

CURRICULUM VITAE

Fanny Söderbäck, Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Siena College
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ACADEMIC DEGREES

PhD Philosophy, The New School for Social Research, USA, May 2010

Time for Change: On Time and Difference in the Work of Kristeva and Irigaray

Advisor: J. M. Bernstein, The New School for Social Research

Readers: Claudia Baracchi, Università di Milano-Bicocca; Tina Chanter, DePaul University

MA Comparative Literature & Aesthetics, Södertörn University, Sweden, June 2003

Paternal Word and Maternal Body:

A Psycholinguistic Thematic Reading of Selma Lagerlöf's Novel "Banished"

Advisor: Birgitta Holm, Uppsala University

Reader: Ebba Witt-Brattström, Södertörn University

BA Comparative Literature & Gender Studies, Södertörn University, Sweden, June 2000

Beautiful Boys and Demonic Nymphets:

An Analysis of the Erotic Gaze on the Child in Vladimir Nabokov and Thomas Mann

Advisor: Tiina Rosenberg, Lund University

Reader: Ebba Witt-Brattström, Södertörn University

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Siena College, USA, 2011-Present

Visiting Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Siena College, USA, 2010-11

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Feminist Philosophy, Twentieth Century Continental Philosophy

AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Aesthetics, Ethics, Ancient Philosophy

LANGUAGES

Fluency: English, Swedish

Speaking, Comprehension and Reading Knowledge: French

Reading Knowledge: Danish, German, Norwegian, Spanish

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Edited Books and Journals

philoSOPHIA: A Journal of Continental Feminism, special issue on birth and natality (forthcoming 2014).

Critical Lines, Feminist Flights: Mobilizing Future Concepts, Bodies and Subjectivities in Feminist Thought and Practice, co-edited with Henriette Gunkel and Chrysanthi Nigianni (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, forthcoming 2012).

Contributors: Gabeba Badroon, Emanuela Bianchi, Rosi Braidotti, Judith Butler, Red Chidgey, Claire Colebrook, Elizabeth Grosz, Kara Keeling, Kyoo Lee, Katie Lloyd Thomas, Danai Mupotsa, Astrida Nemanis, Davina Quinlivan, Simone Roberts, Gayle Salamon, and Jami Weinstein.

Feminist Readings of Antigone (Albany: SUNY Press, 2010).

Contributors: J. M. Bernstein, Judith Butler, Adriana Cavarero, Tina Chanter, Bracha L. Ettinger, Moira Fradinger, Catherine A. Holland, Luce Irigaray, Julia Kristeva, Mary Beth Mader, Cecilia Sjöholm, and Fanny Söderbäck.

Book Chapters

“Ethics of Eros: On Time, Love, and Difference in Plato and Irigaray,” in *The Erotic: Exploring Critical Issues*, ed. Paul Reynolds (Amsterdam: Rodopi, forthcoming).

“Impossible Mourning: Sophocles Reversed” (reprint of my essay from *Feminist Readings of Antigone*), in *Hannah Arendt Circle Anthology*, ed. Karin Fry and Irene McMullin (forthcoming).

“In Search for the Mother Through the Looking-Glass: On Time, Origins and Beginnings in Plato and Irigaray,” in *Philosophy After Luce Irigaray*, ed. Danae McLeod, Sara McNamara, and Mary Rawlinson (Albany: SUNY Press, forthcoming).

“Impossible Mourning: Sophocles Reversed,” in *Feminist Readings of Antigone* (Albany: SUNY Press, 2010).

Articles in Peer Reviewed Journals

“Revolutionary Time: Revolt as Temporal Return,” *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*, vol. 37, no. 2 (forthcoming 2012).

“Motherhood According to Kristeva: On Time and Matter in Plato and Kristeva,” *philoSOPHIA: A Journal of Continental Feminism*, vol. 1, no. 1 (2011): 65-87.

“La maternité, le maternel: les féministes américaines pour et contre Julia Kristeva,” trans. Jonathan Chalier, *l’Infini*, France, vol. 111 (2010): 86-107.

“Motherhood: A Site of Repression or Liberation? Kristeva and Butler on the Maternal Body,” *Studies in the Maternal*, England, issue 3 (2010).

“Loss for Words – Subversive Starvation,” *Tessera*, Canada, vol. 37-38 (2005): 101-112.

Translation (English to Swedish)

Freddie Rokem, “A Strindberg Dream On Stage,” in *Strindbergiana* (Stockholm: Strindberg Foundation, 2002).

