



University of  
Zurich<sup>UZH</sup>

## Interdisciplinary Public Lectures Spring Semester 2020

### Regarding Violence. Perspectives in Literature, History and Law

How are violence, state and power related to each other – and how does this complex relationship manifest itself in fields such as Literature, History and Law? How does violence unfold in different spaces and times? What shapes does it take? Is violence a language itself or does it conversely reveal a lack of language? The lecture series aims to analyze the origins and the effects of violence in Europe, Africa and Latin America. This implies discussing topics such as wars, political instabilities, social riots, terrorism, slavery and violence generated by the State. Adopting an interdisciplinary approach that includes Literature, Cultural Studies, Philosophy, Political Studies, History and Law, the lecture series has a twofold aim: on the one hand, we will draw up a general framework for understanding violence in its different manifestations; on the other hand, we will discuss specific cases to illustrate the various shapes that violence can take. Starting from the overarching question “What is violence?”, we will explore the different answers provided by a number of scholars and authors.

## Interdisciplinary Public Lectures Spring Semester 2020

Regarding Violence.  
Perspectives in Literature, History  
and Law

# 2020

# Regarding Violence. Perspectives in Literature, History and Law

20 February

## Introduction to the Topic

Prof. Dr. Eduardo Jorge de Oliveira, Institute of Romance Studies,  
Prof. Dr. Elisabetta Fiocchi Malaspina, Faculty of Law,  
Prof. Dr. Ana Sobral, English Department, University of Zurich

---

27 February

## Film Screening: Marighella (Brazil, 2019)

(Different venue: Kino Toni, Zurich University of the Arts,  
Toni-Areal, Pfingstweidstrasse 96)

---

5 March

## The Allers-Retours of Contemporary Political Violence

Keynote Speaker: Prof. Dr. Mohammad-Mahmoud Ould Mohamedou,  
The Graduate Institute, Geneva

---

12 March

## “Creating Politics out of Violence”: Amazon, Globalization and the Discovery of “Modern Slavery”

Dr. Antoine Acker, Department of History, University of Zurich

---

19 March

## “Images freighted with all the orphanhood in the world”: Contemporary Latin American Artists on Femicide

Dr. Elena Rosauero, Latin American Center Zurich, University of Zurich

---

26 March

## There Is Peace Here Because There Is Violence Over There

Keynote Speaker: Prof. Dr. Françoise Vergès, Fondation Maison des Sciences de l'Homme, Paris

---

2 April

## Violence, Colonialism and Property in Africa (19th – 20th Centuries)

Prof. Dr. Elisabetta Fiocchi Malaspina, Faculty of Law, University of Zurich

---

23 April

## Words like Weapons: Postcolonial African Rap and the Performance of Violence

Prof. Dr. Ana Sobral, English Department, University of Zurich

---

30 April

## The Falling Sky: Amazonia and Environmental Violence

Prof. Dr. Eduardo Jorge de Oliveira, Institute of Romance Studies, University of Zurich

---

7 May

## “Like a Movie”: Terrorism, Counterterrorism and the Premediation of Violence in the 21st Century

Prof. Dr. Michael Frank, English Department, University of Zurich

---

14 May

## Perceptions of Violence Beyond War and Genocide

Prof. Dr. Svenja Goltermann, Department of History, University of Zurich

---

University of Zurich, City Campus  
Entrance Karl-Schmid-Strasse 4  
Lecture hall KO2-F-150  
Thursday, 6:15 to 7:45 pm  
Free entry  
All information subject to change

Organization:  
Prof. Dr. Eduardo Jorge de Oliveira,  
Institute of Romance Studies, UZH  
Prof. Dr. Elisabetta Fiocchi Malaspina,  
Faculty of Law, UZH  
Prof. Dr. Ana Sobral, English Department, UZH  
Contact:  
eduardo.jorge@rom.uzh.ch  
elisabetta.fiocchi@rwi.uzh.ch  
ana.sobral@es.uzh.ch

[www.uzh.ch/public-lectures](http://www.uzh.ch/public-lectures)