical gaze on the contemporary world.

The seminar offers a space to discuss the political and philosophical potential of Arendt's ideas, which have become crucial for confronting current problems and imagining alternative forms of resistance and political creativity. To talk about it, experts on Hannah Arendt from around the world will discuss the central axes of her thought from the perspective of politics, ethics, feminism, philosophy or art

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PROGRAM

Thursday, November 30

09:30 Opening remarks

09:45 **PANEL 1/ Feminism**

Linda Zerilli, Fina Birulés, Lorena Fuster, Marta Segarra.

11:30 BREAK

12:00 **PANEL 2/ Evil**

Claudia Hilb, Simona Forti, Stefania Fantauzzi, Facundo Vega, Mária Martínez-Bascuñán

13:45 END

18:30 **PUBLIC EVENT/ HANNAH ARENDT: THINKING IN COMPANY** (*Hall of the CCCB*)

Simona Forti, Linda Zerilli and Zeynep Gambetti (UCLA)

Presenter: Matías Sirczuk

Friday, December 1

09:30 **PANEL 3/ Violence and Action**

Martine Leibovici, Peg Birmingham, Matías Sirczuk, María Robaszkiewicz

11:15 BREAK

11:45 **PANEL 4/ Loss and World**

Zeynep Gambetti, Rousara Martínez, Debaditya Bhattacharya, Judith Butler

13:35 **Final Remarks**

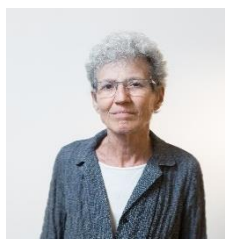
Matías Sirczuk, Lorena Fuster

13:45 End

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS



Linda Zerilli, Professor of Political Science at the University of Chicago. She was the director of the Center for Study of Gender and Sexuality at the same university, where she continues as a prominent researcher and professor in the field. Her publications include *Signifying Woman* (Cornell University Press, 1994), *Feminism and the abyss of freedom* (University of Chicago Press, 2005) and *A Democratic Theory of Judgment* (University of Chicago Press, 2016). Her research focuses on feminist thought, language politics, aesthetics, democratic theory, and Continental philosophy, with special emphasis on imagination and judgment in the thought of Hannah Arendt. She has been a Fulbright Scholar and was part of the Stanford Humanities Center. Moreover, she has been a member of the advisory boards of *The American Political Science Review* or *Philosophy and Rhetoric*, among others.



Fina Birulés, Tenured lecturer in Contemporary Philosophy at the University of Barcelona (1979-2020). Her lines of research are focused on two core themes: on the one hand, political subjectivity, history and action, and on the other, feminist theory and female philosophical production, with special attention to the work of Hannah Arendt and other 20th-century philosophers. She is co-founder and member of the Seminar on Philosophy and Gender at ADHUC (Research Centre for Theory, Gender, Sexuality) at the University of Barcelona and the Arendtian Group on Thought and Politics, and she has been a visiting professor at universities in Puerto Rico, Chile, Parma, Florence, and Vienna. Her publications include *Una herència sin testamento: Hannah Arendt* (Herder, 2007), *Entreactes. Entorn del pensament, la política i el feminisme* (Trabucaire, 2014), *Hannah Arendt. El orgullo de pensar* (Gedisa, 2018), *Feminisme, una revolució sense model* (CCCB, 2018), *L'embolic del gènere. Per què els cossos importen?* (with Judith Butler and Marta Segarra CCCB, 2019), *Hannah Arendt: Llibertat, política i totalitarisme* (Gedisa, 2019) and *Hannah Arendt: el món en joc* (Arcàdia, 2023).



Lorena Fuster teaches feminist theory and philosophy at the Universitat de Barcelona, where she wrote her PhD thesis on the concept of political imagination in Hannah Arendt's thought. Her research and publications explore subjects that link contemporary philosophy with the history of culture, including imagination and imaginaries, recognition, transmission and vulnerability, and draw heavily on the ideas of thinkers such as Hannah Arendt, Simone Weil, Iris Murdoch, Ágnes Heller, Luce Irigaray and Judith Butler. She is a researcher at the Seminari Filosofia i Gènere, of the ADHUC (Research Centre for Theory, Gender, Sexuality), and of the Consolidated Research Group *Creació i Pensament de les Dones*, as well as the UNESCO Chair in Women, Development and Cultures. Under the umbrella of the GAPP Arendtian Group for Thought and Politics, she organises the Arendtian Springs international series of talks. Since 2020 she has codirected the Barcelona Pensa festival.

