

Call for Papers
Graduate Student Conference at Columbia University
Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures

Hangover: Epigones and the Mourning After

April 26-27, 2013

Keynote: Jacques Lezra (NYU)

Hangover is an interdisciplinary conference dealing with the elements that linger on, for better or for worse, in literature, culture, and politics. This conference is reactionary--against the present critical discourses of events, of intoxication, of revolution, and of genius. All four share a quality (the altered state) and a temporality (the present). And yet it is clear that any reflection on the having-been-altered state will necessarily be made from the perspective of the new status quo. Our memory of the past is imperfect. While the various currents of thought invoked above have all in their own ways come to terms with this headache, this conference represents an explicit attempt to thematize such a limitation.

The hangover as a metaphor/figure/topology seeks to engage the aftereffects of these various manifestations of rupture and alienation. What would it mean to examine a post-evental perception? A hungover politics? A reactionary writing? An epigonal idea? What are the implications of remainders, refusing to divide into the whole, for postwar literary generations and the mutation of genres? Can the hangover serve as a lens to focus these questions?

By isolating what hangs over from one state into the next, our conference investigates the position from which we ask: What was happening?

Topics could include but are certainly not limited to:

- Post-war literary generation(s)
- Restoration of power
- Reinvestment of representation
- Theory of the après garde
- The Mourning After: Messianic Temporalities
- Remembering the 60's
- Epigones
- Altered States: Sovereign Hangovers
- Representations of hangovers in literature
- “Awakening”
- Event versus historical continuity
- Literary remainders

Participants should submit an abstract of around 300 words for a 20-minute presentation to Michael Swellander and Ross Shields at hangovers2013@gmail.com by January 15th, 2012.