

Critical + Creative Social Justice Studies Cluster

Anti-Colonial Methods Project

Presents

Avery Gordon

Talking about her new book,

The Hawthorn Archive: Letters from the Utopian Margins

(Fordham University Press, 2018)

When: Thursday, 12 October 2017, 5:15PM- 6:30PM

Where: The Social Justice Institute, Buchanan Tower, 10th Floor, 1873 East Mall @ UBC

“The Hawthorn Archive, named after the richly fabled tree, has long welcomed the participants in the various Euro-American social struggles against slavery, racial capitalism, imperialism, and authoritarian forms of order. The archive is not a library or a research collection in the conventional sense but rather a disorganized and fugitive space for the development of a political consciousness of being indifferent to the deadly forms of power that characterize our society. Housed by the Archive are autonomous radicals, runaways, abolitionists, commoners, and dreamers who no longer live as obedient or merely resistant subjects.

In this innovative, genre- and format-bending publication, Avery F. Gordon, the “keeper” of the Archive, presents a selection of its documents – original and compelling essays, letters, cultural analyses, images, photographs, conversations, friendship exchanges, and collaborations with various artists. Gordon creative uses the imaginary of the Archive to explore the utopian elements found in a variety of resistive and defiant activity in the past and in the present, zeroing in on Marxist critical theory and the black radical tradition Fusing critical theory with creative writing in a historical context, *The Hawthorn Archive* represents voices from the utopian margins, where fact, fiction, theory, and image converge.

Reminiscent of the later fictions of Italo Calvino or Walter Benjamin’s *Arcades Project*, *The Hawthorn Archive* is a groundbreaking work that defies strict disciplinary, methodological, and aesthetic boundaries. And like *Ghostly Matters: Haunting and the Sociological Imagination*, which established Gordon as one of the most influential interdisciplinary scholars of the humanities and social sciences in recent years, it provides a kaleidoscopic analysis of power and effect. *The Hawthorn Archive*’s experimental format and inventive synthesis of critical theory and creative writing make way for a powerful reconception of what counts as social change and political action, offering creative inspiration and critical tools to artists, activists, scholars cross various disciplines, and general readers alike.” – Amazon.ca

*Professor of Sociology at the University of California, Santa Barbara and Visiting Professor at Birkbeck School of Law University of London. Her other recent books are, *The Workhouse: The Breitenau Room* (with Ines Schaber) and *Ghostly Matters: Haunting and the Sociological Imagination*. Her work focuses on radical thought and practice and most recently she’s been writing about captivity, war and other forms of dispossession and how to eliminate them. She serves on the Editorial Committee of the journal *Race & Class* and is the co-host of No Alibis, a weekly public affairs radio program on KCSB FM Santa Barbara.

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