

Tracing Impacts and Representations of 1968

October 12-13, 2018

Organizing committee: Ivan Ermakoff (Sociology), Ernesto Livorni (Italian), Marc Silberman (German), Florence Vatan (French)

Sponsors: Center for European Studies / Center for German and European Studies Co-sponsors: French and Italian; German, Nordic, and Slavic; Havens Center; Women and Gender Studies; Cinematheque; History; Comparative Literature

Friday, October 12, 2018

UW Cinematheque, 7:00 pm, 4070 Vilas Hall Zabriskie Point (Michelangelo Antonioni, 1970, 112 min.)

In one of the key films of its era, two neophyte actors play a pseudo-revolutionary and a secretary who meet in Death Valley, fall in love and dream of overthrowing the system. While their rebellion may be aimless, Antonioni's critique of the Establishment and the imperialism of corporate capitalism is poignant and stinging. Zabriskie Point is a state-of-the-decade address portraying the conflicts of an America at war with itself. The literally explosive finale must be experienced on the big screen.

Saturday, October 13, 2018

Workshop, 9:00 am – 6:00 pm, 8417 Sewell Social Sciences Building

This is the year of global commemorations of the 50th anniversary of 1968. For many it marks an occasion to look back at the events and participants associated with what is widely viewed as a political and social rupture after the devastation of the Second World War. We aim at a different focus: to engage an interdisciplinary dialogue with a small group of younger, post-68 researchers that avoids nostalgia and mythmaking and introduces new methodological approaches to the transgenerational and transnational consequences of "1968" in the European context. We are not interested in a reconstruction of "1968" or an elaboration of what happened in any particular place or context in Europe. Instead, our speakers will focus on the impact(s), especially on the next generation(s), i.e., those who came of age in the 70s/80s or 90s/00s. Both research-based and conceptual approaches (or a combination of both) characterize the work of our presenters: oral history interviews of school children concerning their curriculum and 1968; the global context of 1968 and the cinema; the legacy of terrorism generated by "1968"; divergent memories of the "Prague Spring" in Eastern and Western Europe; and the differentiated gender perceptions of "1968." Join us for a dialogue about the intersections or resonances between the different fields/disciplines represented by the scholars we have invited.

9:00 – arrival

9:15 – Welcome (Prof. Pamela Potter, Center for European Studies / Center for German and European Studies)

9:30 – 11:00 (tbd)

Julian Bourg (History, Boston College)

bc.edu/bc-web/schools/mcas/departments/history/people/faculty-directory/julian-bourg.html

“Time, Politics, and Theory after 1968”

Ludivine Bantigny (History, L’Université de Rouen)

grhis.univ-rouen.fr/grhis/?page_id=362

“1968: How to Change Life?”

11:00 – 11:30 coffee break

11:30 – 1:00 (tbd)

Boris Gobille (Political Science, L’Ecole normale supérieure, Lyon)

franceculture.fr/personne/boris-gobille

“What May 68 Did to Literature? Some Working Hypotheses”

Vincenzo Binetti (Italian Studies, University of Michigan)

lsa.umich.edu/rll/people/faculty/vbinetti.html

“Rethinking Revolution: Politics of Literature, Counterculture, and Language(s) of Revolt in Italy during the ‘60s and ‘70s”

1:00 – 2:30 Lunch Break

2:30 – 4:00 (Moderator: Prof. Patrick Rumble, Italian, UW-Madison)

Christine Gerhardt (German Studies, University of Hawai’i at Mānoa)

manoa.hawaii.edu/ilea/german/faculty/christina-gerhardt/

“The Legacies of 1968”

Andrew Port (History, Wayne State University)

clasprofiles.wayne.edu/profile/ar6647

“Echoes of ‘1968’: German Domestic Debates about – and Responses to – Genocide Abroad, 1975–1995”

4:00 – 4:30 Coffee Break

4:30 – 6:00 (Moderator: Prof. Mary Louise Roberts, History, UW-Madison)

Jonathan Bolton (Slavic Studies, Harvard University)

faculty.slavic.fas.harvard.edu/jonathan-bolton/home

“The Prague Spring in European History: When Did ‘1968’ Come to Czechoslovakia?”

Kristina Schulz (History, University of Bern)

unine.ch/histoire/home/collaborateurs_trices/liste-des-collaborateurs/prof-kristina-schulz.html

“Gender Relations and the Women’s Liberation Movement”