

Ontario College of Art & Design Gallery  
Toronto, 2014

(l-r) Adrian Blackwell, Claire Fontaine, Kernel, Becky Beasley

# Feminist Duration

## A Reading Group on Feminisms, Consciousness-Raising and Leave-Taking

This monthly reading group considers the resonance of earlier moments of feminist thinking, art and activism in contemporary life. Juxtaposing texts from the 1970s and 1980s with current positions, the group highlights feminist concepts of intimacy, communication and collectivity. The relevance of the practice of consciousness-raising, or *autocoscienza* within Italian feminism, is explored. Might a return to such tactics help us to combat the exhaustion, fragmentation and anxiety that we experience under networked capitalism today? What are the potentials, and pitfalls, of such collective processes of talking, listening, and analyzing?

Texts from outside the Anglo-American feminist tradition will be sought out. These include the works of Italian feminists Luisa Muraro and Carla Lonzi. Lonzi's accounts of her exit from the women's movement, the art world, and her intimate relationship with the artist Pietro Consagra, are key reference points, opening up questions about leave-taking and affective withdrawal as feminist tactics.

### Dates

Tuesdays at 7pm

July 14th, August 11th, September 8th, October 6th, December 1st

### Location

The first meeting will take place at Goldsmiths, University of London.

Please email for details, directions, and readings, to:

[h.reckitt@gold.ac.uk](mailto:h.reckitt@gold.ac.uk)

The Feminist Duration Reading Group builds on the research symposium *Feminist Duration in Art and Curating* that took part in Art Department at Goldsmiths, University of London, in March 2015.  
<http://art.gold.ac.uk/research/feminist-duration-in-art-and-curating/>

The Reading Group is part of a series of events – some public, others more intimate and unprofessionalised – that will culminate in a weekend of public activities in London in December 2015.

Carla Lonzi's thinking can therefore be regarded as a weapon that spares nothing—including its own author—and whose unsettling power still remains intact and contagious today.

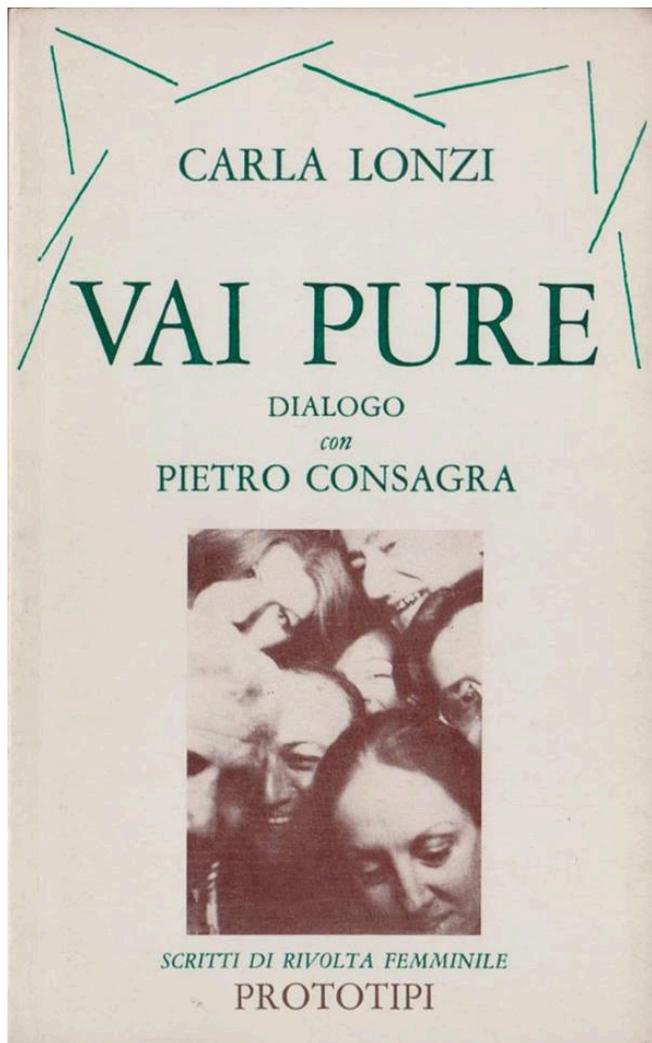
Claire Fontaine, *We Are All Clitoridean Women: Notes on Carla Lonzi's legacy*, e-flux, 2013





Through feminism I freed myself from the inferiority-culpability of being clitoridian ... and I accused men of everything. Then I started to doubt myself and to defend myself through every possible thought and inquiry into the past. Then I doubted myself completely in rivers of tears ... After that I was no longer innocent or guilty.  
—Carla Lonzi, *Taci, anzi parla*

Portrait of Carla Lonzi, date unknown. Photo: Lonzi Bassa.



**We no longer believe what men, politicians or journalists, scientists or husbands, say about us, about our destiny, about our desires and duties.**

**Donne e' bello / Woman is Beautiful, Anabasi group, 1972**

**WE DON'T BELIEVE  
WHAT THEY SAY  
ABOUT US**

1970s Italian feminist slogan

RESEARCH PROGRAMME, DEPARTMENT OF ART, GOLDSMITHS.

## Feminist Duration in Art and Curating

Goldsmiths, Department of Art, Research Symposium  
Venue: RHB 325 and 326  
16th and 17th March, 2015  
All Welcome

This two-day research symposium considers the resonance of feminist art, thinking and collectivity in contemporary life. *Killing an American Jones*' concept of 'local feminist temporality' - it explores feminist legacies, potentials and pitfalls to examine how tactics and strategies from earlier movements and projects are being re-examined and re-deployed today. Concerned with the dangers of reinscribing earlier struggles and succumbing to Left melancholy, the symposium looks at how feminisms in art and curating contribute to a consolidation of cultural production. Each speaker/panel opens up the differences in iteration and reiteration across place, time and context.

### Presenters:

Melie Anne, Lisa Busby, Knut Dahlberg, Claire Dargatzis, Claire Fontaine, Dineke Groot, Catherine Grant, Melissa Gordon, Laura Guy, Sharon Khanna, Nina Power, Helena Reckitt, Christina Thornström Kibus, Emily Raizenstein, Louise Shelley, Amy Tablin, Rebekah Zeman

Fulvia Carnevale, And They Ask for her Help More Than They Are Ready to Help Her, Lecture, Goldsmiths Research Symposium, Feminist Duration in Art and Curating, 2015

Carla Lonzi:

“Women’s oppression doesn't start within time but it hides in the darkness of the origins. Women’s oppression isn’t abolished by the killing of men. It isn’t abolished by equality. It continues within equality. It isn’t abolished by a revolution. It continues within revolution.”

Fulvia Carnevale of Claire Fontaine: And They Ask for her Help More Than They Are Ready to Help Her  
Feminist Duration in Art and Curating research symposium, Goldsmiths, 2015

With response by Nina Power



# Feminist Duration Reading Group, Unwritten Rules

Refer to the text.

We are not here necessarily to advocate for these positions, but to explore them and their current resonance and the difference in context between now and then.

Try not to show off about how much you know.

This is about learning and exploring, together.

Feminist Duration Reading Group, SPACE Studios,  
London.

Meeting on Lotta Feminista / Wages for  
Housework, September 2015



BACK / 2015  
11 AUG 2015



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## Feminist Duration: A Reading Group on Feminisms, Consciousness-Raising and Leave-Taking

Feminist Duration

A Reading Group on Feminisms, Consciousness-Raising and Leave-Taking

LIKE TWEET

**Tue 11 August, 7pm  
at SPACE**

This monthly reading group considers the resonance of earlier moments of feminist thinking, art and activism in contemporary life. Juxtaposing texts from the 1970s and 1980s with current positions, the group highlights feminist concepts of intimacy, communication and collectivity. The relevance of the practice of consciousness-raising, or *autocoscienza* within Italian feminism, is explored. Might a return to such tactics help us to combat the exhaustion, fragmentation and anxiety that we experience under networked capitalism today? What are the potentials, and pitfalls, of such collective processes of talking, listening, and analysing?

