



Continental Philosophy Seminar Series

Semester 2, 2019



Wednesday 18 September 4pm

Humanities 203, Flinders University Bedford Park

Professor Alison Ross: 'Walter Benjamin's Communism'

This paper explores whether it is possible to reconstruct a more or less well-defined picture of what Walter Benjamin means by communism from his relevant observations or allusions.

Benjamin's occasional remarks about the topic have been used in some quarters to claim that Benjamin has a quasi-Marxist theory of communist society. Such a claim is at odds with the conceptual core of Benjamin's thinking. Notions such as 'revolution' and 'alienation' have different meanings in Benjamin and Marx.

This paper will argue that Benjamin's image of 'communist society' refers to a type of experience ('collective experience') rather than a type of social organization. The paper discusses the conceptual background of that image and points out a number of the difficulties that Benjamin's conception of collective experience faces.

Register online: events.flinders.edu.au

Alison Ross is Professor in Philosophy at Monash University. She works mainly in the field of applied aesthetics. Her current research program is a conceptual investigation of images and image theory. She is also in the early stages of a project looking at signalling protocols in nature, which uses an aesthetic approach for the study of animal patterns and colours.

Flinders University's College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences is delighted to announce the 2019 Continental Philosophy Seminar Series. The first of its kind in South Australia, this exciting series of talks from prominent Australian and international philosophers will offer a unique opportunity for wide-ranging reflection on the challenges of the present and the perennial questions of the past.

Please direct enquiries to HASSenquiries@flinders.edu.au