



Chicago Center for Contemporary Theory
Inaugural Symposium

THEORIZING THE PRESENT

Friday, April 8, 2005

at the Franke Institute for the Humanities

- 9:00 a.m. Breakfast
- 9:15 a.m. Welcome and introductory remarks on the intellectual project of the Chicago Center for Contemporary Theory (3CT)
Jean Comaroff, Director of the Center and Bernard E. & Ellen C. Sunny Distinguished Service Professor of Anthropology
- 9:45–11:45 a.m. Susan Buck-Morss, Professor of Government and Director of the Visual Studies Program, Cornell University
“Global Imagination”

Chair: Lisa Wedeen, 3CT Faculty Fellow and Associate Professor of Political Science
Discussant: William Mazzarella, Assistant Professor of Anthropology
- 12:00 p.m. Lunch
- 1:00–3:00 p.m. Harry Harootunian, Professor of History and East Asian Studies, New York University
“Reflections on the Historical Present”

Chair: William Sewell, 3CT Associate Director and Frank P. Hixon Distinguished Service Professor of Political Science and History
Discussant: James Chandler, Barbara E. & Richard J. Franke Professor of English Language & Literature and Director of the Franke Institute for the Humanities
- 3:15–5:15 p.m. Achille Mbembe, Research Professor in History and Politics, University of the Witwatersrand,
“Life, Race, and Sovereignty”

Chair: Dipesh Chakrabarty, 3CT Faculty Fellow and Lawrence A. Kimpton Distinguished Service Professor of South Asian Languages & Civilizations, and History
Discussant: Lauren Berlant, Professor of English Language & Literature
- 5:15 p.m. Concluding remarks
John Comaroff, 3CT Faculty Fellow and Harold H. Swift Distinguished Service Professor of Anthropology and Sociology
- 5:30 p.m. Reception

