

The Graduate Program in Social and Political Thought
in collaboration with the Black Studies and Theories of Race and Racism Implementation Committee
presents

Strategies of Critique XXXIV:

Abolition

Virtual Conference | 6 – 8 May 2021

Call for Proposals

Strategies of Critique is soliciting proposals for papers, panels, workshops and seminars on the theme of abolition. Abolition interrogates the relationship between history, theory and revolutionary practice through the lens of the abolition movement and its demands for the end of – among other things – slavery, prisons, police, property and the state.

Abolition is a category, epistemological frame and a political vision whose goals are the elimination of enslavement, settler colonialism, imprisonment, policing and surveillance, and the creation of lasting alternatives to violence, punishment and imprisonment. It is a profound intervention in social and political thought, responding to the realities of anti-Black racism and promising a future of liberation. Abolition is rooted in the centuries-long history of struggle against European enslavement of African peoples; despite the nominal end of slavery and endless prison “reforms”, abolitionists continue these struggles to this day. Noting the hypocrisy of European promises of freedom that are premised on white supremacy, abolitionists have pointed out – and have been deeply implicated in the resistance to – the interdependence of race, gender, capitalism and settler colonialism as systems of domination and exploitation.

The deeply philosophical notion of abolition indicates transformation, liberation and the moment of dialectical sublation. As a diagnosis, abolition demands a radical break with existing society. As a praxis, it orients us in the direction of much broader and long durées struggles in and against enslavement, settler colonialism, empire and racial capitalism. As a process, it also offers a political program to move beyond that break. On scales from personal to planetary, abolition insists that we rethink the meaning of justice and provides us with the intellectual and social resources needed to build thriving communities.

Potential topics can include, but are not limited to:

- Transatlantic, hemispheric and oceanic studies
- Defunding the police; community building practices
- Black feminisms
- Queer of colour critiques; trans and queer resistance
- Political ecologies of resistance, planetary futures
- Indigenous struggles and contestations, coalitions and collaborations
- Decolonial pasts, presents and futures
- Settler colonialism and its structures
- Temporal orientations of abolition
- Dialectics of liberation
- Perspectives and critiques of post-/anti-/humanism
- Biographies of relevance, pertinent case studies, ongoing histories
- Carcerality and regimes of surveillance

Submit to: strategiesofcritique2021@gmail.com

Submission Deadline: March 2, 2021

Virtual Conference Date: May 6 – 8, 2021

For individual proposals, please submit a 250-word abstract and a 100-word biography.

For panels, workshops, and seminar proposals, please submit a description of the event (up to 250 words per panelist or facilitator) and 100-word biographies.