

Trump, Social Class, and Psychoanalysis: A Psychosocial Exploration of Classed Injury and its Effects

Among the many voices expressing outrage in response to the Trump presidency that *The Times* published in its interactive opinion section following the inauguration, Gus, a working-class voter from South Carolina, offered a very different take: "This will be good. You'll see...Everyone in the world is walking all over the United States right now. Trump is strong, he won't let them. We need a strong leader."

How do we understand the complex subjectivities of those who, like Gus, see Trump as representing the good, and moreover, their own interests? Sociologists have long recognized the powerful force that class exerts in shaping particular and durable ways of seeing and being in the world. Psychoanalysis has been slower to consider how social and cultural factors impact the development of subjectivity and the experience of psychic suffering. This course will bring the insights of both disciplines into conversation with two aims in mind. The first is to gain a deeper understanding of working-class culture through the lens of the injurious psychic and social legacies produced by classed inequality. The second is to explore how sociological research about the structuring power of class might challenge and/or enlarge psychoanalysis's present theoretical constructs.

The majority of the readings will be selected from texts written by sociologists and psychosocial theorists who have made critical contributions within these fields. While some will be theoretically challenging, like that of Bourdieu, these will be balanced by more narratively-driven writing, including sections from Arlie Hochschild's *Strangers in their Own Land*.

The course will meet monthly from February to May; participants are asked to attend all four sessions. Meetings will take place on the fourth Thursday evening of each month. The first set of readings will be distributed via email in January. In addition to engaging the ideas of Bourdieu and Hochschild, we will also explore the work of some of the following theorists and practitioners: Valerie Walkerdine, Michele Lamont, Basil Bernstein, Joanna Ryan, Jennifer Silva, Annette Lareau, and Lillian Rubin.

Dates: Feb. 22, March 22, April 26, May 22 (Fourth Thursday of each month)

Time: 8-9:30PM

Location: TBA

Registration limited to 12

The course will be offered by Christine Maksimowicz. Christine holds a PhD in English and is a recent alumna of the MIP Postgraduate Fellowship Program. She is currently working on a monograph entitled, *"Who Do You Think You Are?": Recovering the Self in the Working-Class Escape Narrative*, a project that explores unrecognized classed injury in fiction and the pivotal roles imagination and self-narration may play in recuperative processes. Recent publications include a class-centered exploration of trauma in the fiction of Alice Munro in the *Journal of Literature and Trauma Studies* and an examination of classed shame in the Neapolitan Novels in *The Works of Elena Ferrante: Reconfiguring the Margins* (Palgrave 2017).