Texts from outside the Anglo-American feminist tradition will be sought out. These include the works of Italian feminists Luisa Muraro and Carla Lonzi. Lonzi's accounts of her exit from the women's movement, the art world, and her intimate relationship with the artist Pietro Consagra, are key reference points, opening up questions about leave-taking and affective withdrawal as feminist tactics.

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BACK / 2015  
06 OCT 2015



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## Feminist Duration: A Reading Group on Feminisms, Consciousness-Raising and Leave-Taking

Tue 06 Oct, 7pm  
at SPACE, Mare Street

LIKE TWEET

Next dates are: 03 Nov & 01 Dec

This monthly reading group considers the resonance of earlier moments of feminist thinking, art and activism in contemporary life. Juxtaposing texts from the 1970s and 1980s with current positions, the group highlights feminist concepts of intimacy, communication and collectivity. The relevance of the practice of consciousness-raising, or *autocoscienza* within Italian feminism, is explored. Might a return to such tactics help us to combat the exhaustion, fragmentation and anxiety that we experience under networked capitalism today? What are the potentials, and pitfalls, of such collective processes of talking, listening, and analysing?

We will continue our exploration of generative texts from the 1970s, this time focusing on aesthetic theory. We will look at Suzanne Santoro's 1974 artist book, *Towards New Expression*, and an article by Rozzika Parker in *Spare Rib* about its removal by the Arts Council from a show they themselves had organized.

The third reading will be from *Speculum of the Other Woman* by Luce Irigaray. Irigaray's ideas were taken up with great intensity by Italian feminists, including *Rivolta Femminile*, of which she Santoro was a member.

Please email for details and readings to: [h.reckitt@gold.ac.uk](mailto:h.reckitt@gold.ac.uk) and for directions: [persilia@spacestudios.org.uk](mailto:persilia@spacestudios.org.uk)

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09 SEP 2015



Feminist Duration: A Reading Group on Feminisms, Consciousness-Raising and Leave-Taking

11 AUG 2015



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06 OCT 2015



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03 SEP 2015



Feminist Duration: A Reading Group on Feminisms, Consciousness-Raising and Leave-Taking

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Feminist Duration: A Reading Group on Feminisms, Consciousness-Raising and Leave-Taking

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## Feminist Duration: A Reading Group on Feminisms, Consciousness-Raising and Leave-Taking

Tue 03 Nov, 7pm  
at SPACE, Mare Street

LINE TWEET

Next date is: Dec 01

The next meeting of the Feminist Duration Reading Group will focus on the work of Italian philosopher Adriana Cavarero.

Together we will read sections of her new book 'On the Outside of Milan'

11 AUG 2015



## Feminist Duration: A Reading Group on Feminisms, Consciousness-Raising and Leave-Taking

09 SEP 2015



## Feminist Duration: A Reading Group on Feminisms, Consciousness-Raising and Leave-Taking

06 OCT 2015





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Feminist Chorus for Feminist Revolt Performances, scored by Lucy Reynolds, at the Showroom during Now You Can Go. Image credit: Elynn Israel.

## Feminist Duration: A Reading Group on Feminisms, Consciousness-Raising and Leave-Taking

Tue 02 Feb, 7pm  
at SPACE Mare Street

[LINE](#) [TWEET](#)

Following the intensive Now You Can Go programme of events across several London arts venues in December 2015, which grew out of the Feminist Duration Reading Group, in the February meeting we will reflect on the programme and discuss ideas for future readings.

The Feminist Duration Reading Group is open to all.

Please contact Persilia for directions [persilia@spacestudios.org.uk](mailto:persilia@spacestudios.org.uk)

### Now You Can Go

The Feminist Duration Reading Group on 1<sup>st</sup> December was the first in the Now You Can Go events series exploring feminist art, theory and activism that takes place across The ICA, The Showroom, SPACE and Raven Row in December 2015.

Follow Now You Can Go on [Tumblr](#) and [Facebook](#)

01 DEC 2015



## Feminist Duration: A Reading Group on Feminisms, Consciousness-Raising and Leave-Taking

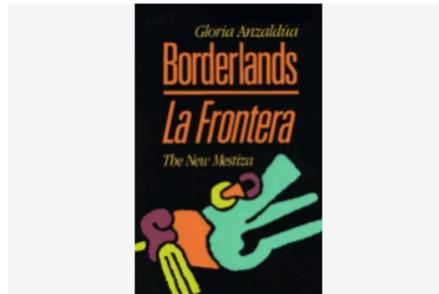
03 NOV 2015



## Feminist Duration: A Reading Group on Feminisms, Consciousness-Raising and Leave-Taking



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## Feminist Duration: A Reading Group on Feminisms, Consciousness-Raising and Leave-Taking

**Tue 5 Apr, 7pm**  
**SPACE Mare Street**

[LINE](#) [TWEET](#)

The next meeting of the Feminist Duration Reading Group will focus on the writing of Gloria Anzaldúa and Barbara Christian.

Together we will read selections from Anzaldúa's *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza* (1997), which departs from the Texas-US Southwest/Mexican border situation to address the psychological, sexual, spiritual borderlands inherent in any individual.

Beforehand, we invite everyone to read Barbara Christian's short essay 'The race for theory' (1987) to remind us how "much of the literature of the West has become pallid, laden with despair, self-indulgent, and disconnected".

We will start with a brief screening of a performance by the writer and artist Grada Kilomba.

This meeting will build on earlier explorations in the Feminist Duration Reading Group on experimental feminist writings, including forms of storytelling, autobiography and mythography.

The Feminist Duration Reading Group focuses on lesser-known positions and perspectives outside the dominant Anglo-American feminist canon in a spirit of collective exploration.

The Feminist Duration Reading Group is open to all.

Please contact the Feminist Duration organisers for copies of a reading by Gloria Anzaldúa and Barbara Christian to accompany the meeting: [feministduration@gmail.com](mailto:feministduration@gmail.com)

Please contact Persilia for directions [persilia@spacestudios.org.uk](mailto:persilia@spacestudios.org.uk)

Now You Can Go

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Follow Now You Can Go on [Tumblr](#) and [Facebook](#)

01 MAR 2018



Feminist Duration: A Reading Group on Feminisms, Consciousness-Raising and Leave-Taking

02 FEB 2018



Feminist Duration: A Reading Group on Feminisms, Consciousness-Raising and Leave-Taking

01 DEC 2018



Feminist Duration: A Reading Group on Feminisms, Consciousness-Raising and Leave-Taking

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My Sexuality is an Art Creation, Lucie Egeña Rojas, 2011

## Feminist Duration: Transfeminismo

**Tue 3 May, 7pm**  
**SPACE Mare Street**

[LINE](#) [TWEET](#)

The next meeting of the Feminist Duration Reading Group will focus on Spanish *Transfeminismo*.

We will start with an extract from the film *My Sexuality is an Art Creation*, by Lucie Egeña Rojas (2011). Together we will then read and discuss a translation of the *Manifiesto Transfeminista* (2010).

As the translation will be projected on the evening, there is no need for you to bring along a physical copy.

The Feminist Duration Reading Group is open to all.

For copies of Juan Vicente Aliaga's article *And the altar started to moon and groan! Transfeminist artistic practices in Spain, a taxonomy*, 2015, which will provide valuable context, please email: [feministduration@gmail.com](mailto:feministduration@gmail.com)

Please contact Persilla for directions [persilla@spacestudios.org.uk](mailto:persilla@spacestudios.org.uk)

### Now You Can Go

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05 APRIL 2016



Feminist Duration: A Reading Group on Feminisms, Consciousness-Raising and Leave-Taking

01 MAR 2016



Feminist Duration: A Reading Group on Feminisms, Consciousness-Raising and Leave-Taking

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Feminist Duration: A Reading Group on Feminisms, Consciousness-Raising and Leave-Taking

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1 of 1 - Venice, Party at the new Jacqueline Vidor's flat, 1976. Photo by Jacqueline Vidor © Fondazione Jacqueline Vidor & Bruno Zanone

## Feminist Duration: The Milan Women's Bookshop Collective and the Practice of the Unconscious

Tue 7 Jun, 7-9pm  
SPACE Mare Street

LINK TWEET

For this meeting we will return to what has already been a key reference point for the group: the 'sexual difference' feminism associated with the Milan Women's Bookstore Collective and other Italian feminist groups. In particular we will focus on issues of speaking and listening, translation and silence.

