



Fourth Research Seminar Series in Political Philosophy
Rethinking Politics: the Work of Wendy Brown

Venue: Pavilion Parade, Staff Common Room

(i) Reading Course: September and October 2013

**(ii) Workshop and Conference with Professor Wendy Brown, Grand Parade,
4 November 2013-8th November 2013**

This research seminar, hosted by CAPPE and the Faculty of Arts, is aimed at staff and research students interested in contemporary politics, philosophy and critical theory. Every year we focus on a different theorist or issue, engaging in a close critical reading of their work. In previous years we have read Badiou, Adorno and most recently Laclau. This year our reading of Wendy Brown's work finishes with a week-long workshop and conference between the 4th and the 8th of November. Professor Brown will lead a two day workshop, and then deliver a key note address for the conference.

On this course we will systematically read through Professor Brown's work, focusing on (among other topics) her critique of the gendered nature of politics and political philosophy, her conceptualisation of democracy and power, her engagement with the politics of the present, in light of our waning 'faith' in modernity, her sustained critique of liberal tolerance, and her account of walls, in light of the decline of sovereign power. We end the course with consideration of neoliberalism, as this will be one of the primary issues explored by Professor Brown during her visit to Brighton. All members of the Universities of Sussex and Brighton are welcome to participate. If you would like to attend please email Mark Devenney on md17@brighton.ac.uk.

All sessions, other than the introductory workshop, will be held between 4.30pm and 7.00pm on Monday evenings. The course will begin with a one day workshop, on Friday the 20th of September. A reading pack will be distributed to all participants.

READING COURSE OUTLINE

Opening Workshop Session 1 **Feminism and Political Thought**

Friday 20th of September, Pavilion Parade
10.00-13.00

Brown, W, 'Where is the Sex in Political Theory?' published in Women and Politics, Vol 7(1), Spring 1987.

Brown, W, 'Women's Studies Unbound: Revolution, Mourning, Politics' published in parallax, 2003, volume 9, no, 2, pp. 3-16 and available in Edgework: Critical Essays on Knowledge and Politics, Princeton University Press.

These two essays, written decades apart, introduce key elements of Brown's thought, including her interest in sovereign power, the gendered nature of politics and her critique and rethinking of a politics of mourning.

LUNCH: 13.00-14.00

Opening Workshop Session 2 **Wounded Attachments**

Friday 20th of September, Pavilion Parade,
14.00-16.00

Brown, W (1996) 'Wounded Attachments' chapter 3 in States of Injury: Power and Freedom in Late Modernity; Princeton University Press.

Brown, W (1996) 'The Mirror of Pornography' chapter 4 in States of Injury: Power and Freedom in Late Modernity; Princeton University Press.

Brown, W (1996) 'Liberalism's Family Values' chapter 6 in States of Injury: Power and Freedom in Late Modernity; Princeton University Press.

Session 3

Politics out of History: Engaging the Troubled Precepts of Modernity

Monday 23rd of September, Pavilion Parade,
16.30 - 19.00

During the next two sessions we will engage critically with Brown's Politics out of History. We will both examine the development of her arguments, and the readings of among others Freud, Marx and Nietzsche.

Brown, W (2001) chapters 1-4 Politics out of History, Princeton University Press, 2001.

Session 4

Politics out of History: Engaging the Troubled Precepts of Modernity

Monday 30th of September, Pavilion Parade,
16.30-19.00

Brown, W (2001) chapters 5-7 in 'Politics out of History, Princeton University Press, 2001;

Session 5

Politics and/as Critical Theory

Monday 7th of October, Pavilion Parade
16.30-19.00,

Brown, W (2005) 'At the Edge: The Future of Political Theory' in Edgework: Critical Essays on Knowledge and Politics, Princeton University Press.

Brown, W (2005) 'Untimeliness and Punctuality: Critical Theory in Dark Times' in Edgework: Critical Essays on Knowledge and Politics, Princeton University Press.

Session 6

Tolerance and the Politics of Empire

Monday 14th of October, Pavilion Parade
16.30 - 19.00

Brown, W (2006), 'Tolerance as a Discourse of Depoliticisation' in Regulating Aversion: Tolerance in the Age of Identity and Empire, Princeton University Press.

Brown, W (2006) 'Subject of Tolerance: Why We Are Civilised and They Are the Barbarians' in Regulating Aversion: Tolerance in the Age of Identity and Empire, Princeton University Press.

Session 7

Walled States and Waning Sovereignty Session 1

Monday 21st of October, Pavilion Parade
16.30 - 19.00

During this session we read Browns recent publication Walled states and Waning Sovereignty. Here Brown explores the apparent contradiction between the increased assertion of sovereign power in the building of walls across the globe, which she reads as simultaneously indicative of the decline, and consequent reformulation, of sovereign political power.

Brown, W (2010) Walled States, Waning Sovereignty, New York, Zone Books

Session 8
What is Neoliberalism?

Monday 28th of October, Pavilion Parade,
16.30-19.00

Our last seminar will discuss Brown's recent work on neoliberalism. Professor Brown is currently completing a publication about neoliberalism. She has been actively involved in campaigns against the outsourcing of all aspects of academic life, and when in Brighton she will talk about neoliberal politics, as well as its consequences for the future of the University.

Brown, W 'Neoliberalism and the End of Liberal Democracy' in Theory and Event, volume 7, issue 1 (available online)

Brown, W 'American Nightmare: Neoliberalism, Neo-conservatism, and De-Democratization' in Political Theory, 2006, 34.

MONDAY 4th of NOVEMBER – FRIDAY 8th of NOVEMBER
WORKSHOP AND CONFERENCE WITH PROFESSOR WENDY BROWN
GRAND PARADE, UNIVERSITY OF BRIGHTON