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Marta Segarra, Professor of French Literature and Gender Studies at the University of Barcelona, Marta Segarra is also research director of the Laboratoire d'études de genre et de sexualité-LEGS, at the French National Centre for Scientific Research. She is co-founder of the Centre for Women and Literature, and also of the Women, Development and Cultures UNESCO Chair, as well as being a researcher in the ADHUC (Research Centre on Theory, Gender and Sexuality) group at the University of Barcelona. She was previously guest professor at the University Paris 8 (Vincennes), the Collège international de Philosophie (Paris), Cornell University, the University of California-Berkeley, and other centres.



Claudia Hilb, holds a PhD in Social Sciences, is Professor of Political Theory at the Faculty of Social Sciences of the University of Buenos Aires and Senior Researcher at Conicet (Argentina). Between 1977 and 1987 she lived in France, where she did degree studies in Sociology and Political Science. Her areas of interest are modern and contemporary political theory, with special emphasis on the works of Leo Strauss, Hannah Arendt and Claude Lefort, and reflection on the recent past in Argentina, in particular the relationship between violence, politics and justice. Her books include *Leo Strauss, el arte de leer* (2005), *Silencio Cuba. La izquierda democrática frente al régimen de la revolución cubana* (2010), *Usos del pasado* (2013), *Abismos de la modernidad - ensayos sobre Hannah Arendt, Claude Lefort y Leo Strauss* (2016) and *¿Por qué no pasan los '70?* (2018).



Simona Forti A philosopher who is internationally recognised for her studies in contemporary political and ethical philosophy, she is currently Professor of Political Philosophy at the Scuola Normale Superiore (Pisa, Italy). She has been Part-Time Faculty at the Philosophy Department, The New School for Social Research (New York). She has been Visiting Professor in Philosophy at Columbia University (New York) and Fulbright Distinguished Chair Professor at Northwestern University. Simona Forti is author of many books and articles. She is widely recognized in Italy and abroad for her far-reaching studies on Hannah Arendt's thought, the philosophical idea of totalitarianism, the relation between forms of power and subjectivities. In recent years she has given important contributions to the debate on biopolitics launched by Michel Foucault by focusing on Nazi's biopolitics and democratic biopolitics of the bodies. The book, *New Demons: Rethinking Power and Evil Today*, (Stanford U.P., 2015) has provoked a wide debate, opening new avenues of investigation with respect to the relationship between ethics and politics. She is currently engaged in writing a new book, entitled *Anarchic Souls*, in which she tries to think against the grain "the soul" as the signifier of a new idea of free subjectivity.

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Stefania Fantauzzi, Professor of Philosophy at the Autonomous University of Barcelona. She has been a researcher in the “Philosophy and Gender” seminar group at the University of Barcelona since 2002, and a member of the GAPP (Arendtian Group for Thought and Politics) since it was first founded. She has a degree in Philosophy from the University of Bologna and a PhD in Philosophy from the University of Barcelona. In recent years her interests have focused on political philosophy and, in particular, the thought of Hannah Arendt, about whom she has published several articles and chapters in books. She has recently edited the book *L'home dalt del pont* by Günther Anders (Club Editor, 2023) and the volume *Participar del món* (Participate in the World, Lleonard Muntaner, 2019), which presents the articles of Arendt published in the journal *Aufbau* in the 1930s and 1940s.



Facundo Vega, Professor in the Department of Philosophy at the Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez and researcher at the Freie Universität Berlin and CONICET. He holds a PhD from Cornell University and did a postdoctoral fellowship at ICI Berlin. He is currently finishing a book entitled *Ordinary Matters: The Political after Martin Heidegger* and is writing a second book entitled *The Politics of Beginnings: Hannah Arendt Today*. His articles have been published in journals such as *diacritics*, *Philosophy Today* and *The European Legacy*. He was a visiting scholar at Columbia University, The New School, the Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg, the Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main and the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales. He received awards and scholarships from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst (DAAD), the Martin-Heidegger-Stiftung, American Friends of Marbach, the Rosa-Luxemburg-Stiftung, the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, the Society for the Humanities and the Mario Einaudi Center for International Studies.



