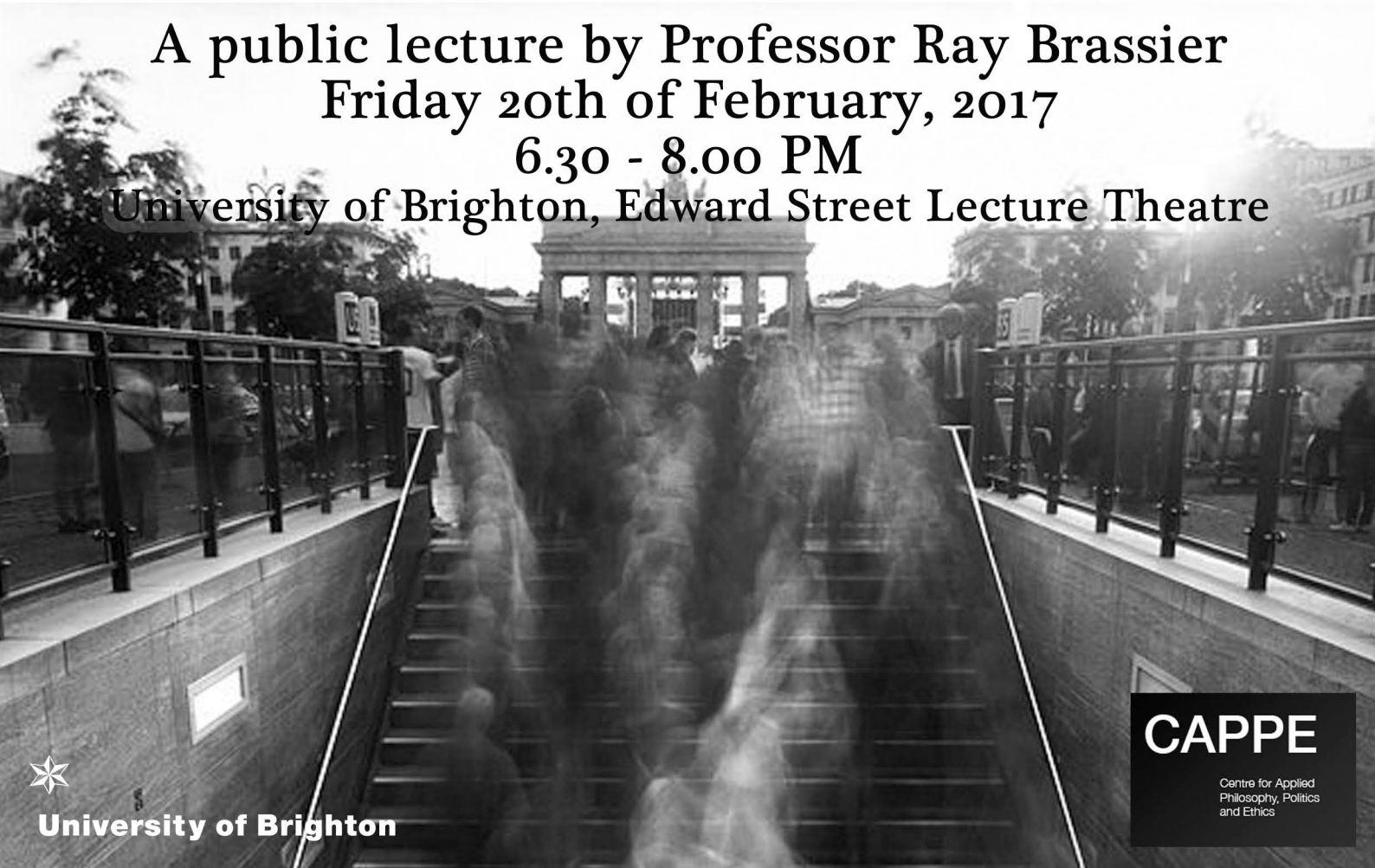


# The Persistence of Form: Hegel and Psychoanalysis

A public lecture by Professor Ray Brassier  
Friday 20th of February, 2017  
6.30 - 8.00 PM

University of Brighton, Edward Street Lecture Theatre



University of Brighton

CAPPE

Centre for Applied  
Philosophy, Politics  
and Ethics

## About the talk:

Much twentieth century philosophy was shaped by the rejection of Hegel's allegedly 'totalitarian' rationalism. But Hegel is also the pre-eminent thinker of negativity, infamous for claiming that everything is essentially contradictory. Hegel's claim that contradiction is the pulse of reason cuts to the core of traditional rationalism. In light of this, recent writers (Mladen Dolar, Slavoj Žižek, and Alenka Zupančič) have detected unexpected resonances between Hegel's conception of negativity and the psychoanalytic conception of the unconscious.

But where Hegelian negativity is a negativity in and of thinking – the negativity proper to conceptual rationality – the negativity of the unconscious cannot be confined to thought or subordinated to what Hegel calls 'the concept'. This talk will examine the distinction between these two modes of negativity and consider some of its implications for emancipatory politics.

Ray Brassier is the author of *Nihil Unbound: Enlightenment and Extinction* and the translator of Alain Badiou's *Saint Paul: The Foundation of Universalism and Theoretical Writings* and Quentin Meillassoux's *After Finitude: An Essay on the Necessity of Contingency*.

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