TEACHING

Undergraduate Teaching (full responsibility, designed and taught)

<i>Philosophy and the Human Being</i> , Siena College	Fall 2010-Present
<i>Philosophy of Art</i> , Siena College	Fall 2011
<i>Philosophy and the Feminine</i> , Siena College	Spring 2011
<i>Ethics</i> , Siena College	Fall 2010
<i>Reading New York City: Diversity and Public Spaces</i> , Eugene Lang College	Spring 2010
<i>Reading New York City: Scenes of Recognition</i> , Eugene Lang College	Spring 2009
<i>Becoming Woman: Feminist Thought since Simone de Beauvoir</i> The New School for General Studies (adult division)	Spring 2009
<i>Philosophical Issues in Feminism</i> , Pace University	Fall 2008
<i>Introduction to Aesthetics</i> , Eugene Lang College	Spring 2008
<i>Ethics</i> , Eugene Lang College	Spring 2007
<i>Culture and Society in the West II: Modernity, Subjectivity, Freedom</i> State University of New York at Purchase	Spring 2007
<i>Culture and Society in the West II: The Modern Subject</i> State University of New York at Purchase	Spring 2006

Teaching Assistant

<i>The Experience of Speech in Literature and Psychoanalysis: Marcel Proust</i> (Julia Kristeva), The New School for Social Research, graduate seminar	2008-09
<i>On Sublimation</i> (Julia Kristeva), The New School for Social Research, graduate seminar	2006-07
<i>The Body: Aesthetics, Culture and Politics in the 20th Century</i> (J. M. Bernstein, T. Gordon & J. Foulkes), Eugene Lang College	Fall 2006
<i>Topics in Philosophy: The Philosophical Analysis of War (Plato and Freud)</i> (Claudia Baracchi), Eugene Lang College	Fall 2006

Graduate Seminars and Reading Groups (full responsibility, designed and taught)

<i>On Feminine Temporality</i> Feminist Reading Group, The New School for Social Research	Spring 2007
<i>French Reading Group</i> (translation seminar to prepare students for language exam) The New School for Social Research	2006-07
<i>Bodily Boundaries: Normativity, Taboo, and Transgression</i> Feminist Reading Group, The New School for Social Research	Fall 2006

AWARDS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND HONORS

Thanks to Scandinavia Scholarship , The New School for Social Research (Tuition scholarship awarded to one doctoral candidate)	2009-10
The New School Teaching Fellowship (Competitive fellowship to design and teach an undergraduate course)	2008-10
Petrus Hedlunds Stiftelse , Stipend for Graduate Studies	2005-10
Helge Ax:son Johnsons Stiftelse , Stipend for Graduate Studies (Swedish national award for outstanding scholarship)	2009
Gertrude och Ivar Philipsons Stiftelse , Stipend for Graduate Studies (Swedish national award for outstanding scholarship)	2009
Lars Hiertas Minne Stipend (Funding for the publication of <i>Feminist Readings of Antigone</i>)	2009
Karen Burke Memorial Prize (Awarded annually through the Luce Irigaray Circle to one graduate student writing their dissertation on the work of Luce Irigaray)	2008
New School University Dean's Teaching Fellow (Competitive fellowship to design and teach an undergraduate course)	2007-08
The New School Holocaust Memorial Dissertation Fellowship (Awarded annually to one promising doctoral candidate working on their dissertation)	2007-08
The New School Teaching Fellowship (Competitive fellowship to design and teach an undergraduate course)	2006-07
Tuition Scholarship , The New School for Social Research	2004-06
Fredrika Bremer-stiftelsen , Stipend for Graduate Studies (Competitive award given to female academics for outstanding scholarship)	2005
Israelitiska Ynglingaföreningen , Stipend for Graduate Studies (Stipend awarded to Jewish students with a promising academic record)	2004-05
Hermelestiftelsen , Stipend for Graduate Studies (Stipend awarded to Jewish students with a promising academic record)	2004
The Museum of East Asia Prize , Sweden (Award for academic work on Asian art, culture and history)	1997

PUBLIC LECTURES AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Invited Lectures

