

Monique Wittig: Twenty Years Later / Vingt ans après

Friday 17 and Saturday 18 March 2023

Department of French,
University of California – Berkeley

This March, the Department of French will mark the twentieth anniversary of the passing of the lesbian activist, writer and philosopher Monique Wittig (1935-2003), as well as the fiftieth anniversary of the publication of her *Corps lesbien*, with a two-part international conference: “Monique Wittig: Twenty Years Later / Monique Wittig : Vingt ans après.”

Cosponsored by the Department of French at the University of California – Berkeley and the Institut des Études Genre at the Université de Genève, this conference will encourage new directions in scholarship on Wittig and stimulate transatlantic and international exchange about her work. The Geneva leg of the conference will take place on **27-28 June 2023**.

It is fitting that Berkeley will host the first part of this event: Wittig first came to the U.S. with her partner Sande Zeig on Leo Bersani’s invitation to take up a position as visiting professor.

All events (except the film screenings) are **free and open to the public** and will be **simulcast on Zoom**. If you intend to attend in person, you can register [here](#) (this will help us prepare for the event). If you’d like to attend virtually, sign up to receive a Zoom link [here](#). Questions about the Berkeley side of the conference? Write to wmb@berkeley.edu.

Organizing committee: Ty Blakeney, William M. Burton, Ilana Eloit, Mary Mussman, Carolina Topini and Agnès Vannouvong.

The organizers wish to express their gratitude to the following organizations and individuals for their support: The Departments of French, Comparative Literature, English, Gender & Women’s Studies, German, History, Italian, and Spanish & Portuguese; the Canadian Studies Program; the Arts Research Center; the Townsend Center for the Humanities; the Berkeley Museum of Art – Pacific Film Archives; the Social Sciences and Arts & Humanities Divisions; and Elizabeth Abel (John F. Hotchkis Chair in English), Ian Duncan (Florence Green Bixby Chair in English), Carla Hesse (Peder Sather Professor of History), Victoria Kahn (Katharine Bixby Hotchkis Chair in English), Leslie Kurke (Gladys Rehard Wood Chancellor’s Chair, Professor of Ancient Greek & Roman Studies and Comparative Literature), Michael Lucey (Sidney and Margaret Ancker Professor of French and Comparative Literature), Nicholas Mathew (Professor of Music and Richard and Rhoda Goldman Distinguished Professor in the Humanities), Ellen Oliensis (Klio Distinguished Professor of Classical Languages and Literature, Professor of Ancient Greek & Roman Studies and Comparative Literature), and Kent Puckett (Ida May and William J. Eggers Jr. Chair in English).



Monique Wittig. Berkeley, 1979. Photo by Martine Laroche. Used with permission.

Friday, 17 March 2023

Time	Event	Location
08:45-09:30	Coffee	Library of French Thought
09:30-10:00	<p>OPENING REMARKS: WITTIG / BERKELEY</p> <p>William M. Burton (French, Berkeley)</p> <p>Suzette Robichon (Co-présidente, Association des ami·es de Monique Wittig)</p> <p>Sande Zeig (Filmmaker, partner of Monique Wittig and manager of the Monique Wittig Literary Estate)</p>	3335 Dwinelle
10:10-11:30	<p>WITTIG AS THEORIST WITTIG ET LA THÉORIE</p> <p>Moderation: Debarati Sanyal (French, Berkeley)</p> <p>“From <i>Chantier</i> to <i>Workshop</i>: Translation as Reconstitution” Annabel Kim (Romance Languages & Literatures, Harvard University) <i>via Zoom</i></p> <p>“Against psychoanalysis: French queer thought and Wittig’s legacy” Benoît Loiseau (Edinburgh College of Art and European Languages & Cultures, University of Edinburgh)</p> <p>“Gnomon: Wittig’s poetics and politics of geometry (I)” Theo Mantion (Romance Languages & Literatures, Harvard University)</p> <p>“Genre-bending / Gender-bending: Thinking the feminist social contract with Monique Wittig” Verónica Zebadúa-Yañez (Politics, University of Maryland)</p>	3335 Dwinelle
11:30-13:00	Visit to BYE BYE BINARY installation and lunch break	Installation: Library of French Thought
13:10-14:30	<p>WITTIG AND NON-BINARY GENDER WITTIG ET LA NON-BINARITÉ</p> <p>Moderation: Thomas Corbani (French, Berkeley)</p> <p>« La typographie comme technologie du post-binarisme politique » Camille Circlude (École de recherche graphique, Brussels)</p> <p>« i ! sang craché, voyelle de la pourpre/du rire/ de la colère souveraines. Une solution formelle pour penser hors de la catégorie de sexe » Priscille Touraille (CNRS/MNHN, Paris), Marie-Claude Marsolier (CEA), Marc Allasonnière-Tang (CNRS/MNHN)</p> <p>« Quand iels travaillent la lettre et le sens. Comprendre les interventions queers et trans sur la grammaire française à la lumière de Monique Wittig et Charles S. Peirce »</p>	3335 Dwinelle

