Moments of Futurity:
From Present Conditions to Material(izing) Horizons

The 9th Annual Conference of the Marxist Reading Group

Featuring
Fredric Jameson

March 29 - 31, 2007 at the University of Florida

Sponsors:
The Department of English
ACCENT, BOCC, CLASSC, SG, OBT
and
The Marxist Reading Group

http://www.english.ufl.edu/mrg/
Thursday, March 29

10:00-10:30
Welcome, Coffee, and Bagels

10:30-12:00 (Dauer 219)
**NEW REPRESENTATIONS**
Moderator: Todd Reynolds
1) Jonah Gropper (University of Florida): “Dionysus vs. The Crucified; Nietzsche, Bergson, Einstein, and the ethics of space and time”
2) Sarah White (The University of Southern Mississippi): “Sebald and Braudel: Future through the Eyes of History”
3) James Royal (University of Florida): “Buddhist Technology Made Me Cool, or How to Meditate for Better Credit”

LUNCH

1:00-2:30 (Dauer 219)
**APPLIED POLITICS**
Moderator: Christopher Cowley
1) Shane Boyle (UC-Berkeley): “At the Global Divide: Presenting Life and Resistance on the Strait”
2) Stephanie Boluk (University of Florida): “Juche's Promise Lands: The Worker's Paradise and the Dream of Reunification”
3) Scott Nygren (University of Florida): “The Future as Labyrinth”

1:00-2:30 (Dauer 215)
**SOCIAL ALLEGORIES**
Moderator: Patrick McHenry
1) Ishay Landa (TU Braunschweig): “‘The Happiness of the Cow’ from a Socialist Perspective”
2) Christian Haines (University of Minnesota): “Saving The Future From The Present: Thomas Pynchon’s Against The Day, or Allegory in Times of Terror”
3) Stephanie Reich (University of Illinois-Chicago): “(Re)Imagining Past, Present and Future in Thomas Pynchon's Mason & Dixon”

2:45- 4:15 (Dauer 219)
**FUTURES OF THE PAST AND ANTECEDENTS OF THE FUTURE**
Moderator: Robin Nuzum
1) Al-Yasha Ilhaam Williams (Spelman College): “The Future of the Past: Afroturism and Modernist Critique”
2) Adam Wood (Albany State University): “(Post)Postmodernity and Progress: Marxism, Ethics, and Thoughts of Tomorrow”
3) Gib Prettyman (Penn State-Fayette): “History and the Future in Marxist Readings of Kim Stanley Robinson”
Thursday, March 29, continued

2:45- 4:15 (Dauer 215)
INTERVENTIONS AND NEGATIVE DIALECTICS IN FUTURE-TIME
Moderator: Stephanie Boluk
1) Aaron Winslow (University of Massachusetts-Amherst): "‘An already dawning tomorrow’: Narrative, Futurity, and the Limits of Race in the Work of W.E.B. Du Bois"
2) Prentiss Clark (SUNY-Buffalo): "‘(Inter)ruptures’ and the Profession(s) of Lonely Explorers"
3) Jaya Kasibhatla (Vanderbilt University): “Citizen Deferred"

4:30-6:00 (Dauer 219)
TOUCHING UTOPIA: GODARD, URRY, ADORNO
Moderator: Brian Todd Mann
1) Maureen Turim (University of Florida): "Utopia’s Disillusionment: a look at Travel(s) in Utopia, Jean-Luc Godard"
3) Koonyong Kim (Duke University): “Music and a Minimal Space of Philosophical Darstellung: Adorno’s Twelve-Tone Philosophy and Utopia"

BREAK

8:00—????
Social Event: Night at the Shamrock Pub (1017 W University Ave): “cash bar”-style
Friday, March 30

8:00-8:30
Coffee and Bagels

8:45-10:15
**DIAGNOSING THE FUTURE: MARXISM, PSYCHANALYSIS, AND THE UTOPIAN IMPULSE** (Dauer 219)
Moderator: Emily McCann
1) Kirk Boyle (University of Cincinnati): “The Future of Marxist Theory: Slavoj Žižek’s Psychoanalytic Marxism”
3) Matthew Feltman (University of Florida): “Creaturely Tricksters of the Real: Psychocinematicaly (Re)Configuring the Future”

10:30-12:00
**FUTURE HORIZONS: REPRESENTATIONS AND THE EVENT** (Dauer 219)
Moderator: Matt Snyder
1) Esra Atamer (SUNY-Binghamton): “The Event as the Counter-Actualization of Living Labor”
2) Kristine Danielson (Wayne State University): “Embodied Absence, Future Landscapes: The Photography of Boris Mikhailov”
3) Nils Plath (University of Osnabrueck): “On Future Arrivals of ‘Container Drivers’”

10:30-12:00
**MARXISM AND POP CULTURE: RAP, REALITY TELEVISION, AND ROCK & ROLL** (Dauer 215)
Moderator: Matthew Feltman
1) Carl Miller (University of Florida): “‘Many Years from Now’: Sgt. Pepper and the High Modernism of Rock ‘n Roll”
2) Graham Potts (York University): “(Im)material Class: Reality Television and the ReVision(ism) of Class”
3) Dan Thomas-Glass (University of California-Davis): “Furious Futurities: Theorizing the Collective in Grand Master Flash and Charles Bernstein”