- “Art, Politics, and the Public Sphere”
State University of New York at Oneonta, Oneonta, New York January 2011
- “Hannah Arendt and Contemporary Art”
Siena College, Loudonville, New York December 2010
- “Konstens villkor: Om berättande, politiskt handlande, och det offentliga rummet”
WISP (*Women in Swedish Performing Arts*), Stockholm / Malmö, Sweden September 2010
- “Konstens villkor: Om berättande, politiskt handlande, och det offentliga rummet”
Södertörn University, Stockholm, Sweden September 2010
- “Linear Time, Cyclical Time... Revolutionary Time:
Beauvoir and Kristeva on the Sexual Division of Temporal Labor”
State University of New York at Purchase, Purchase, New York April 2010
- “Revolutionary Time: Revolt as Return”
University of North Florida, Jacksonville, Florida January 2010
- “Revolutionary Time: Revolt as Return”
The New School for Social Research, New York City, New York October 2009
- “Living in the Present: Irigaray and Derrida on the Metaphysics of Presence”
Karen Burke Memorial Lecture, *The Luce Irigaray Circle*
Hofstra University, Hempstead, New York September 2008

Conference Presentations

- “Action, Narration, and the Public Sphere: Towards and Arendtian Aesthetic Theory”
Canadian Society for Continental Philosophy (CSCP)
Memorial University of Newfoundland, St John’s, Canada October 2011
- “#talkaboutit: Reflections on a Debate About Sexual Taboos, Bodily Boundaries, and the Difficulty of Saying No”
philoSOPHIA Feminist Society Conference
Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee May 2011
- “Revolutionary Time: Revolt As Temporal Return”
Philosophy, Interpretation and Culture (PIC), 21st Annual Conference
SUNY Binghamton, Binghamton, New York March 2011
- “Linear Time, Cyclical Time... Revolutionary Time:
Beauvoir and Kristeva on the Sexual Division of Temporal Labor”
Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy Annual Conference (SPEP)
McGill University / University of Montreal, Montreal, Canada November 2010
- “Linear Time, Cyclical Time... Revolutionary Time”
Society for European Philosophy and Forum for European Philosophy (SEP-FEP)
Loyla University Chicago, John Felice Rome Center, Rome, Italy July 2010

- “Portraits of Stories: Action and Narration in the Public Space”
Articulations: A Conference on Art & Philosophy
 The New School for Social Research, New York City, New York April 2010
- “Motherhood: A Site of Repression or Liberation? Butler and Kristeva on the Maternal”
Body (Im)Materialities: Transgressing Bodies/Transgressing Embodiment
 Uppsala University, Uppsala, Sweden December 2009
- “Temporalizing Mat(t)er: Origins and Beginnings in Plato and Irigaray”
Society for Phenomenology and Existential Philosophy Annual Conference (SPEP)
 George Mason University, Arlington, Virginia October 2009
- “Motherhood: A Site of Repression or Liberation? Butler and Kristeva on the Maternal”
*M(o)ther Trouble: An International Conference on Contemporary Debates,
 Analyses and Representations of the Maternal*
 Birkbeck University of London, England May 2009
- “Time for Change: On the Possibility of Novelty in Kristeva and Irigaray”
Nativity, Embodiment and the Political: Feminist Conversations
 University of Dundee, Edinburgh, Scotland May 2009
- “In Search for Time Lost: On Origins and Beginnings in Plato and Irigaray”
Feminism and the Politics of History
 DePaul University, Chicago, Illinois April 2009
- “Portraits of Stories: Reading Hannah Arendt Through Narrative Art”
Philosophy and Art: Yielding Narrativity
 Stony Brook University, New York City, New York March 2009
- “Impossible Mourning: Private and Public in Arendt and Hegel”
Canadian Society for Continental Philosophy (CSCP)
 University of Montreal, Quebec, Canada November 2008
- “Monumental Art: The Making of Public Space”
History Matters Conference
 The New School for Social Research, New York City, New York April 2008
- “Impossible Mourning: Sophocles Reversed”
philoSOPHIA Feminist Society Conference
 Emory University and Kennesaw State University, Decatur, Georgia March 2008
- “Impossible Mourning: Private and Public in Arendt and Hegel”
The Hannah Arendt Circle
 Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia March 2008
- “Being Other to Oneself: Plato and Kristeva on Community and Otherness”
Ancient Friends in Contemporary Thinking
 Duquesne University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania February 2008
- “Wisdom of Love: On Time, Desire and Philosophy in Plato and Irigaray”
Third Global Conference on The Erotic: Exploring Critical Issues
 Inter-Disciplinary, Salzburg, Austria November 2007

