

# Philosophy Colloquium

## Fall 2025

September 25th

4:00 PM

214 Harriman Hall

*"Thinking War Otherwise:  
Simone Weil & Maria Zambrano's  
Critique of Political Violence"*

*Cristina Basili*



**Abstract:** This paper explores the political philosophy of Simone Weil and María Zambrano, focusing on their radical critique of war and violence. By analyzing key moments in their work, I argue that their thought constitutes a still partially unexplored conceptual laboratory for rethinking political rationality beyond its patriarchal and sacrificial logics. Both thinkers develop forms of critique that reject the legitimization of violence while also resisting pacifist idealism. This generative position opens up new pathways for imagining a pluralistic politics rooted in vulnerability, responsibility, and a radical refusal of dominion.

**Bio:** Cristina Basili is a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Global Fellow at the University of Bologna and The New School for Social Research. Formerly assistant professor at the Complutense University of Madrid, she was a DAAD fellow at the University of Bonn. Her research in the field of political philosophy combines the history of political thought, classical reception studies, and women's and gender studies in an interdisciplinary manner. Among her recent publications: C. Basili (ed.), *María Zambrano: perspectivas contemporáneas*, Escolar Editor, Madrid, 2024, and C. Basili (ed.), "Between Mysticism and Politics: Simone Weil Today," *Logos. Anales del Seminario de Metafísica*, 56, 2023. She serves as a secretary on the executive committee of the American Weil Society.

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