About

Hysteria, Politics, and Performance Strategies

In Europe, around 1900, the hysterical was a well-studied object in arts and sciences; and re-appeared, a hundred years later, prominently in contemporary public discourse—especially in the United States—, where people in protest are continuously labeled as "(mass) hysterical". The hysterical in these current narratives references strikingly established representations of the hysterical as (public) performer that extend well beyond the European studies of the nineteenth century. The aim of this conference is to show the ways in which a historical European phenomenon enjoys an active legacy in the United States one hundred years later and, in turn, resonates around the world. This conference presents scholarship and practice-based research in relation to hysteria and performance from different disciplines and backgrounds and therefore brings together a diverse group of scholars and artists.

www.performing-hysteria.com

This conference is generously sponsored by the UCLA Department of French and Francophone Studies, UCLA Department of English, UCLA Department of Germanic Languages, UCLA Department of African American Studies, UCLA Department of Theater, UCLA Center for European and Russian Studies, UCLA Center for Performance Studies, UCLA Center for the Study of Women and supported by Sean Metzger (Professor in the UCLA Department of Theater and President of Performance Studies International). The UCLA Department of World Arts and Cultures/Dance is hosting the coffee break. Complimentary lunch on the terrace is generously sponsored by Le Pain Quotidien. This event is part of Johanna Braun’s (UCLA Schrödinger Fellow) postdoctoral research project “The Hysteric as Conceptual Operator”, which is funded by the Austrian Science Fund (FWF) [J 4164-G24].
9.30 am // Welcome and Introduction
Johanna Braun (Erwin Schrödinger Fellow, UCLA / University of Vienna)

Keynote
REVISITING HYSTORIES
Hysterical Epidemics and Social Media
Elaine Showalter (Emeritus Professor of English, Princeton University)

10–12pm // I. Hystorical Approaches

BENDING OVER BACKWARDS
Hysteria, Politics, and Performance Strategies
Johanna Braun (Erwin Schrödinger Fellow, UCLA / University of Vienna)

WANDERING Wombs AND ARCHING BODIES
The Hysterical Complex in Feminist Political Thought
Elke Krasny (Professor of Art and Education, Academy of Fine Arts Vienna)

PERFORMING DIAGNOSES, ENFORCING TREATMENT
Hysteria, the Rest Cure, and 19th-Century American Literature
Vivian Delchamps (Ph.D. Candidate at the UCLA Department of World Arts and Cultures/Dance)

THE PHANTOM ERECTION
Freud’s Dora and the Trauma of Non-impotence
Dominik Zechner (Ph.D. Candidate and Mellon Fellow, New York University)

12–1pm // Lunch Break

1–3pm // II. Agency in Hysterical Speech

SEX AND TRUTH
On Truth and Its Relation to the Cellar Regions of the Body
Arno Boehler (Associate Professor of Philosophy, University of Vienna and University of Applied Arts Vienna)

Susanne Valerie Granzer (Professor Emeritus for Acting at the Max Reinhardt Seminar, University of Music and Performing Arts, Vienna)

A RAGING FEMINIST, ANGRY BLACK BITCH, ANTI-MAN
Navigating Black Heterogeneity within the Movement for Black Lives
Funmilola Fagbamila (Adjunct Professor of Pan African Studies, California State University, Los Angeles)

READING/GHOSTING HYSTERIA
Laura González (Professor and Athenaeum Research Fellow at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and faculty member at Transart Institute for Creative Research)

3–3.30pm // Coffee Break

3.30–5.30pm // III. Contemporary Case Studies

DeLILLO AND MASS HYSTERIA
Sean Metzger (Professor in the UCLA Department of Theater and President of Performance Studies international)

PRIVATE THEATRES ONSTAGE
Reconsidering Hysteria as Gendered Performance
Tanya Augsburg (Professor in the School of Humanities and Liberal Studies, San Francisco State University)

HYSTERIA IN THE AGE OF MECHANICAL REPRODUCTION
Staging Symptoms in WestWorld
Cecily Devereux (Professor of English and Film, University of Alberta)

#METOO’S FIRST HORROR FILM
Male Hysteria and the New Final Girl in 2018’s Revenge
Tim Posada (Chair of Journalism, Saddleback College)