

Presence | Embodiment

Call for Participation

Key Concepts of the Humanities and Social Sciences | GSH | Interdisciplinary Cultural Studies

Guest: Prof. Dr. Diana Taylor, New York University

Moderation: Prof. Dr. Christina Thurner, Universität Bern

Date/Room: Public Lecture: April 6, 2017, 6:15 - 7:30 pm in F013 (tbc), Unitobler, Lerchenweg 36
Colloquium: April 7, 2017, 10:15 am - 5:00 pm in F-106 (tbc), Unitobler, Lerchenweg 36

ECTS: 1.5

Application: By February 15, 2017 to toggweiler@wbkolleg.unibe.ch and in KSL:
<https://www.ksl.unibe.ch/> (Login with UniBe account, search with title)

Public Lecture

Presente! The politics of presence

Presente! can be understood as a war cry, an act of solidarity and/or witnessing, a way of being in the world, compliance to roll call, a showing, display, or declaration of presence. *Presente!* announces a different way of being present, physically and politically, an act of embodied form of engagement with others and “situated knowledge” (Haraway) that takes us beyond the disciplined and restrictive ways of knowing that our Eurocentric traditions offer us. In this talk, I join fellow travelers fleeing from disciplines, the academy, to search for alternative epistemic practices elsewhere—in art, performance, and other forms of world-making. *Presente!* envisions knowledge not as something to be harvested and commercialized but, rather, as an engaged knowing, as a process of *being with*, walking and talking with others with all the pitfalls, complications and contradictions that entails. Can *presence* help us re-imagine our disciplinary practices so that we collectively participate in the decolonialization of knowledge production? The talk invites us to think together.

Colloquium

For PhD students and advanced Master students of the University of Bern

Part 1 of the colloquium is dedicated to the discussion of the lecture and the texts suggested by the guest. In Part 2, a core group present their PhD thesis, speaking for about 20 minutes on how the concept of "presence|embodiment" (and/or similar concepts and terms) connect to their research questions and which aspects of the texts are of particular relevance to their own work. The presenters raise questions for the discussion with their peers, which should contribute to the development of their thesis. Finally, in Part 3, the conversation will open up again so that the other PhD or advanced MA-students have an opportunity to address issues related to their projects.



Diana Taylor is University Professor and Professor of Performance Studies and Spanish at New York University. She is the author of numerous books [Theatre of Crisis (1991), Disappearing Acts: Spectacles of Gender and Nationalism in Argentina's 'Dirty War' (1997), The Archive and the Repertoire: Performing Cultural Memory in the Americas (2003) and Performance (2016)], edited books, and articles. She is also the recipient of several major awards, including the Guggenheim. Taylor is Founding Director of the Hemispheric Institute of Performance and Politics that brings artists, activists, and scholars together from throughout the Americas to work collaboratively for progressive social change (hemisphericinstitute.org). In January, 2017, Taylor becomes President of the Modern Language Association.