

## Radical Foucault: An International Conference

September 8th - 9th, University of East London (Docklands Campus)

Centre for Cultural Studies Research, University of East London

<http://culturalstudiesresearch.org/?p=591>

Following the superb international response to our initial call for papers, we have decided to expand the event into a two-day conference. This has opened up a very limited amount of space for further contributions. Abstracts of no more than 350 words are invited, to arrive no later than Sunday May 8th 2011.

The publication of Michel Foucault's Lectures at the Collège de France, 1983-84 in English will be complete in April 2011 and his first Collège de France lecture course, *La Volonté de Savoir* will be published for the first time in February. The Centre for Cultural Studies Research at the University of East London is holding an international conference which will re-assess Foucault's contribution to radical thought and the application of his ideas to contemporary politics. What does it mean to draw on Foucault as a resource for radical politics, and how are we to understand the politics which implicitly informs his work?

Many commentators today would seem to claim Foucault as the theorist of a politics which eschews all utopian ambition in favour of a certain governmental pragmatism, while others would claim him for a rigorous but ultimately rather simple libertarianism: can either of these positions ever be adequate to the radicalism of Foucault's analyses? Does it matter?

What is the significance of Foucault's ideas of 'governmentality' and 'biopolitics' in understanding his later oeuvre and its implications; do either of these terms deserve to carry the weight attributed to them by some commentators? What is the ongoing relevance of Foucault's account of disciplinary power: is it, as Lazzarato has claimed, a historical category no longer fully applicable to contemporary forms of power?

How can Foucauldian ideas be brought bear on the analysis of austerity politics? Is there a role for Foucault's ideas in formulating effective resistance

to the increasing erosion of civil liberties that operates both within countries and across state boundaries? Can the notion of bio-power account for contemporary forms of racism? How can Foucauldian epistemology enable an understanding of the biopolitics of contemporary scientific discourse?

Confirmed Keynotes:

Stuart Elden, Professor in the Department of Geography, Durham University.  
Mark Kelly, Lecturer in Philosophy, Middlesex University.

Subjects may include, but are not limited to:

Foucauldian thought and contemporary subjectivation

Foucault and other thinkers

Governmentality and everyday life

Strategic discourses of war and terror

New technologies of the self

Foucault and new forms of resistance

Heterotopias now and in the future

Foucault and the erosion of the state

Disciplinary society and the society of control

Foucault, British politics and the 'big society'

Foucault, post-Fordism and post-democracy

Email abstracts to Jeremy Gilbert ([j.gilbert@uel.ac.uk](mailto:j.gilbert@uel.ac.uk)) and Debra Benita Shaw ([d.shaw@uel.ac.uk](mailto:d.shaw@uel.ac.uk))

Registration will cost £110.00 per delegate (including lunch, not including accommodation or dinner) for both days. A day-rate of 65.00 will be available, but delegates will be strongly encouraged to attend on both days, and the organisers cannot promise to accommodate requests to present on a particular day.