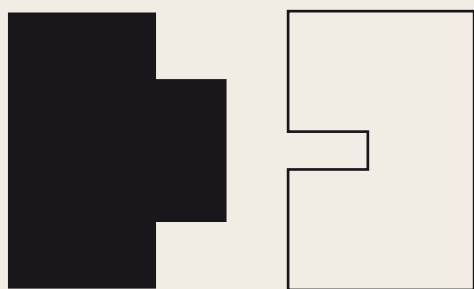


The ideology of post-industrial societies has heavily relied on the idea that everyone can make it, that success is just a matter of right choices and that one is individually guilty for one's failures. In a paradoxical way, the poor have identified with this ideology of choice. In the last years, however, we have witnessed eruptions of violence (London riots, for example) where we do not see a critique of the dominant ideology but rather an intense identification with the ideals of consumerist society. The lecture will look at how a paradoxical form of complementarity is emerging between the rich and the poor through new types of identifications and how both violence and denial are essential supports of these identifications.

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**ICI Lecture Series – On Complementarity** 'Our positions are complementary, not in conflict!' – Recognizing complementarity offers an attractive model for the coexistence of different knowledges, systems, and cultures. However, different positions rarely simply add up like pieces in a puzzle to provide a full, harmonizing picture. The pieces usually seem to be too large and it requires violence to make them fit – for instance, by constructing others as a complement that provides just what one misses – or to make them compatible where they overlap. Instead of being visualizable in terms of a jigsaw puzzle, the principle of complementarity such as it was introduced by Niels Bohr in order to address the apparent particle-wave duality in quantum physics remains puzzling. It allows for the possibility that different perspectives not only constitute objects differently, but constitute different objects. While there may be no perspective from which the different objects can be seen together, considering them nonetheless as equally necessary for a fuller account stimulates a radical rethinking that unsettles traditional oppositions of identity and difference, subject and object, epistemology and ontology.

Conceived within the framework of the ICI Core Project Tension/Spannung, the **ICI Lecture Series On Complementarity** explores the critical potential of complementarity in the Sciences, the Arts, and Politics.



# Renata Salecl

## Events between Violence and Identification:

## How to Think Complementarity in Today's Fractured Societies