Mária Martínez-Bascuñán, She is a professor of Political Science at the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid. She is a specialist in political theory and feminist thought. She completed her studies in Political Science and Law at the Institut d'Études Politiques de Paris and has been a visiting researcher at the University of Chicago and Columbia University in New York. She is the author of the book *Género, emancipación y diferencias* (Plaza & Valdés, 2012) and co-author with Fernando Vallespín of *Populismos* (Alianza Editorial, 2017). She has written academic articles in research journals such as *Journal World Political Science*, *REIS*, *ISEGORÍA* or *RECP*, among others. In June 2018 she was designated Opinion Director of the newspaper *El País*, a charge which she held until 2020. She is currently a columnist and contributor to that newspaper and belongs to its editorial committee. She is also Commissioner of the project “Nosotras las europeas. Feminismo y memoria democrática en la construcción de Europa” on the occasion of the Spanish Presidency of the European Union that will take place in the second half of 2023, commissioned by the Ministry of the Presidency, Relations with the Courts and Democratic Memory.

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Martine Leibovici, philosopher, Professor Emeritus at Paris Diderot (Paris 7) University and a member of the Laboratory for Social and Political Change at Paris 7. She is an authority on the work of Hannah Arendt and has published several books on her life and work, notable among them, *Hannah Arendt, une Juive. Expérience, politique et histoire* (Hannah Arendt, a Jewish Woman: Experience, Politics and History – Desclée de Brouwer, 1998); *Hannah Arendt y la tradición judía. El judaísmo a prueba de la secularización* (Hannah Arendt and the Jewish Tradition: Judaism resisting Secularisation – UNAM, 2005) and, more recently, with Anne-Marie Roviello, *Le perversion totalitaire. La banalité du mal selon Hannah Arendt* (The Totalitarian Perversion: The Banality of Evil According to Hannah Arendt – Paris, Klimé, 2017).



Peg Birmingham, Professor of Philosophy at DePaul University. She is the author of *Hannah Arendt and Human Rights: The Predicament of Common Responsibility* (Indian UP, 2006), co-editor (with Philippe van Haute), *Dissensus Communis: Between Ethics and Politics* (Koros, 1996) and co-editor (with Anna Yeatman), *Aporia of Rights: Citizenship in an Era of Human Rights* (Bloomsbury, 2014). She is the author of numerous articles and book chapters on Arendt, Agamben, Foucault, Heidegger, Hobbes, and Rousseau. She has just completed a monograph, *Hannah Arendt and Glory: Political Immortality in an Age of Superfluosity*. She is also the editor of *Philosophy Today*.



Matías Sirczuk, Researcher for the National Scientific and Technical Research Council (CONICET) in Argentina and a professor of Political Theory at the University of Buenos Aires. He is also a María Zambrano postdoctoral researcher at the Philosophy and Gender Seminar and ADHUC - Research Centre for Theory, Gender, Sexuality at the University of Barcelona, a member of the Arendtian Group on Thought and Politics and a researcher at the Gino Germani Research Institute. He holds an undergraduate degree in Sociology from the University of Buenos Aires, a Master's in Contemporary Thought and a PhD in Philosophy from the University of Barcelona. He has worked as a professor at the University of Buenos Aires, at the Open University of Catalonia, Pompeu Fabra University, and the University of Barcelona. His areas of research include modern and contemporary political theory, democratic theory and totalitarianism, as well as contemporary readings of the tradition of political thought. He has published *Claude Lefort* (co-edited with Claudia Hilb, Katz editors, 2023), *Fundación y legitimidad en la modernidad política: Carl Schmitt, Hannah Arendt y Claude Lefort* (Prometeo editorial, 2018), *Hannah Arendt* (co-edited with Lorena Fuster, Katz editores-Eudeba, 2017), and *Gloria, Miedo y Vanidad. El rostro plural del hombre* (in collaboration with Claudia Hilb, Prometeo editorial, 2007). He is currently working on the book *Donde está la política? Hannah Arendt y Judith Butler*, to be published by Editorial Herder.

