

Jack Halberstam

ZOMBIE HUMANISM AT THE END OF THE WORLD

In this talk, Halberstam argues against new versions of humanism that seek life at all costs, that seek to extend life, prolong life, invest in the good life, and that see death as the ultimate form of failure. Halberstam will use the metaphor of the zombie to explore new dynamics between prolonged life for the wealthy and the diminished opportunities for longevity for everyone else. Our current matrix of extended life can be understood in terms of the bio-political but this is a 'zombie biopolitics' that creates new balancing acts between bio- and necro-political regimes. Zombie humanism, accordingly, arrogates liveliness, dynamism, vibrancy and resonance for itself and consigns all other forms of being to the status of inertia and stasis.

Judith Jack Halberstam is Professor of American Studies and Ethnicity, Gender Studies and Comparative Literature at USC (University of Southern California). Halberstam is the author of five books including *Female Masculinity* (1998), *The Queer Art of Failure* (2011), and most recently *Gaga Feminism: Sex, Gender and the End of the Normal* (2012). Halberstam works generally in the areas of queer theory, visual and popular culture, gender studies and art, and blogs at bullybloggers.wordpress.com as well as jackhalberstam.com.

The keynote is also part of the ICI lecture series **ERRANS**
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As a practice, failure recognizes that alternatives are embedded already in the dominant and that power is never total or consistent; indeed failure can exploit the unpredictability of ideology and its indeterminate qualities.

J. J. HALBERSTAM

Revolutionaries are everywhere, but nowhere is there any real revolution.

ABDELKEBIR EL-KHATIBI

The word resistance usually evokes images of struggle, of opposition, but also of power, of domination, and oppression. In its concrete manifestations, however, resistance is more of a process of trial and error; it is often a story of failures intersecting, weaknesses combining and of building precarious solidarities in times of crisis. In this sense, revolution is never a simple story of “success”.

This one-day conference aims at exploring resistances as a multiplicity, as practices and modes of thinking that challenge normative values of success and failure. Resistances act on the mechanisms of power in particular places, in concerted actions, as well as in daily routines of living, being, working, imagining, and organizing. They can manifest as coalitions of the weak and dispossessed but also as coagulations in that in-between, uncomfortable space of the semi-peripheral. The panels will investigate resistances in the decolonial queer context, the cultural field at large, protest politics, and sex work, and will involve researchers alongside activists and other agents.

10:30	<i>Introduction: Rosa Barotsi and Walid El-Houri</i>
11:00 – 12:30	<i>Part I: QUEER RESISTANCES A Conversation with Heather Love (University of Pennsylvania) Moderation and Response: Pearl Brilmyer, Zairong Xiang</i>
12:30 – 14:00	<i>Lunch break</i>
14:00 - 15:30	<i>Part II: PROTEST POLITICS Walid El-Houri (ICI Berlin) Margarita Tsomou (HBK Braunschweig) Moderation: James Burton</i>
15:30 -16:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
16:00 - 17:00	<i>Part III: Sex Work Politics Irene Peano (Bologna) Liad Kantorowicz (Berlin) Moderation: Ewa Majewska</i>
17:00 – 17:30	<i>Coffee break</i>
17:30 - 19:00	<i>Part IV: THE ART OF RESISTANCE Rosa Barotsi (ICI Berlin) Ewa Majewska (ICI Berlin) Laboria Cuboniks (A Xenofeminist Collective) Moderation: Pearl Brilmyer</i>
	<i>EVENING KEYNOTE</i>
19:30	<i>Introduction: Ewa Majewska</i>
19:40	<i>Jack Halberstam (University of Southern California) Zombie Humanism at the End of the World</i>