Philosophy Colloquium
Fall 2023

Book Discussion

Critique of Critique: Roy Ben-Shai in Conversation with Anne O’Byrne

Roy Ben Shai is Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Sarah Lawrence College. He has published on philosophy and nihilism, on Jean Améry, Nietzsche, Sartre, and other figures in the continental tradition. He is currently working on Emancipatory Thinking, the second volume in a trilogy on the concept of “orientation” in critical thought.

Anne O’Byrne is Associate Professor Philosophy at Stony Brook University. Her most recent book is The Genocide Paradox: Democracy and Generational Time (Fordham University Press, 2023). She is a specialist in social and political philosophy, democratic theory, and critical phenomenology.

What is critique? According to the Kantian tradition, it is an investigation of the limits and conditions of possibility of different modes of thinking: scientific, moral, and aesthetic/teleological. What remains unaddressed are the limits and conditions of possibility of critique itself. Through readings in the history of philosophy—from Plato, through St. Augustine, Descartes, and Kant, to Hegel, Marx, existentialism, and the Frankfurt school—Critique of Critique presents critique as an orientation of thinking, probing its structures and assumptions, uses and abuses. Doing so, the book also paves the way for considering alternative orientations of critical thought.

November 16th, 2023
5:30
214 Harriman Hall
Reception to Follow

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