“Matricide and New Beginnings: Revisiting the Maternal in Luce Irigaray and Julia Kristeva”
Challenging Cultures of Death: Mercy Not Sacrifice
Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland November 2007

“Returning to the Beginning: On Maternal Genealogy in the Work of Irigaray and Kristeva”
The Luce Irigaray Circle
Stony Brook University, New York City, New York September 2007

“Time for Love: Temporality and Relationality in the Work of Luce Irigaray”
Luce Irigaray Seminar and Conference
Liverpool Hope University, Liverpool, England June 2007

“Being Other to Oneself: Plato and Kristeva on Community and Otherness”
Perspectives on Otherness: Transformative Possibilities for Contemporary Society
University of Memphis, Memphis, Tennessee February 2007

“AgoraArt: Action and Narration in the Public Space”
Hannah Arendt in the 21st Century: A Global Discourse
The Center for Jewish Studies, Baylor University, Waco, Texas November 2006

“Female Longing in Selma Lagerlöf’s Fiction”
Selma Lagerlöf: A Feminist Icon?
Karlstad University, Karlstad, Sweden June 2003

Response Papers

Response to Francey Russell: “Subjects of Loss: Language, Sublimation and Modern Subjectivity in the Work of Kristeva”
Re-Thinking Subjectivity Conference
The New School for Social Research, New York City, New York March 2008

Chaired Sessions

Chair for the panel “Nature, Feminism and Science,” Claire Colebrook and Rebecca Jordan-Young
American Philosophical Association (APA), Eastern Division
Washington DC December 2011

Chair for Luciana Parisi: “Event and Evolution”
The Sexes of Evolution: Continental / Feminist Philosophy and Evolutionary Theory
Spindel Conference, University of Memphis, Memphis, Tennessee September 2009

Introduction of Anne van Leeuwen: “Toward a Sexuate Phenomenology”
Karen Burke Memorial Lecture and Prize Ceremony
The Luce Irigaray Circle, Stony Brook University, New York City, New York September 2009

Chair for Stacy Keltner: “Sacred Oedipus, Anti-Oedipus, or Antigone? Unraveling Kristeva’s Figures of the Modern Nomadic Subject”
The Year of Antigones Conference, DePaul University, Chicago, Illinois May 2008

ACADEMIC SERVICES

Director and co-founder , The Kristeva Circle	2011-Present
Peer Reviewer , <i>State University of New York Press</i>	2011-Present
Editorial Board Member , <i>philoSOPHIA: A Journal of Continental Feminism</i>	2010-Present
Faculty Advisor , Siena College Philosophy Club	2010-Present
Peer Reviewer , <i>Hypatia: A Journal of Feminist Philosophy</i>	2010-Present
Executive Board Member , <i>philoSOPHIA: A Feminist Society</i>	2008-Present
Founder and Organizer , The New School Philosophy Town Hall Meeting Colloquium with panels/discussion about issues of diversity and pedagogy	2009
Academic Advisor , Pace University Supervisor for Theresa Frey (senior student), Dyson College Society of Fellows	2009
Faculty Liaison , The New School for Social Research Attend faculty meetings and report back to the student forum	2008-09
Editorial Assistant , <i>Graduate Faculty Philosophy Journal</i> Copy editing, peer review process, general editorial work	2005-06

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Philosophical Association (APA)
Canadian Society for Continental Philosophy (CSCP)
Society for Phenomenology and Existentialist Philosophy (SPEP)
The Luce Irigaray Circle
The Kristeva Circle

RESEARCH

Research Assistant , Drew Hyland, Trinity College (Visiting professor, The New School for Social Research)	2009
Research Assistant , David Carr, Emory University (Visiting professor, The New School for Social Research)	2009
Research Assistant , Julia Kristeva, Université Paris 7 Denis Diderot, France (Visiting professor, The New School for Social Research)	2006-09
Research Assistant , Juliane Rebentisch, Goethe Universität Frankfurt, Germany (Visiting professor, The New School for Social Research)	2008
Research Assistant , Claudia Baracchi, The New School for Social Research	2006-08
Research Assistant , Nancy Fraser, The New School for Social Research	2005-06

