



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
SYDNEY

CAN

CRITICAL ANTIQUITIES NETWORK

## Critical Antiquities Workshop

Department of Classics and Ancient History/CCANESA

**Semester 2, 2020**

### Session 1:

Friday September 11<sup>th</sup> 12pm-1:30pm (Sydney AEST GMT+10)

Charles Barbour (Western Sydney University)

*The Last of the Schoolmen: The Young Marx, Latin Culture, and the Doctoral Dissertation*

### Session 2:

Friday October 9<sup>th</sup> 10am-11:30am (Sydney AEST GMT+10)

Vanessa Lemm (Flinders University)

*The Return of Ancient Cynicism in Contemporary Philosophy*

### Session 3:

Friday November 13<sup>th</sup> 11am-1pm (Sydney AEST GMT+10, 7-9pm Eastern US)

Special Double Book Launch:

- Michael della Rocca (Yale University), *The Parmenidean Ascent*
- Dimitris Vardoulakis (Western Sydney University), *Spinoza, the Epicurean*

With comments presented by the authors and distinguished guests **André Laks** (Universidad Panamericana, Mexico City) and **Russ Leo** (Princeton).

### Session 4:

Friday December 4<sup>th</sup> 6pm (Sydney AEST GMT+10)

Glenn Most (Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa, and The University of Chicago)

Paper title TBC

## Abstracts and Zoom Links

**Friday September 11<sup>th</sup> 12pm-1:30pm (Sydney AEST GMT+10)**

**Charles Barbour (Western Sydney University)**

*The Last of the Schoolmen: The Young Marx, Latin Culture, and the Doctoral Dissertation*

Abstract:

This paper examines Marx's earliest writings, especially his doctoral dissertation on the 'Difference Between Democritean and Epicurean Philosophy of Nature' and the notebooks he kept while preparing it, not in relation to his later writings, and not in relation to the history of Marxism, as has been the standard approach among commentators thus far, but in relation to the specific historical and discursive contexts in which they were produced. I argue that these documents suggest that Marx was less a part of what some commentators call a 'Western Tradition' that ostensibly stretches from the ancients to modernity, than he was of what I call 'Latin culture', or the Latin-speaking culture that persisted in Europe throughout medieval times and into the nineteenth century. When we examine Marx's early writings in this context, I maintain, and in the context of debates occurring in Germany in the middle part of the nineteenth century, the practical social, political, and economic consequences of what otherwise appear to be abstract theological and metaphysical speculations become apparent. Through his writing, Marx always sought, not merely to interpret, but to change the world.

<https://uni-sydney.zoom.us/j/99370756814>

(No password)

**Friday October 9<sup>th</sup> 10am-11:30am (Sydney AEST GMT+10)**

**Vanessa Lemm (Flinders University)**

*The Return of Ancient Cynicism in Contemporary Philosophy*

Abstract:

The paper investigates the return of the key themes of Ancient Cynic philosophy in Contemporary Political Philosophy, including in the works of Foucault, Derrida, Agamben, Sloterdijk and Esposito. It argues that at the heart of this return is a new thinking about community.

<https://uni-sydney.zoom.us/j/95382969246>

Password: 836460

**Friday November 12<sup>th</sup> 11am-1pm (Sydney AEST GMT+10, 7-9pm Eastern US)**

**Special Double Book Launch:**

- **Michael della Rocca (Yale University), *The Parmenidean Ascent***
- **Dimitris Vardoulakis (Western Sydney University), *Spinoza, the Epicurean***

With comments presented by the authors, and distinguished guests **André Laks (Universidad Panamericana, Mexico City)** and **Russ Leo (Princeton)**.

<https://uni-sydney.zoom.us/j/91399776942>

Password: 468011

**Friday December 4<sup>th</sup> 6pm (Sydney AEST GMT+10)**

**Glenn Most (Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa, and The University of Chicago)**

*Paper title TBC*

<https://uni-sydney.zoom.us/j/99914709097>

Password: 136030

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**The Critical Antiquities Workshop is an initiative of the Critical Antiquities Network (CAN) at the University of Sydney. CAN, co-directed by Ben Brown and Tristan Bradshaw, connects scholars working at the intersection of ancient traditions and contemporary critical theories.**