	Loïs Crémier (Études sémiotiques, Université du Québec à Montréal) <i>via Zoom</i>	
14:40-16:00	<p>WITTIG AND HER LITERARY INFLUENCES WITTIG ET SES INFLUENCES LITTÉRAIRES</p> <p>Moderation: Michael Lucey (French and Comparative Literature, Berkeley)</p> <p>“Crushed’: Monique Wittig, Djuna Barnes, and mistranslating lesbian writing” Mary Mussman (Comparative Literature, Berkeley)</p> <p>“Duras × Wittig: New constellations, new conversations” Alice Blackhurst (independent scholar) <i>via Zoom</i></p> <p>“Wittig reading Pascal. Or: How to lesbianize angst with some opoponax” Yannick Chevalier (Lettres, Université Lumière Lyon 2)</p>	3335 Dwinelle
16:30-17:30	<p>KEYNOTE ADDRESS “Virgile, si / Across the Atlantic”</p> <p>Anne F. Garréta (Literature, Duke University / CELLAM, Université Rennes 2; co-présidente, Association des ami-es de Monique Wittig)</p>	3335 Dwinelle
17:30	Reception	Library of French Thought



From left to right: Monique Wittig, Sande Zeig, Christine L. and Martine Laroche in Berkeley in 1979. Photo by Martine Laroche. Used with permission.

Saturday, 18 March 2023

Time	Event	Location
08:30-09:00	Coffee	Library of French Thought
09:10-10:30	<p>IN THE LITERARY WORKSHOP I DANS LE CHANTIER LITTÉRAIRE I</p> <p>Moderation: Hannah Cox (French, Berkeley)</p> <p>“Monique Wittig in stereo: Dimensions of the multilingual text” Elisa Crabeil (French, Yale University)</p> <p>« M/on corps et m/on discours en morceaux. Dans le chantier du Corps lesbien » Louis-Thomas Leguerrier (Littératures et langues du monde, Université de Montréal)</p> <p>“Towards a Lesbian Structuralism: Language as the ‘War Machine’” Jonathan D. Katz (History of Art and Gender, Sexuality & Women’s Studies, University of Pennsylvania) <i>via Zoom</i></p>	3335 Dwinelle
10:40-11:30	<p>WITTIG AND THE VISUAL ARTS WITTIG ET LES ARTS VISUELS</p> <p>Moderation: Agnès Vannouvong (Langues et littératures françaises et latines médiévales, Université de Genève)</p> <p>« Statement 1990. Introduction à un cinéma queer » Arlène Berceiot-Courtin (Chercheuse et curatrice indépendante / Independent scholar and researcher)</p> <p>« “Sauver le théâtre”, repenser les processus d’identification “au-delà du genre” et réinventer les figures héroïques : une théorie wittigienne de l’art théâtral ? » Lorraine Wiss (Chercheuse indépendante / Independent scholar) <i>via Zoom</i></p>	3335 Dwinelle
11:30-13:00	Lunch break	
13:00-14:20	<p>CONTEMPORARY FEMINIST DEBATES APPORTS AUX DÉBATS FÉMINISTES CONTEMPORAINS</p> <p>Moderation: Paola Bacchetta (Gender & Women’s Studies, Berkeley)</p> <p>“Monique Wittig’s material ecology” Gina Stamm (Modern Languages & Classics University of Alabama)</p> <p>« Du féminisme matérialiste à la pensée queer : Questionner l’échange prostitutionnel avec Monique Wittig » Léonore Brassard (LEGS/CNRS, Paris)</p>	3335 Dwinelle

	<p>« “Les lesbiennes ne sont pas des femmes” : qu’en est-il des gais? »</p> <p>Félix L. Deslauriers (Études sociologiques et anthropologiques, Université d’Ottawa)</p>	
14:30-14:45	<p>CLOSING REMARKS: WITTIG / GENEVA</p> <p>William M. Burton (French, Berkeley)</p> <p>Ilana Eloit (Études genre, Université de Genève)</p>	3335 Dwinelle
14:45-16:00	Reception	Library of French Thought
16:30	<p>Screening of ORIANA, with dir. Beatriz Santiago Muñoz in pre-recorded conversation with Natalia Brizuela (Department of Spanish and Portuguese, Berkeley)</p>	BAMPFA
19:30	<p>Screening of BORN IN FLAMES, with dir. Lizzie Borden in conversation with Mel Y. Chen (Gender & Women’s Studies and the Center for the Study of Sexual Culture, Berkeley)</p>	BAMPFA