In a session led by Lucia Farinati, we will focus on the encounter between the Milan collective and the Politique et Psychoanalyse group from France, in 1972. This prompted new forms of feminist political practice that were key to the establishment of the Milan Women's Bookstore. This included the development of the Practice of the Unconscious and the practice of relationships among women.

### Together we will read

Lia Cigarini and Luisa Abbà, 'L'obiezione della donna muta' (The objection of the silent woman), which was published anonymously in "Settosopra", Milan, December 1976, and which Lucia has loosely translated for this meeting.

Teresa de Lauretis, 'Note on Translation', 1986, from *Sexual Difference: A Theory of Social-Symbolic Practice*, Indiana University Press

Alex Martinis Roe, 'Two Voices Due Vocì', Graduate School at Berlin University of the Arts, 2014

### Background Reading

Teresa de Lauretis, 'The Practice of Sexual Difference and Feminist Thought in Italy: An Introductory Essay' 1986 in *Sexual Difference: A Theory of Social-Symbolic Practice* (ibid)

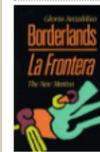
There is no need to read these texts in advance of the meeting as readings will take place together on the night. Please bring copies of the readings with you.

03 MAY 2016



Feminist Duration: Transfeminismo

06 APRIL 2016



Feminist Duration: A Reading Group on Feminisms, Consciousness-Raising and Leave-Taking

03 MAR 2016



Feminist Duration: A Reading Group on Feminisms, Consciousness-Raising and Leave-Taking

02 FEB 2016



Feminist Duration: A Reading Group on Feminisms, Consciousness-Raising and Leave-Taking

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Feminist Chorus For Feminist Revolt, a spoken distillation of texts from the Feminist Duration Reading Group, gathered into a score by Lucy Reynolds. The Showroom, as part of 'How You Can Go' 12 December 2015. Photo: Elyse Torvald.

## Feminist Duration Reading Group: Adriana Cavarero

**Tue 5 Jul, 7-9pm**  
**SPACE Mare Street**

LIKE TWEET

The Italian philosopher Adriana Cavarero, and her theories of the voice and relationality, singularity and uniqueness, will be the focus of the next Feminist Duration Reading Group. The session will be led by Sara Paiola and Lucia Farinati.

Together we will read an interview of Cavarero by Elisabetta Bertolino from 2008.

For background reading that gives insight into Cavarero's relationship to the work of Hannah Arendt and to the Milan Women's Bookstore collective's practice, we suggest:

- Hannah Arendt, 'The Disclosure of the Agent in Speech and Action,' in *The Human Condition*, 1958, pp. 175-181
- Adriana Cavarero, 'The Reciprocal Communication of Voices,' in *More Than One Voice: Toward a Philosophy of vocal expression*, 2006, pp.197-212

If we have time, we will read some of latter text together, too.

The Feminist Duration Reading Group is open to all.

For copies of texts please email: [feministduration@gmail.com](mailto:feministduration@gmail.com)

*The Feminist Duration Reading Group has met since February 2015 in a spirit of collective exploration of texts, movements and struggles from outside the dominant Anglo-American feminist canon. The Feminist Duration Reading Group meets at SPACE in Hackney on the first Tuesday of the month and is open to all.*

07 JUNE 2016



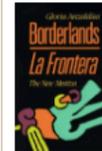
Feminist Duration: The Milan Women's Bookshop Collective and the Practice of the Unconscious

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Feminist Duration: A Reading Group on Feminisms, Consciousness-Raising and Leave-Taking

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Queer Beograd

## Feminist Duration Reading Group: Queer Beograd

**Tue 2 Aug, 7-9pm**  
**SPACE Mare Street**

[LIVE](#) [TWEET](#)

In a session led by Jet Moon, the next meeting of the Feminist Duration Reading Group will focus on *Queer Beograd*, a transnational collective active in Beograd Serbia from 2004-2011. The collective's 'Border Fuckers Cabaret' scripts were produced as part of their underground festivals and are collaborative works between writer and subject, used as a tool for political education and story telling.

Together we will read two texts, 'Forensic Anthropology' (2009) and 'Anti-fa Fags' (2006), as examples of experimental non-academic feminist writing. This is an opportunity to open a discussion on intersectionality, collaborative working, 'authentic' voices and the concept of 'Border Fucking'.

Recommended background reading is Bilic, B., & Dioli, I. (2016). 'Queer Beograd Collective: Beyond single-issue activism in Serbia and the post-Yugoslav Space.' In B. Bilic & S. Kajinic (Eds.), *Intersectionality and LGBT Activist Politics: Multiple Others in Serbia and Croatia*. London: Palgrave Macmillan.

This meeting will build on earlier explorations in the Feminist Duration Reading Group on experimental feminist writings, including forms of storytelling, genre crossing, and collective authorship.

The Feminist Duration Reading Group is open to all.

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05 JULY 2016



Feminist Duration Reading Group.  
Adriana Cavarero

07 JUNE 2016



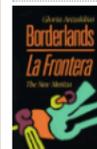
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### Feminist Duration Reading Group: Scuola Senza Fine

Film Screening: *Scuola Senza Fine – School Without End: Italian Women and the 150 Hour School Diploma Course*

[LINK](#) [TICKET](#)

**Tue 6 Sep, 7pm**  
**SPACE Mare Street**  
**FREE**

The *Feminist Duration Reading Group* focuses on under-known and under-appreciated texts, movements, groups and struggles from outside the Anglo-American feminist tradition. It meets on the first Tuesday of every month, at 7pm, at *SPACE* in London Fields, and is open to all.

For the next meeting on 6 September, in a session developed by Rose Gibbs with Helena Reckitt, we will watch the film *Scuola Senza Fine* (*School Without End*), 1983, directed by Adriana Monti in collaboration with students from the 150 Hour Secondary School diploma course.

The 150 Hours Courses were an educational experiment implemented in Italy beginning in 1974, available to factory workers and farmers initially, and expanding to include women a couple of years later. The courses were non-vocational; they were not intended to improve one's productivity at work, but rather to allow for personal and collective growth. The courses sought to help workers reflect not only upon their working conditions but also on their lives.

*Scuola Senza Fine* shows how the experiment extended into the lives of women taking the course, most of whom were housewives. The film was produced in collaboration with these students as part of their studies for the class, turning the curriculum's questions about the representation of women into questions about the representation of themselves. Director Adriana Monti put together a group of amateur women to make the film. The group of former housewives had completed a 150-hour secondary school diploma course in 1976 and did not want to stop learning after it ended. With the help of their teacher, they formed a study and research group. Monti shot the film about them from 1979–1981, with the first half of it being made collectively by the group.

In previous meetings of the *Feminist Duration Reading Group* we discussed the story of Annalia and Emilia, who met as students on a 150 Hours Course. Their friendship, and the role played by narration within it, is a connection of the practice of affidamenti, or entrustment, developed by the Milan Women's Bookshop collective.

