

“A ghost never dies, it remains always to come and to come back”

— Jacques Derrida, *Specters of Marx*

Ours is a time profoundly haunted by its own pasts and futures. From the incessant recycling of cultural forms (movie remakes, aesthetic revivals, nostalgic aesthetics...) to the global resurgence of reactionary politics and the lingering afterlives of empire, the present often feels suspended between repetition and amnesia. The march forward increasingly resembles a return: to familiar narratives, to spectral ideologies, to worlds we thought we had outgrown. This temporal disorientation, the coexistence of the obsolete and the imminent, renders the language of haunting newly urgent.

To think of haunting is to engage with what persists beyond its own supposed end: with histories that will not stay buried, futures that failed to arrive, and absences that exert a disturbing presence. Haunting unsettles linear time and stable categories of being; it makes visible what structures disavow, what institutions repress, what archives cannot contain. In this sense, the spectral is not only a metaphor but a condition—political, historical, affective—through which we might apprehend the unresolved contradictions of modernity.

In the context of the anglophone world, haunting(s) evokes the revenants of empire, slavery, and colonial modernity; the suppressed within collective memory; the recurring gestures of cultural production that betray our inability to imagine otherwise. It speaks as much to the ghosts that populate our imaginaries as to the structures that sustain them, showing how repetition maintains power yet how critical acts of remembrance may also make transformation possible. This symposium proposes to think with and through haunting: as concept, method, and sensibility; reflections on the spectral dimensions of history, art, and culture, and what it means to live and think in the company of ghosts.

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ORGANISING COMMITTEE

Eleni Belmehdi, Carla Da Costa Goncalves, Nina Lefrançois, Floriane Olivares, Léna Sebbar-Imbert



9:45 introduction

Specters of Specters of Marx: Reading Derrida as Historians in 2025

Eleni Belmehdi, Léna Sebbar-Imbert

10:15-12:00 *haunting the isles:* ghosts and memory in the united kingdom

10:15

Troubles and Silences: When War Haunts Home

A Look into Domestic Violence During and Post-conflict in Northern Ireland

Nina Lefrançois, Université Paris Cité

10:45 *Saint Diana: Death Obsession, Ghostly Bodies, and the Contemporary Biopic*

Irene Liaropoulou, Université Paris Cité

11:15-11:30 coffeebreak

11:30

Remnants of the British Empire: Memories of Caribbean Nurses in the NHS

Marjolaine Tauveron, Université Paris Cité

12:00-13:30 lunch break

13:30-15:05 *haunting the republic:* spectral presences in the united states

13:30

Haunting the Rez: Afro-Indigenous Absence and the Spectral Limits of Indigenous Visibility in Reservation Dogs

Amina Timera, Université Paris Cité

14:00

But equal in the quiet dark: Race Transcending Death in Interview With The Vampire (2022-present) and Sinners (2025)

Eleni Belmehdi, Université Paris Cité

14:30-14:45 coffee break

14:45

(De-)Repression of the Haunting Monster: Political Place of the Subject in 21st Century Modernized Horror Re-Adaptation

Alma Kleczewski, University of New Mexico

15:15 roundtable

Eleni Belmehdi, Carla Da Costa Goncalves,
Nina Lefrançois, Floriane Olivares, Lena Sebbar-Imber