ADDITIONAL EDUCATION

Workshop for Writing-Enhanced Teaching , Pace University, USA	2008
Doctoral Seminar with Luce Irigaray , Liverpool Hope University, England	2007
Academic Pedagogy Seminar , The New School for Social Research, USA	2006
Journalistic Certificate , Poppus School of Journalism, Sweden	2002
Nordic-Baltic Summer School of Feminist/Gender Studies , Latvia University	1999
Summer Course of Storytelling and Theater , University of Karlstad, Sweden	1999
Diplome d'Université , French Language and Culture, Université de Pau, France	1998
Certificat Pratique de Langue Francaise , French Language and Culture, Université de La Rochelle, France	1995

PUBLIC MEETINGS, CONFERENCES, AND FESTIVALS

President , <i>KLAR</i> (non-profit organization for culture and arts) Arranged cultural festivals, seminars, creative courses for young people, and demonstrations against racism and seminars about xenophobia/neo-Nazism	2000-07
Assisting Organizer , <i>International Conference on Culture, Economy and Democracy</i> University of Karlstad, Sweden	2003
Production Assistant , <i>Terezín Initiative</i> Conferences and seminars in commemoration of the Holocaust Project initiated by the Swedish Cultural Minister and maintained by the EU	2000-02
Assisting Organizer , <i>From Kalevala to Rap</i> International Festival of Storytelling and Theater, Sweden	2001
Assisting Organizer , <i>International Holocaust Conference</i> Opening Ceremony of an international conference in commemoration of the Holocaust Initiated by the Swedish Prime Minister, Sweden	2000
Organizer , <i>Women in Black</i> Local representative for international organization for women protesting against conflicts and wars, Sweden	2000

ARTISTIC/DOCUMENTARY WORK

- Author**, essay in the catalogue *Bit By Bit*
Exhibition catalogue on the work of Swedish artist Andreas Gedin 2009
- Exhibition Participant**, *Sverige, Sverige fosterland*
Exhibit on dual identity at the Jewish Museum, Sweden 2005
- Producer**, *Svalda ord*
Documentary film about a young woman struggling with anorexia, Sweden 2003
- Writer/Producer**, *Boxningsessä i tre ronder*
Radio essay about women boxing, on Swedish National Radio program *Flipper* 2003
- Assistant**, French artist Esther Shalev-Gerz
White Out, exhibition on Swedish and Lapp identity
Museum of National Antiquities, Sweden 2002

JOURNALISTIC WRITING, EDITING, RESEARCH

- Consulting Editor**, *Arena*
Cultural/political magazine, Sweden 2000-08
- Researcher**, “Who Do You Think You Are?” Australian TV 2007
- Guest Editor**, *Glänta*
Philosophy journal, Sweden
Special issue about networking and cooperation between visual artists 2006
- Literary Critic**, *Sydsvenska Dagbladet*
Daily newspaper, Sweden 2003-06
- Consulting Editor**, *Judisk Krönika*
Jewish cultural magazine, Sweden 1999-2004
- Literary Correspondent**, *Morgenbladet*
Weekly national newspaper, Norway 2000-03
- Literary Critic**, *Svenska Dagbladet*
Daily national newspaper, Sweden 2001
- Researcher**, *Netwerk*, Channel 1, Dutch TV-channel 2000

JOURNALISTIC AWARDS

- Foundation of Cultural Journalism**, Sweden
Nomination for “The Best Cultural Essay of the Year” 2004

NON-ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Working as a freelancing art and literary critic since 2001, I have published approximately 100 articles (reviews, interviews, columns, essays, and reportages) in various newspapers and magazines, mostly in the Scandinavian countries. Below is a selection of reviews and interviews.

Book Reviews

Line Blikstad, Johanna Ekström, Åsa Ericsson, Jonathan Safran Foer, Katherine Forrest, Karin Fossum, Göran Gademan, Ann Jäderlund, Shawna Kenney, Peter Kihlgård, Jan Kjaerstad, Ulrika Knutson, Susanne Levin, Erlend Loe, Ivar Lo-Johansson, Kristina Lugn, Lotta Lundberg, Karl Marx, Nick McDonell, Lukas Moodysson, Tove Nilsen, Anders Rayner, John Erik Riley, Eva Runefelt, Steve Sem-Sandberg, Linda Skugge, Caterina Pascual Söderbaum, Astrid Trotzig, Barbara Voors, Michel Warschawski, Alejandro Leiva Wenger.

Art Reviews

Andreas Gedin (Swedish artist), Damien Hirst (British artist), Cecilia Parsberg (Swedish artist), Esther Shalev-Gerz (French artist), Santiago Sierra (Mexican artist).