02 AUG 2016



Feminist Duration Reading Group: Queer Beograd

05 JULY 2016



Feminist Duration Reading Group: Adriana Cavarero

07 JUNE 2016



Feminist Duration: The Milan Women's Bookshop Collective and the Practice of the Unconscious

03 MAY 2016



Feminist Duration: Transfeminismo

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04 OCTOBER 2016



### Feminist Duration Reading Group: Linda Zerilli & Anne Boyer

**Tue 4 Oct, 7pm**  
**SPACE Mare Street**  
**FREE**

[LINE](#) [TMEET](#)

The Feminist Duration Reading Group focuses on under-known and under-appreciated texts, movements, groups and struggles. It meets on the first Tuesday of every month, at 7pm, at SPACE in London Fields, and is open to all.

For the next meeting, in a session organized by Amy Tobin, we will look at the work of two writers, the political theorist Linda Zerilli and the poet Anne Boyer.

These two quite different texts – a chapter from Zerilli's book *Feminism and the Abyss of Freedom* (2008) and a section of Boyer's *Garments Against Women* (2016) – both circle around the problem of gender as a social category. While Boyer writes about not writing, and produces texts about her inability to be productive along the lines of literary success, Zerilli proposes that feminism would find its most radical constitution beyond the woman question: in other words, in an undefined 'abyss' of 'freedom'.

The chapter from *Feminism and the Abyss of Freedom* focuses on the Milan Women's Bookstore collective – whose practice has been a recurring focus of the Feminist Duration Reading Group – and the possibility of working politically without organising around female identity and instead through 'the willingness to make judgments and promises to one another in public space'.

The two texts propose different approaches to feminist political struggle through negativity.

We will read these texts – or as much of them as time permits – out loud, together, on the evening. Please bring copies with you.

For a copy of this month's reading or if you would like to join the Feminist Duration Reading Group, please email [feministduration@gmail.com](mailto:feministduration@gmail.com)

00 SEP 2016



### Feminist Duration Reading Group: Scuola Senza Fine

02 AUG 2016



### Feminist Duration Reading Group: Queer Beograd

05 JULY 2016



### Feminist Duration Reading Group: Adriana Cavarero

07 JUNE 2016



### Feminist Duration: The Milan Women's Bookshop Collective and the Practice of the Unconscious

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01 NOVEMBER 2016



14

## Feminist Duration Reading Group: Icelandic Women's Strike of 24th October 1975

**Tue 1 Nov, 7pm**  
**SPACE Mare Street**  
**FREE**

[LINK](#) [TWEET](#)

The Feminist Duration Reading Group focuses on under-known and under-appreciated texts, movements, groups and struggles. It meets on the first Tuesday of every month, at 7pm, at SPACE in London Fields, and is open to all.

This meeting of the Feminist Duration Reading Group, on Tuesday 1 November, focuses on the **Icelandic women's strike of 24<sup>th</sup> October 1975**. Through readings from Marie Elizabeth Johnson's chapter on this mass withdrawal of female labour – in which 90% of women participated, bringing the country to a standstill as schools, shops, nurseries and fish factories shut down or ran a half capacity, while men performed caring and domestic labour – we explore the contemporary potential for a gender strike. We also consider how a radical gesture of resistance can be reframed by the more cautious language of celebration.

The session is inspired by the current project 'Speculations for a radical, feminist strike: workshop and experiment', which reflects on the Icelandic women's action, forty years later. Informed by anti-work politics and practice, project researchers Valeria Graziano, Lynne Friedl, and Holly Parter ask, is a gendered strike is still necessary (and/or possible) for trans and cis-gendered women and non-binary people today?

Together we will read sections from 'Kvennafridagurinn,' chapter six of Marie Elizabeth Johnson's 1984 PhD thesis *Women in Iceland*.

<https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/108401.pdf>

The Feminist Duration Reading Group focuses on under-known and under-appreciated feminist texts, movements, groups and struggles. Started at Goldsmiths, University of London, in March 2016, since July 2015 the group has been hosted by SPACE. The group meets on the first Tuesday of every month, at 7pm, and is open to all.

We will read out loud, together, on the evening. Please bring copies of the reading with you.

06 SEP 2016



Feminist Duration Reading Group:  
Scuola Senza Fine

02 AUG 2016



Feminist Duration Reading Group: Queer  
Beograd

05 JULY 2016



Feminist Duration Reading Group:  
Adriana Cavarero

07 JUNE 2016



Feminist Duration: The Milan Women's  
Bookshop Collective and the Practice of  
the Unconscious

BACK / 2016  
06 DECEMBER 2016

I want to struggle alongside women, and alongside men. I want us not to leave the war machine, and to grow together, I want us to make it irresistibly desirable. I want us to make it truly *mixed* [mixte]. And perverse. And polymorphous. And on the offensive. I want us never to get bored of it anymore. I want us to forget women, to forget men, because those are just two names for one and the same constraint, tied to accumulation and military offensives.

1 of 1

### Feminist Duration Reading Group: Sonogram of a Potentiality

Tue 6 Dec, 7pm  
SPACE Mare Street  
FREE

LINK [TWEET](#)

The *Feminist Duration Reading Group* focuses on under-known and under-appreciated feminist texts, movements, groups and struggles from outside the Anglo-American feminist tradition. Started at Goldsmiths, University of London, in March 2016, since July 2016 it has met at SPACE in Hackney. The group meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 7pm and is open to all.

The next *Feminist Duration Reading Group* will focus on *Sonogram of a Potentiality*, *Tiqqun #2*. First published in French as *échographie d'une puissance* in 2001, this English translation was published by Pétroleuse Press, Brooklyn, in 2011.

Tiqqun propose the concept of ecstatic feminism, a form-of-life as insurrection and struggle against stereotypes and social norms. Starting from the self, in order to depart from the self, it seeks to resist the identity categories that power produces, and is produced within.

The text is in dialogue with, and inspired by, ideas from autonomist Italian feminisms including those of DEMALI, Carla Lonzi and Rivolta Femminile, Adriana Cavarero, Lia Cigarini and the Milan Women's Bookshop collective, and Silvia Federici and *Wages for Housework*.

Here we see the concept of the human strike that Fulvia Carnevale, who participated in *Tiqqun*, went on to develop in the artist collective *Claire Fontaine*, and which was a touchstone of the 'Now You Can Go' programme in December last year. Resisting the politics of assimilation and parity, this is "a strike of gestures, dialogue, a radical skepticism in the face of all forms of oppression that are taken for granted, including the most unquestioned of emotional blackmail or social conventions [...]"; Tiqqun write:

Negative preference is above all a political act: "I am not what you see here" gives rise to "Let's be another possible now." By no longer believing what other people say about you, by opposing the political intensity of your existence to the mundanities of recognition, above all not wanting any power, because power multiplies, power demands, power makes you mute and then other people will talk for you, will speak within you without you even perceiving it; that is how we escape, that is how we go on human strike.

01 NOVEMBER 2016



Feminist Duration Reading Group: Icelandic Women's Strike of 24th October 1975

04 OCTOBER 2016



Feminist Duration Reading Group: Linda Zerilli & Anne Boyer

06 SEP 2016



Feminist Duration Reading Group: Scuola Senza Fina

02 AUG 2016



Feminist Duration Reading Group: Queer Beograd

01 JULY 2016



BACK / 2018  
BY / FEBRUARY 2017



1 of 1

## Feminist Duration Reading Group: A History of Arab Feminism

Tue 7 Feb, 7pm  
SPACE Mare Street  
FREE

[LINE](#) [TWEET](#)

The Feminist Duration Reading Group focuses on under-known and under-appreciated feminist texts, movements, groups and struggles from outside the Anglo-American feminist tradition. Started at Goldsmiths, University of London, in March 2015, since July 2015 it has met at SPACE in Hackney. The group meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 7pm and is open to all.

The next meeting of the Feminist Duration Reading Group will encompass a screening of the film *Feminism Inshallah: A History of Arab Feminism*, directed by Ferial Ben Mahmoud, 2014 (85 mins). *Feminism Inshallah* looks at the history of the movement over the last 150 years across different Arab countries, accounting for the work of feminist pioneers as well as more recent activists during the Arab Spring. Although the film lacks a deep analysis of issues such as class and economic privilege, it draws on unreleased archival footage and multigenerational interviews to offer a vivid and comprehensive portrait of different movements.