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Maria Robaszkiewicz is a postdoc at Paderborn University, Germany, from where she also received her PhD (2015), discussing Hannah Arendt's concept of exercises in political thinking. In 2022/2023 she was a visiting professor at the Centre for the Studies of Theory and Criticism and a Visiting Fellow at King's College, Western University, London ON, Canada. She is a member of the editorial board of the online journal *HannahArendt.net*, and an affiliated researcher at the Center for History of Woman Philosophers and Scientists. Recently, she published the book *Hannah Arendt and Politics. A Critical Introduction*, together with Michael Weinman (Edinburgh University Press, 2023).



Zeynep Gambetti, is an independent researcher in political theory and co-chair of the International Board of the International Consortium of Critical Theory Programs, an international research network on critical theory. She has been an associate professor in the Department of Political Science and International Relations at Boğaziçi University in Istanbul. Her research focuses on collective agency, public space, critical theory and Marxist theory, and ethics in the age of neoliberal globalisation. She has published various articles and chapters on political thought and subjectivity in the work of Hannah Arendt and co-authored the book *Vulnerability in Resistance: Politics, Feminism, Theory* (Duke University Press, 2016) with Judith Butler and Leticia Sabsay. Together with Marcial Godoy-Antivia, she published *Rhetorics of Insecurity: Belonging and Violence in the Neoliberal Era* (New York University Press, 2013). She has researched the transformation of the conflict between the Turkish state and Kurdish separatists in south-eastern Turkey, with a particular emphasis on space as a vector of relationality.



Debadya Bhattacharya, Debadya Bhattacharya is a professor of literature at Kazi Nazrul University (Asansol, India) and is currently a resident at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, New Jersey. His main research interests centre on the socio-economic history of higher education, and specifically on practices of mobilisation, protest and censorship in the Indian context; he has also done research on continental philosophy, Renaissance studies and technology. Bhattacharya holds a doctorate from Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi. He has worked at Calcutta University and is a committee member for the International Consortium of Critical Theory Programs (ICCTP), an international research network on critical theory. He served as co-editor of the essay *Sentiment, Politics, Censorship: The State of Hurt* (SAGE, 2016) and editor of *The Idea of the University: Histories and Contexts* (Routledge, 2019).

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Judith Butler is Maxine Elliot Professor in the Department of Comparative Literature and the Program of Critical Theory at the University of California, Berkeley, and Hannah Arendt Chair and Professor of Philosophy at The European Graduate School (EGS). After her initial work in the field of gender studies, she has since published influential books in the fields of ethics, politics and human rights. She is presently deemed to be one of the world's most influential intellectuals. Notable among her books published in Spanish are *El género en disputa: el feminismo y la subversión de la identidad* (Paidós 2007 - Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity, 1990); *Cuerpos que importan* (Paidós – Argentina, 2008 – Bodies That Matter: On the Discursive Limits of Sex, 1993); *Marcos de guerra. Las vidas lloradas* (Paidós 2009 – Frames of War: When Is Life Grievable? 2009); and *Deshacer el género* (Paidós 2012 – Undoing Gender, 2004). She has also published *Dispossession: The Performative in the Political* (co-authored with Athena Athanasiou, 2013), *Senses of the Subject* (2015) and *Notes toward a Performative Theory of Assembly* (2015) The CCCB's bilingual "Breus" collection has published three of her lectures *Vulnerabilitat, supervivència* (Vulnerability, Survival, 2008) and *Violència d'Estat, guerra, resistència* (State Violence, War, Resistance, 2010). The latter text was also published in Spanish by Katz Ediciones in 2011) and *Cossos que encara importen* (Bodies that still matter, 2017).



Rosaura Martínez Ruiz Professor of Philosophy at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). Her main line of research is the analysis of problems of contemporary ontology with particular emphasis on questions of subjectivity. Interested in the dialogue between philosophy and psychoanalysis, she has studied the impact that the latter has had on some classical philosophical problems, and has specialized in the crossover between the thought of Jacques Derrida and the work of Sigmund Freud. She is the author of *Freud y Derrida. Escritura y psique* (SIGLO XXI, 2013), among other works and articles.