

LECTURE
**SLAVOJ
ŽIŽEK**

**WHY TODESTRIEB IS
A PHILOSOPHICAL CONCEPT**

While Freud's death drive at times approaches a desire to overcome all differences and tensions, Slavoj Žižek insists that we should not confuse it with the craving for self-annihilation, for the return to the inorganic absence of any life-tension. In his Lacanian reading, the (death) drive represents a 'diabolic' dimension of human being.

It is "the very opposite of dying – a name for the 'undead' eternal life itself, for the horrible fate of being caught in the endless repetitive cycle of wandering around in guilt and pain." The articulation of the death drive as a philosophical concept is certain to lead us also to a deeper understanding of tension, the topic of the current ICI core project.

Slavoj Žižek is Professor of Philosophy at the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia, and member of the Slovenian Academy of Sciences and Arts. He has gained wide recognition with his characteristic combination of high and low, of Lacanian theory, pop cultural issues and Post-Marxism.



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