"The struggle for Muslim women's emancipation is often portrayed stereotypically as a showdown between Western and Islamic values, but Arab feminism has existed for more than a century. This groundbreaking documentary recounts Arab feminism's largely unknown story, from its taboo-shattering birth in Egypt by feminist pioneers up through viral Internet campaigns by today's tech-savvy young activists during the Arab Spring. Moving from Tunisia to Egypt, Algeria, Morocco, Lebanon and Saudi Arabia, filmmaker and author Ferial Ben Mahmoud tracks the progress of Arab women in their long march to assert their full rights and achieve empowerment."

Women Make Movies film catalog

This is the first of a two-part focus on Arab feminisms in the Feminist Duration Reading Group, led by Giulia Damiani. The next meeting, on Tue 7 March, will explore texts by Fatema Mernissi and Nawal El Saadawi.

If you would like to join the Feminist Duration Reading Group mailing list, please email [feministduration@gmail.com](mailto:feministduration@gmail.com)

06 DECEMBER 2016

I want to struggle alongside women, and alongside men. I want us not to leave the war machine, and to grow together. I want us to make it *possibly desirable*. I want us to make it *truly social* [mine]. And perverse. And polymorphous. And on the offensive. I want us never to get bored of it anymore. I want us to forget women, to forget men, because those are just two names for one and the same constraint, tied to accumulation and military offensives.

Feminist Duration Reading Group:  
Sonogram of a Potentiality

01 NOVEMBER 2016



Feminist Duration Reading Group:  
Icelandic Women's Strike of 24th October 1975

04 OCTOBER 2016



Feminist Duration Reading Group: Linda Zerilli & Anne Boyer

05 SEP 2016



Feminist Duration Reading Group:  
Scuala Senze Fine

02 AUG 2016

BACK / 2017  
07 MARCH 2017



1 of 1 Fatema Merrissi, center, in 1986 with, from left, Malvica Alham, Yasmeen Marshall and Dana Haridyev

### Feminist Duration Reading Group: Islamic Feminisms

Tue 7 Mar, 7pm  
SPACE Mare Street  
FREE

[LINK](#) [TWEET](#)

The Feminist Duration Reading Group focuses on under-known and under-appreciated feminist texts, movements, groups and struggles from outside the Anglo-American feminist tradition. Started at Goldsmiths, University of London, in March 2015, since July 2015 it has met at SPACE in Hackney. The group meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 7pm and is open to all.

The next meeting of the Feminist Duration Reading Group will focus on Islamic feminisms. Together we will read 'New Introduction: Why Does the Veil Scare Europe?', from *Beyond the Veil* by the Moroccan feminist sociologist Fatema Merrissi, alongside 'Islamic feminism: what's in a name', 2002, by the scholar and activist Margot Badran.

Both texts can be found on the website of 98Weeks, a research project in Beirut, The Lebanon. Please find it [here](#) and [here](#).

This focus on feminist engagements with, and within, Islam will act as a counterpoint to last month's meeting, focused on a screening of the film *Feminism Inshallah: A History of Arab Feminism*, directed by Feriel Ben Mahmoud, 2014. As was highlighted in the post-screening discussion last month, that film has an implicitly Western conception of feminist liberation, which differs from those who identify as Islamic feminists.

This is the second session on Arab feminisms in the Feminist Duration Reading Group, led by Giulia Damiani.

If you would like to join the Feminist Duration Reading Group making list, please email [feministduration@gmail.com](mailto:feministduration@gmail.com)

#### Now You Can Go

The Feminist Duration Reading Group on 1st December was the first in the Now You Can Go events series exploring feminist art, theory and activism that took place across The ICA, The Showroom, SPACE and Raven Row in December 2015.

07 FEBRUARY 2017



### Feminist Duration Reading Group: A History of Arab Feminism

08 DECEMBER 2016

I want to struggle alongside women, and alongside men. I want us not to leave the war machine, and to grow together. I want us to make it inescapably desirable. I want us to make it only wistful (wistful). And perverse. And polymorphous. And on the offensive. I want us never to get bored of it anymore. I want us to forget women, to forget men, because those are just two names for one and the same constrained, tied to accumulation and military offensive.

### Feminist Duration Reading Group: Sonogram of a Potentiality

01 NOVEMBER 2016



### Feminist Duration Reading Group: Icelandic Women's Strike of 24th October 1975

04 OCTOBER 2016



### Feminist Duration Reading Group: Linda Zerilli & Anne Boyer

06 SEP 2016

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## Feminist Duration Reading Group: Kyla Wazana Tompkins

Tue 4 Apr, 7pm  
SPACE Mare Street  
FREE

[LINE](#) [TWEET](#)

### We Aren't Here To Learn What We Already Know

I tell my students: theory is both descriptive of the world we live in and speculative as well, in that it seeks new worlds and new language to understand what seems to be "natural" and "normal." If the ideas that theory wants to express were easy to say, they would not need to be said. The work of undoing what you know, or what you think you know, is hard. You're going to have to work hard. "We aren't here to learn what we already know." **Kyla Wazana Tompkins**

The next meeting of the Feminist Duration Reading Group is inspired by US-based Kyla Wazana Tompkins' 2016 essay 'We Aren't Here to Learn What We Already Know.' Drawing on her experience teaching feminist, queer and minoritarian-based classrooms, Tompkins explores ways of stimulating openness, dialogue and criticality in the classroom, starting by asking: what is a good question, and how do you ask it?

The text is available [here](#)

Emphasizing the importance of close, repeat reading, and of reading out loud in group contexts, Tompkins stresses learning's active, conversational and collective nature. Her essay highlights the role played by tactics of annotation and citation in both forging new knowledges and revisiting earlier texts and positions. It reflects on complex processes entailed in cultural exclusion, inclusion, and assimilation. While recognising that personal intuitions, feelings, and memories often stimulate important questions, Tompkins underscores the need for these personal associations to move beyond the strictly subjective realm in order to question and analyse larger structural and systemic issues.

Tompkins' approach resonates in many ways with that taken by the Feminist Duration Reading Group towards the collective exploration of overlooked feminist texts, struggles and ideas. In contrast to most Feminist Duration Reading Group meetings – where participants read the text out loud on the night, and advance reading is not required – for this session we ask that people read the essay beforehand. In particular we ask them to follow Tompkins' instructions:

07 MARCH 2017



Feminist Duration Reading Group:  
Islamic Feminisms

07 FEBRUARY 2017



Feminist Duration Reading Group: A  
History of Arab Feminism

06 DECEMBER 2016

I want to struggle alongside women, and alongside men. I want us not to leave the war machine, and to grow together. I want us to make it irreversibly asexual. I want us to make it only *masculine*. And perverse. And polymorphous. And on the offensive. I want us never to get bored of it anymore. I want us to forget women, to forget men, because those are just two names for one, and the same constraining, tied to accumulation and military offensives.

Feminist Duration Reading Group:  
Sonogram of a Potentiality

01 NOVEMBER 2016



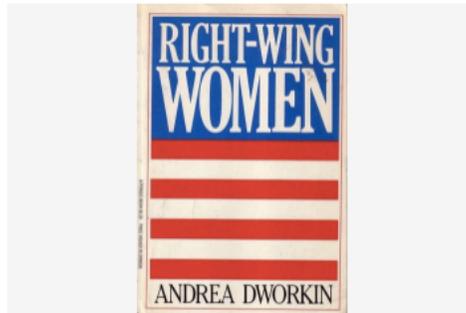
Feminist Duration Reading Group:  
Icelandic Women's Strike of 24th October 1975

04 OCTOBER 2016





BACK / 2017  
4 JULY 2017



1 of 1

## Feminist Duration Reading Group: Right-Wing Women

**Tue 4 July, 7-9pm**  
**SPACE Mare Street**  
**Free & all welcome**

[LINK](#) [TWEET](#)

In a deeply ambivalent celebration of Independence Day, this 4th July we revisit the writing of Andrea Dworkin, American research-led polemicist and radical feminist activist. Together we will read the first chapter of Dworkin's book *Right-Wing Women* (New York: Perigee, 1983), 'The Promise of the Ultra-Right' (pp. 13-36), and discuss its historical and current implications and insights in the context of the recent resurgence and mainstreaming of the ultra right.

