**About the School of contemporary humanities:**

The School of Contemporary Humanities is a new addition to this year’s Subversive Festival. Its aim is to establish an interdisciplinary scope of rethinking the problems of neoliberal capitalism. This space of interdisciplinarity is grounded between the NGO's and public educational system. This extra-institutional cooperation enables ground-breaking theories and forms of interdisciplinary research, enabled by the current structure of „Disciplined University“.

The course is organized as a series of three-hour lectures (two per day) from different disciplinary approaches gathered around a specified problem. Participants are expected to acquire knowledge and skills applicable to their undergraduate/graduate programs. The interdisciplinary interaction of perspectives aims to develop their analytical skills, critical capacity and contextual sensibility. During the five-day course the participants are obligated to write a problem related critical essay.

**Lecturers:**

Jorge Ferrer (California Institute of Integral Studies), John Hutnyk (Goldsmiths University), Jacqueline Loss (University of Texas), Željka Matijašević (University of Zagreb), Trinh Minh-ha (University of California, Bekeley), David Morley (Goldsmiths University) and Göran Therborn (Cambridge University)

**Course programme:**

Inherent antagonism between the privileged and the unprivileged is the crucial yardstick of neoliberal capitalism. Drinking water and healthy food accessibility, people sovereign right of national resources, access to public and common goods, labour legislation or taxation are some of the day-to-day examples of that antagonism. It should be treated as an act of violence; simultaneously economic and cultural, but necessarily structural. The interdisciplinary course „Cultural Violence of Capitalism“ gathers four illustrative perspectives on the relationship between economic base and social superstructure. The main notion is that superstructural violence is conditioning the base.

The first thematic unit questions the structural organization of the economic base. Theoretical models of political economy conceptualise different relations of the elements in the base.

However, the adaptability of neoliberal capitalism exemplifies its ability to relocate its elements in order to preserve itself. We will discuss examples of economic violence and the mechanisms of incorporating resistance in order to preserve structural functionality.

The second unit questions the exponent of the base in social relations – that is, social identities. Gender, race and class are the most used categories of conceptualising identity throughout the second half of the 20th century. Unfortunately cultural Marxism has been equalised with identity politics. Therefore, to analyse the aforementioned violence we have to re-evaluate cultural Marxism in its own tradition and close relation to political economy. On the superstructural level violence is inescapably ambivalent – identity relations are ontological violence over the other, but they lead to everyday social exclusion and confrontation. This course unit shall question the structural conditioning of identities as well as the emerging ruptures in the superstructure.

The third unit places identity relations in the context of everyday life with the emphasis on the influence of media representations. Raw historical event becomes an illusionary category in the context of the capitalistic regime of media representations. Apart from hegemony and interpellation, spectacularisation of the political and the „paranoid speech“, will also be discussed. This turns the focus of the unit onto epistemological violence.

In the Diagnostics and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-V) of the American Psychiatric Association from 2013, narcissism was supposed to be excluded from the list of personality disorders because of drastic increase of diagnosis. It is exactly the cultural violence of capitalism that increased this disorder and its consequential normativisation. The forth thematic unit questions the influence of cultural violence on the psychological construction of the subject, but it also questions the concept of subject itself. We will discuss potential causes of the widespread feeling of existential insecurity with the notion that it enables sustainability of the economic base.

The bureaucratic fragmentation/disciplinarisation of economic relations in the base is extended to identity relations trough cultural violence. This fragmentation enables a synthesis of experience in everyday life. The inability to generate shared social experience enables social cohesion, and therefore, the very opportunity for the formation of an antagonistic front that could intervene and radically change the structure of the economic base. Furthermore, the detachment of social elements in everyday life (macro level) fosters the feeling of instability and insecurity on the individual (micro) level. This explains the inefficiency of superstructural intervention in the base. This is why, in order to rethink the possibilities of a

shared social experience, we need to turn the page onto interdisciplinarity. Accordingly, the fifth unit will provide a synthesis of acquired knowledge and skills.

School’s convenors:

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