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.
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 Rosario, 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, Foundation 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:
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