Although Dworkin's work is well-known within Anglophone feminist circles, and her ideas on sexual violence and pornography have been hotly debated and contested, relatively little attention has been paid to her analysis of right-wing women.

This session is led by feminist art historian [Alexandra Kokoli](#).

*Right-Wing Women* is widely available in paperback and can also be [freely accessed online](#)

The *Feminist Duration Reading Group* focuses on under-known and under-appreciated feminist texts, movements, groups and struggles from outside the Anglo-American feminist tradition. Started at Goldsmiths, University of London, in March 2015, since July 2015 it has met at SPACE, 129 - 131 Mare Street in Hackney.

The group generally meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 7pm and is open to people of all genders.

If you would like to join the *Feminist Duration Reading Group* mailing list, or propose a focus for a subsequent session, please email [feministduration@gmail.com](mailto:feministduration@gmail.com).

22 MAY 2017



## Feminist Duration Reading Group: Questioning Through Writing

04 APRIL 2017



## Feminist Duration Reading Group: Kyla Wazana Tompkins

07 MARCH 2017



## Feminist Duration Reading Group: Islamic Feminisms

07 FEBRUARY 2017



## Feminist Duration Reading Group: A History of Arab Feminism

BACK / 2017  
5 SEPTEMBER 2017



1 of 1 Li Tingting, aka Li Man, a Chinese designer and activist for gender and social liberation.

### Feminist Duration Reading Group: Feminisms in China

**Tue 5 Sep, 7-9pm**  
**SPACE Mare Street**  
**Free & all welcome**

[LINK](#) [TWEET](#)

Including the word 'feminism' or 'feminist' in any social media post in China triggers immediate censorship. LGBT matters are silenced under pornography laws. Grassroots dissent and organisations are feared and consequently silenced and suppressed by the state. Despite this, several groups of feminist and lesbian activists have operated in China in recent decades.

Hosted by artist Cinzia Dremona, this meeting of the Feminist Duration Reading Group includes a screening and an out-loud reading.

The screening is of the little-seen documentary film, *Hooligan Sparrow* (2016), directed by Nanfu Wang, which focuses on a specific example of visible grassroots protest, and the reaction of the authorities. The film shows Ye Kaiyan travelling to Hainan Province in southern China with a group of activists to support local women and girls in a serious case of sexual violence. It portrays the actions of the activists, and the behaviour of state emissaries.

The text is 'Fighting Back' by Leta Hong Fincher, from her 2014 book *Leftover Women*. It offers an overview of the context in which Chinese female activists operate, and relates the subject of Nanfu Wang's film to other groups and initiatives. [Please see here](#)

The *Feminist Duration Reading Group* focuses on under-known and under-appreciated feminist texts, movements, groups and struggles from outside the Anglo-American feminist tradition. Started at Goldsmiths, University of London, in March 2015, since July 2015 it has met at SPACE, 129 - 131 Mare Street in Hackney.

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If you would like to join the Feminist Duration Reading Group making list, or propose a focus for a subsequent session, please email [feministduration@gmail.com](mailto:feministduration@gmail.com).

4 JULY 2017



### Feminist Duration Reading Group: Right-Wing Women

22 MAY 2017



### Feminist Duration Reading Group: Questioning Through Writing

06 APRIL 2017



### Feminist Duration Reading Group: Kyla Wazana Tompkins

07 MARCH 2017



### Feminist Duration Reading Group: Islamic Feminisms

07 FEBRUARY 2017

~ EVENTS > DISCUSSION SERIES ~

05 Sep. 2017

**EMILIA-AMALIA Session XI:  
Wages for Housework—The  
Canadian Context**

Facilitated by Helena Reckitt, with special guest Christina Rousseau. Presented in collaboration with the Blackwood Gallery in tandem with the exhibition "Habits of Care"  
Time: 6 - 9pm

Art Metropole is pleased to host EMILIA-AMALIA's upcoming session focusing on the global campaign Wages for Housework. This transnational movement highlighted the capitalist appropriation of unpaid domestic labour, and demanded its remuneration by the state. The session highlights Wages for Housework's actions in and around Toronto and Montreal in the 1970s and 1980s, which included the Women's Liberation Bookmobile, the paper "The Autonomy of Black Lesbian Women," by Wilmette Brown of Black Women for Wages for Housework, and the manifesto "Fucking is Work," by Wages Due Lesbians. These activities aimed to meet the intersecting needs of lesbian feminists, migrant workers, domestic labourers, and Black and working class women.

Following the format of the Feminist Duration Reading Group in London, which Reckitt initiated in 2015 to bring to light feminisms from outside the Anglo-American canon, this session will centre on an out-loud reading activity. The meeting aims to open up discussions on how feminism operates transnationally, the politics of undervalued care work and what it means to "take care." No pre-reading or preparation is required. This session is part of an ongoing exchange of ideas, activities and texts between EMILIA-AMALIA in Toronto and the Feminist Duration Reading Group in London.

To participate in this session, please RSVP to [info@emilia-amalia.com](mailto:info@emilia-amalia.com). For the Facebook event, [click here](#).

EMILIA-AMALIA is an exploratory working group that employs practices of citation, annotation, and autobiography as modes of activating feminist art, writing and research practices.

Through readings, screenings, discussions, and writing activities, the group will investigate historical and intergenerational feminisms, as well as relationships of mentorship, collaboration, and indebtedness between artists, writers, thinkers, curators, and practitioners. In tracing these lines, the group aims to elucidate the histories of feminism that have been obscured and overlooked in the narratives of 1970s, or "second-wave" feminism that we have inherited.

EMILIA-AMALIA critically examines how we fit in with these past iterations, and also, how we might update and extend them so that they can respond to contemporary questions. Motivated by a desire to think through these questions collaboratively, each monthly meeting is structured around a text, a conversation, and a writing activity.

EMILIA-AMALIA is an open group that invites all levels of engagement. We are all experts. No one is an expert. Expertise is not expected.

EMILIA-AMALIA is initiated by Cecilia Berkovic, Tanya Lee, Arnie MacLennan, Gabriele Moser, Zama Nappo, Lela Timmins, and chayanne turions.

[emilia-amalia.com](http://emilia-amalia.com)



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## Feminist Duration Reading Group Schedule

3 March, 2015

Curating Studio, Art Department, Goldsmiths, University of London

Carla Lonzi, 'Let's Spit on Hegel,' 1970

Antonella Nappi, 'Nudity,' 1971

La Libreria delle donne di Milano/Milan Women's Bookstore Collective, 'Sexual Difference, A Theory of Social-Symbolic Practice,' 1987

Session inspired by Claire Fontaine and led by Helena Reckitt

10 March, 2015

Curating Studio, Art Department, Goldsmiths, University of London

Lea Melandri, 'Autonomy and the Need for Love: Carla Lonzi, Vai pure,' 2000

Lea Melandri, 'The Ongoing Practice: "Analysis Groups" and "Subconscious Groups"', 2000

Session inspired by Claire Fontaine and led by Helena Reckitt

11 August 2015: Carla Lonzi and Luisa Muraro

SPACE

Session led by Helena Reckitt

<http://www.spacestudios.org.uk/news/feminist-duration-a-reading-group-on-feminisms-consciousness-raising-and-leave-taking/>

9 September 2015: Lotta Feminista / Wages for Housework

SPACE

Session led by Helena Reckitt

<http://www.spacestudios.org.uk/news/feminist-duration-a-reading-group-on-feminisms-consciousness-raising-and-leave-taking-sep-2/>

6 October 2015: Suzanne Santoro

SPACE

Session led by Helena Reckitt

<http://www.spacestudios.org.uk/news/feminist-duration-a-reading-group-on-feminisms-consciousness-raising-and-leave-taking-oct/>

3 November 2015: Adriana Cavarero and Olivia Guaraldo

SPACE

Session led by Diana Georgiou

<http://www.spacestudios.org.uk/news/feminist-duration-a-reading-group-on-feminisms-consciousness-raising-and-leave-taking-nov/>

1 December 2015: Translation as a Feminist Practice: Gayatri Chakravorty

SPACE

Spivak and Teresa de Lauretis.