LUNCH

1:00-2:30
**CROWDED SPACES** (Dauer 219)
Moderator: Jordan Dominy
1) Christopher Simeone (University of Illinois): “‘The Warm Thrill of Confusion’: Crowds, Primitive Past, and Male Power in London’s ‘South of the Slot’”
2) Marc Leverette (Colorado State University): “The Global Village, the Public Sphere, and Communitarian Cosmopolitanism: Toward a Marxian Reconsideration”
3) Nicole LaRose (University of Houston-Downtown): “London as ‘a city of bones’: Maureen Duffy’s Representation of Space, History, and Apocalypse”
Friday, March 30, continued

2:45-4:15
**Colonial History and Futurity** (Dauer 219)
Moderator: Laurel Czaikowski
1) Yiman Wang (UC-Santa Cruz): “The Negative Dialectic of Utopia—When One Person’s Utopic Future Becomes Another Person’s Ideological Past”
2) Lili Hsieh (University of Pennsylvania): “Wong Kar-Wai’s 2046, or, the Dialectic of Transnational Temporality”
3) Julie Chun Kim (University of Florida): “Charles Brockden Brown’s Histories of Colonial Violence”

4:30-6:00
**IMAGINING THE DIALECTIC** (Dauer 219)
Moderator: Raúl Sánchez
1) Philip Armstrong (The Ohio State University): “The Precarious Future”
3) Phillip Wegner (University Florida): “Greimas Avec Lacan; or, the Materializing Horizons of the Dialectic”

DINNER

8:00 (Keene Faculty Center)
**Keynote Address by Fredric Jameson:** "The Dialectic Today"
Reception to follow at off-campus location
Saturday, March 31

9:30-10:00  
Coffee and Bagels

10:00-11:30  
LABOR AND COMMODITIES (Dauer 219)  
Moderator: Heather Bigley  
2) Julian Holland (McMaster University): “A Golden Age for the Uneven Imaginary: Dialectical Negativity & the Unequal Distribution of Finance”  
3) Robert Tally (Texas State University): “Futures Trading: Derivatives, Insecurities, and the Crises of Late Capital”

10:00-11:30  
RE-READING MARXISM AND THE FUTURE (Dauer 215)  
Moderator: Michael Mayne  
2) Baolin Dang (York University): “Natural History and the role of Memory in Marcuse and Adorno”  
3) Galili Shahar (University of Florida): “Future and Memory: Walter Benjamin and the Counter-History”

LUNCH

1:00-2:30  
FUTURES OF MARXISM (Dauer 219)  
Moderator: Eric Doise  
1) Dragan Kujundzic (University of Florida): “vEmpire, and the Specters of Marx”  
3) Cesare Casarino (University of Minnesota): “Five Theses on the Life-Image; (or, Speculations towards a Marxian Concept of Biopolitical Aesthetics)”

1:00-2:30  
POPULAR UTOPIAS (Dauer 215)  
Moderator: Josh Miller  
1) Madhura Bandyopadhyay (University of Florida): “Parallel Spheres of Utopian Futures in Women’s Popular Romance Fiction”  
2) Iskandar Zulkarnain (Florida State University): “Dancing Pogo with the Culture Industry: Punk Movement in Indonesia”  
3) Daniel Shea (University of Houston-Downtown): “News from Nowhere and the Politics of Popular Literature"
Saturday, March 31, continued

2:45-4:15
**IDEOLOGY AND ECONOMICS IN 19th-CENTURY TRANSATLANTIC FICTION** (Dauer 219)
Moderator: Judith Page
1) Ari Adipurwawidjana (University of Louisiana at Lafayette): “Narrative Structure, Interpretive Prestructure, and Economic Infrastructure: Textual Gaps in the Doyle’s Sherlock Holmes Novels”
2) Huei-ju Wang (University of Florida): “Limits of Realism or Failure of Historical Imagination: Ideological Closure in Henry James’s *The Princess Casamassima“*
3) Pamela Gilbert (University of Florida): “Radical Victorian Poets and Millenial Narratives”

2:45-4:15
**TECHNOLOGY AND FUTURITY: PROJECTS OF HISTORICIZATION** (Dauer 215)
Moderator: Aaron Kashtan
1) Jordan Dominy (University of Florida): “It Beats the Shit Out of the U-Stor-It’: The Future Spaces of Capitalism in Stephenson’s *Snow Crash* and Nintendo’s *Animal Crossing*”
2) John Garrison (Independent): “Naming as a Means to Historicize the Future in William Gibson’s *Pattern Recognition*”
3) Aron Pease (University of Florida): “Empire of Software”

4:30-6:00
**ROUNDTABLE: “COLLECTIVITY NOW?"**
Moderator: Pamela Gilbert
1) Sarika Chandra (Wayne State University)
2) Jonathan Flatley (Wayne State University)
3) Susan Hegeman (University of Florida)

8:00—???
**Social Event** at MRG’s supporters’ house (map on back page); drinks provided

The Marxist Reading Group would like to give special thanks to the following people for their kind assistance and tireless support: John P. Leavey, Melissa Davis, Jane Dominguez, and Kenny Roberts from Orange and Blue Textbooks.
Directions to Saturday’s party*

Address: 222 NW 4th Ave
Phone: 352-336-0125

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N

↓ SW 13th St ↑

↓ Main St ↑

← University Ave →
Holiday Inn

222 NW 4th Ave

U Florida

Shamrock Pub
From UF, or University Hotel/Holiday Inn
- Drive east on University Ave (toward downtown)
- Turn left/north at Main Street
- Turn left/west at NW 4th Ave (a stoplight and funeral home mark the intersection)
- Park wherever you can along the street, but be mindful of tow-away signs.

* Not quite to scale.