Conspiracy/Theory

Friday

9:30  Coffee

10:15  Welcome and Introduction:
       Lisa Needen and Joseph Masco

10:30  Panel I / Origin Stories
       George Shulman (NYU)
       Genre and Imposses In American Politics and Literature

       Faith Millis (UChicago)
       Conspiracy and Its Curious Afterlives:
       The Case of Russia’s First Back of Liberal Democracy

       Timothy Melley (Miami)
       Conspiracy, Theory and the (Secret) Work of the State

12:30  Lunch

Oct 6  Oct 7  2017
Conspiracy/Theory interrogates the terms of public discourse in a mass-mediated age of amplified information warfare, ongoing structural and overt violence, and stark ideological divides. Assessing the value of social theory in a moment of widespread confusion over basic principles of epistemology, governance, law, and democratic practice, Conspiracy/Theory explores the challenges to scholarly work when knowing itself is being strategically drawn into question across multiple domains, including politics, war, finance, and the environment. We engage “conspiracy” and “theory” as separate analytic terms that seem to collide while also implicating one another in moments of crisis. And we ask how scholars might respond to the limits of critical theory as well as to the political enticements of conspiracy.
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