Session led by Laura Guy.

<http://www.spacestudios.org.uk/news/feminist-duration-a-reading-group-on-feminisms-consciousness-raising-and-leave-taking-dec/>

1-13 December 2015

Now You Can Go

ICA, Raven Row, The Showroom, SPACE

Programme developed by Angelica Bolletinari, Giulia Casalini, Diana Georgiou, Laura Guy, Helena Reckitt, Irene Revell, Amy Tobin. Coordinated by Dimitra Gkitsa.

2 February 2016

SPACE

Feedback and Next Steps

Session led by Helena Reckitt

<http://www.spacestudios.org.uk/news/feminist-duration-a-reading-group-on-feminisms-consciousness-raising-and-leave-taking-feb/>

1 March 2016: The Milan Women's Bookstore Collective and the Practice of Entrustment

SPACE

Session inspired by Alex Martinis Roe and led by Helena Reckitt

<http://www.spacestudios.org.uk/news/feminist-duration-a-reading-group-on-feminisms-consciousness-raising-and-leave-taking-mar/>

5 April 2016: Gloria Anzaldúa and Barbara Christian

SPACE

Gloria Anzaldúa and Barbara Christian

Session led by Diana Georgiou

<http://www.spacestudios.org.uk/news/feminist-duration-a-reading-group-on-feminisms-consciousness-raising-and-leave-taking-apr/>

3 May 2016 : Spanish Transfeminismo: Lucía Egaña Rojas and Manifesto Transfeminista

SPACE

Session led by Giulia Casalini

<http://www.spacestudios.org.uk/news/feminist-duration-transfeminismo/>

7 June 2016: The Milan Women's Bookstore Collective and the Practice of the Unconscious

SPACE

Session led by Lucia Farinati with Helena Reckitt

<http://www.spacestudios.org.uk/news/feminist-duration-jun/>

5 July 2016: Adriana Cavarero

SPACE

Session led by Lucia Farinati and Sara Paiola

<http://www.spacestudios.org.uk/news/feminist-duration-jul/>

2 August 2016: Queer Beograd

SPACE

Session led by Jet Moon

<http://www.spacestudios.org.uk/news/feminist-duration-aug/>

6 September 2016

SPACE

Scuola Senza Fine – School Without End: Italian Women and the 150 Hour School Diploma Course

Session led by Rose Gibbs with Helena Reckitt

<http://www.spacestudios.org.uk/news/feminist-duration-reading-group-sep/>

4 October 2016

SPACE

Linda Zerilli & Anne Boyer

Session led by Amy Tobin

<http://www.spacestudios.org.uk/news/feminist-duration-reading-group-oct/>

1 November 2016

SPACE

Icelandic Women's Strike of 24th October 1975

Session led by Lynne Friedli and Valeria Graziano

<http://www.spacestudios.org.uk/news/feminist-duration-reading-group-nov-1/>

6 December 2016

SPACE

Tiqqun: Sonogram of a Potentiality

Session led by Helena Reckitt

<http://www.spacestudios.org.uk/news/feminist-duration-reading-group-dec/>

7 February 2017

SPACE

A History of Arab Feminism

Session led by Giulia Damaini

<http://www.spacestudios.org.uk/news/feminist-duration-reading-group-feb/>

7 March 2017

SPACE

Islamic Feminisms

Session led by Giulia Damaini

<http://www.spacestudios.org.uk/news/feminist-duration-reading-group-mar/>

/

4 April 2017

SPACE

Kyla Wazana Tomkins

Session led by Helena Reckitt in collaboration with Emilia-Amalia Feminist Working Group

<http://www.spacestudios.org.uk/news/feminist-duration-reading-group-apr/>

22 May 2017

SPACE

Questioning through Writing

Session led by Gabby Moser of Emilia-Amalia Feminist Working Group

<http://www.spacestudios.org.uk/news/feminist-duration-reading-group-may/>

4 July 2017

SPACE

Right-Wing Women

Session led by Alexandra Kokoli

<http://www.spacestudios.org.uk/news/feminist-duration-jul-2017/>

August 2017

Informal Meal at the house of Irene Revell and Vanda Playford

5 September 2017

SPACE

Feminisms in China

Session led by Cinzia Cremona in collaboration with Whisky Chow

<http://www.spacestudios.org.uk/news/feminist-duration-sep-2017/>

October 2017

SPACE

Women at Work: Art and Feminisms in Australia

Session led by Laura Castagnani and Diane Baker Smith

November 2017

SPACE

Wages for Housework: Confrontations

Session led by Jacqueline Hoang Ngyen and Helena Reckitt

November 2017

Grand Union, Birmingham

Feminist Duration Reading Group On the Road: Entrustment

Session led by Angelica Bolletinari, Sabrina Fuller, Sara Paiola, Helena Reckitt, Amy Tobin

December 2017

SPACE

Hydrofeminism

Session led by Sabrina Fuller

December 2017

SPACE

Hydrofeminisms

Session led by Sabrina Fuller

February 2018

SPACE

Feminisms in Egypt

Session led by Felicity Allen

Feeling Backwards, workshop by Nina Wakeford, Raven Row, as part of Now You Can Go  
8 December 2015. Photo: Christian Luebbert

Now You Can Go was developed by Angelica Bolletinari, Giulia Casalini, Diana Georgiou, Laura Guy, Helena Reckitt, Irene Revell,  
& Amy Tobin. Coordinated by Dimitra Gkitsa.



Feeling Backwards, workshop by Nina Wakeford, Raven Row, as part of Now You Can Go  
8 December 2015. Photo: Christian Luebbert

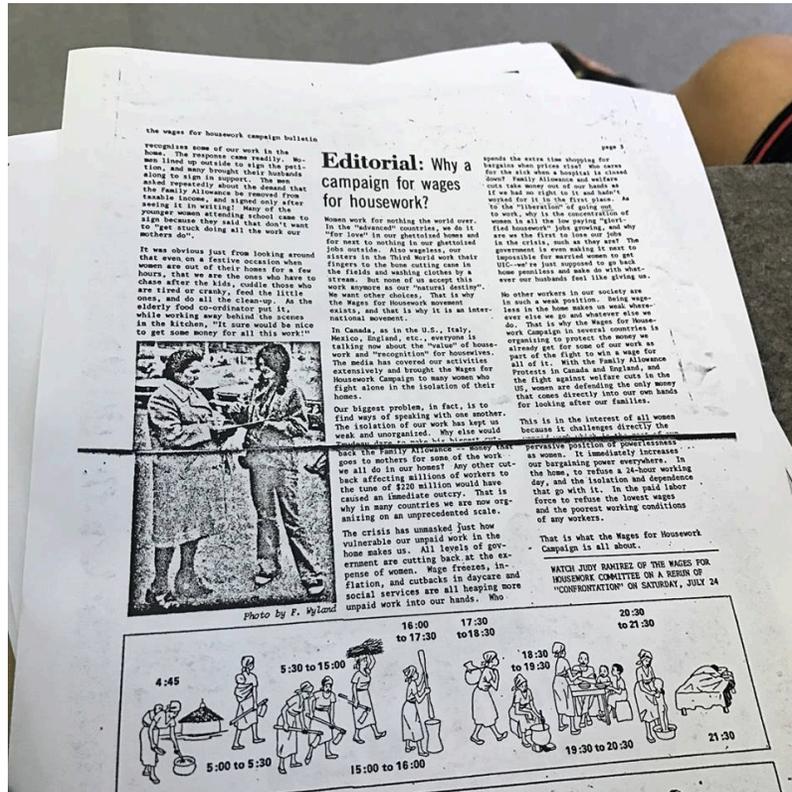


05 Sep. 2017

6-9pm

EMILIA-AMALIA Session XI: Wages for Housework—The Canadian Context

Facilitated by Helena Reckitt, with special guest Christina Rousseau. Presented in collaboration with the Blackwood Gallery in tandem with the exhibition “Habits of Care”



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Facilitated by Helena Reckitt, with special guest Christina Rousseau. Presented in collaboration with the Blackwood Gallery in tandem with the exhibition “Habits of Care”



# Milan Women's Bookshop Collective

“The women's movement has revived in us the sense of fearlessness we had in childhood and thought we had lost. We find in this a point of reference for becoming what we are and wanting what we want”.