Interviews

Beate Grimrud (Swedish author), Bob Hansson (Swedish poet), Maya Lin (American artist and architect), Hannah Lindroth (Swedish musician), Susan Sontag (American intellectual).

REFERENCES

J. M. Bernstein, The New School for Social Research (dissertation advisor)
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Claudia Baracchi, Università di Milano-Bicocca (dissertation committee)
Facoltà di Scienze della Formazione, Università di Milano-Bicocca
Piazza dell'Ateneo Nuovo 1, 20126 Milano, Italy
+39 (0)59702531 / claudia.baracchi@unimib.it

Tina Chanter, DePaul University (dissertation committee)
Department of Philosophy, DePaul University
2353 North Clifton Avenue, Chicago IL 60614, USA
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Julia Kristeva, Université Paris 7 Denis Diderot
Université Paris 7 Denis Diderot, Directrice de l'Ecole Doctorale "langue, littérature, image"
Grands Moulins, bât. C, Case 7010, F-75205 Paris Cedex 13, France
+33-(0)607596926 / julia.kristeva@univ-paris-diderot.fr

Dmitri Nikulin, The New School for Social Research / Eugene Lang College (teaching)
Department of Philosophy, The New School for Social Research
Room 1015A, 6 East 16th Street, New York NY 10003, USA
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DISSERTATION ABSTRACT

In my dissertation, I argue that the question of time and difference underpins the ethical and political commitments of Julia Kristeva and Luce Irigaray. While most interlocutors of these two thinkers have discussed the central role of difference in their work, few have examined their emphasis on the issue of temporality. I offer the first interpretation that systematically unearths the role of time in their oeuvre, and I insist that their critique of identity thinking and their respective politics of difference are grounded in a discussion of time. Drawing from their work, I argue that a feminist critique of patriarchal culture relies on a re-articulation of temporality as it has been conceived within the Western tradition. While feminists first and foremost have been concerned with questions of corporeality and space, I contend that a feminist critique of time is essential for any adequate discussion of female subjectivity.

The objectives of my project are twofold: First, I exegetically trace a dialogical relationship between Kristeva and Irigaray, suggesting that their respective projects are structured around and driven by a common interest in questions of time and difference. Second, I look at the larger political implications of their re-articulation of temporality as it pertains to contemporary feminist debates about sexual difference, embodiment, and political change. To this end, I offer an analysis of the relationship between materiality and temporality, with the ambition to do the groundwork necessary to develop a feminist theory that avoids reducing sexual difference either to brute essence or to mere discursive construction. Drawing from and engaging critically with various contemporary thinkers, I hope to provide some of the concepts that feminism needs in order to articulate both embodiment/materiality and social change in more nuanced and complex terms.

The dissertation consists of three chapters. The first treats the question of time as it appears in these two thinkers, and introduces what I call a time of return, or *revolutionary time*. I argue that the subjugation of women in patriarchal society depends on a sexual division of temporal labor. As upholders of reproduction, embodiment and the survival of the species, women have been confined to the cyclical time of nature – a temporal model that is said to merely repeat itself indefinitely. As inventors of a world that transcends our natural conditions, men have instead been the bearers of linear time – and thus ostensibly capable of change and progress. I argue that both these models in fact foreclose futurity and change; that they are bound to repeat a frozen image of the past. The model of time that I propose aims at revitalizing a dynamic past so as to make possible a living present and a future pregnant with change.

Chapter two focuses on the present and the tradition that we call the metaphysics of presence, and offers a series of alternative ways of treating the question of presence in intersubjective terms (through phenomena such as yoga, poetry, psychoanalysis, and love). Through an engagement with Jacques Derrida's deconstructive project, I argue that the metaphysical tradition, contrary to what is commonly assumed, is one concerned with absence rather than with presence, and I begin to develop an ethics grounded in co-presence and temporal difference. Chapter three examines the past, or the point to which we must return, more specifically articulated in terms of the maternal body. This chapter includes an analysis of central passages from Plato and a critical reading of Judith Butler, alongside an investigation into the role of the maternal in Kristeva and Irigaray respectively. In the conclusion I turn to the future and to a set of issues connected to novelty and change, allowing us to return to the question of revolt or revolution understood both temporally and politically. I conclude that any theory of time and finitude must be articulated not only in terms of mortality and death but also through the vocabulary of natality and birth, and the dynamics of life itself.