Fulvia Carnevale, Claire Fontaine: Don't Think You Have Any Rights: The Challenges of Italian Feminisms, Now You Can Go, The Showroom, London, December 2015

The feminist reformist approach that gave birth to the politics of equal opportunities and quotas that just integrated women into the existing structures of society, and that we are also implicated within, has to deal with the main contradiction: the institution that hosts us and accepts us is the same that yesterday excluded us.

## Wages For Housework

“If we strike, we won’t leave unfinished products or untransformed raw materials; by interrupting our work we won’t paralyze production, but rather the reproduction of the working class. And this would be a real strike even for those who normally go on strike without us.”

**Emilian, Wages for Domestic Labour  
Coordination, Bologna, 1976**

# The Politics of Translation, Gayatri Spivak (quotes)

There is nothing necessarily meretricious about the Western feminist gaze.

**This becomes particularly difficult when the metropolitan feminist, who is sometimes the assimilated postcolonial, invokes, indeed translates, a too quickly shared feminist notion of accessibility.**

If you want to make the translated text accessible, try doing it for the person who wrote it. The problem comes clear then, for she is not within the same history of style.

**Warns against using “a language quickly learned with an idea that you transfer content, then you are betraying the text and showing rather dubious politics.”**

# Teresa de Lauretis, introduction to Sexual Difference

The dense substratum of connotations, resonances, and implicit references that the history of a culture has sedimented into the words and phrases of its language is often simply untranslatable; thus the act of translation is often a rewriting of the original language (in this case, Italian) and a reconfiguration or interpretation of its plurivocal meaning by means of connotations and resonances built into the words and phrases of the second language (in this case, American English). [...]

Italian does not normally use the word *gender* for sex-based distinctions between female and male” – using  *Sesso*, sex, instead ... and the adjective *femminile*, generally translated as female, also corresponds to ‘feminine’ as well as the male gender.

**Rescue Missions**, as part of Now You Can Go, ICA December 2015

Chaired by art historian **Amy Tobin**, speakers include artist **Sonia Boyce**, director of the Live Art Development Agency, **Lois Keidan**, art collector **Valeria Napoleone** and co-director of Hollybush Gardens, **Lisa Panting**.



# Pablo Pakula, On Social Reproduction part of Now You Can Go, the ICA, December 2015









# Alex Martinis Roe, “Dedications #2: The Milan Women’s Bookstore Collective,” *If I Can’t Dance I Don’t Want to be Part of Your Revolution*, 2013

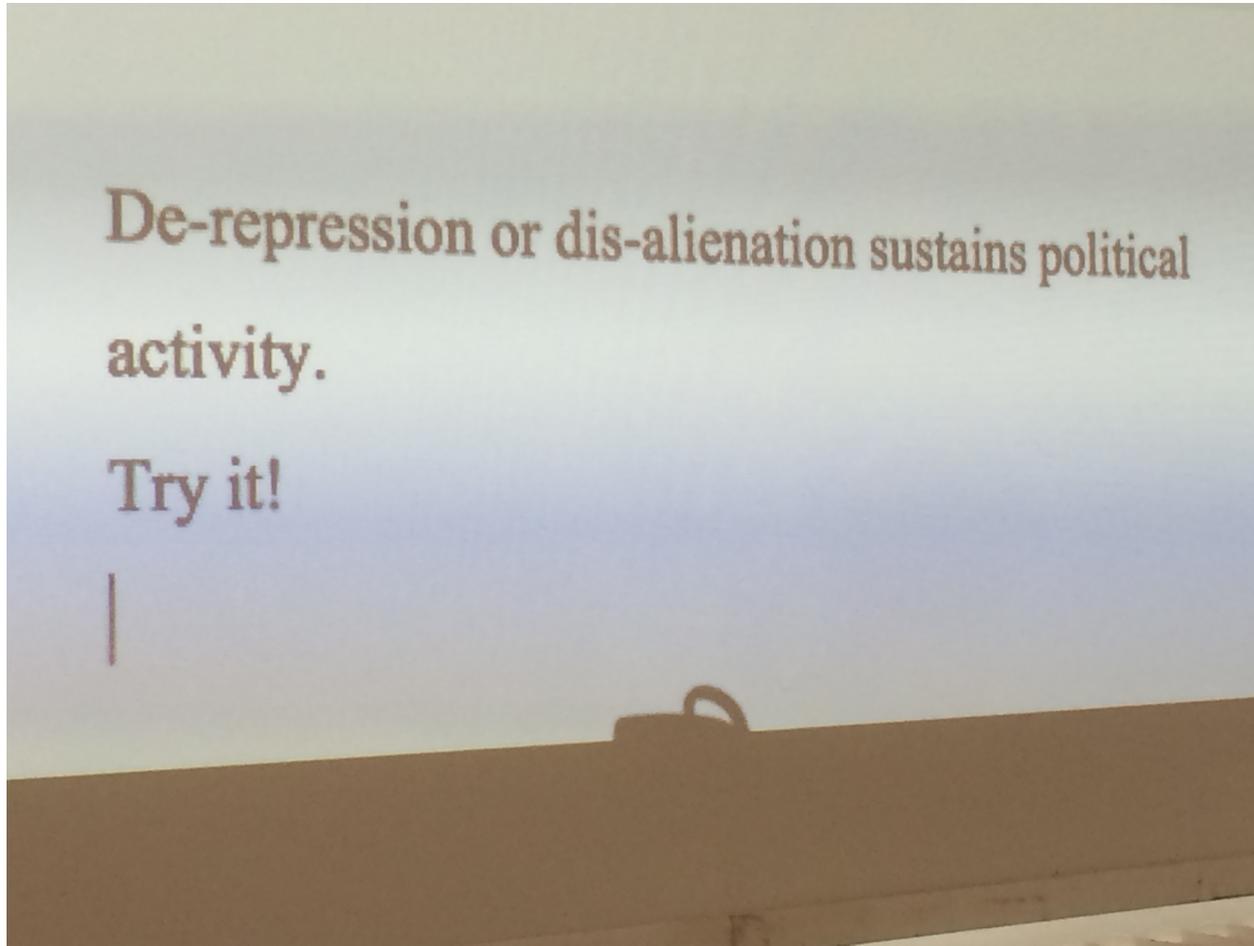
It is so important that contemporary practitioners are able to contribute to feminist futures by affirming, citing and respeaking feminist genealogies without appealing to their similarity, or identity with those genealogies. In this way, they are able to obtain the authority to speak simultaneously through their own singularity, their irreducible (sexual) difference, and also through their common participation in a transgenerational political project – a common desire for a culture of difference.

from Intimate Acts: A Workshop led by Kajsa Dahlberg and Laura Guy, Now You Can Go, The Showroom, 2015

De-repression or dis-alienation sustains political  
activity.

Try it!

|



Claire Fontaine

“Negative preference is above all a political act: “I am not what you see here” gives rise to “Let’s be another possible now.”