

27 April 2018
10:00–21:00
In English

Symposium

The one-day symposium will examine the discursive and aesthetic challenges that arise with respect to both the definition and representation of eating disorders, taking into account cinematic, literary, and artistic depictions of anorexia, bulimia, binge eating, and other forms of food consumption deemed 'disordered', keeping in mind that these diagnoses always raise the question of what constitutes 'normal', 'ordered eating', socially accepted habits and 'aberrant' ones – such as diets and obsessive 'healthy' or 'clean' eating.

The symposium will focus on the errant temporalities bundled into ED and fraying quotidian rhythms. Social time is structured around 'ordinary' mealtimes and collectively prepared festive occasions, both of which collide with the obsessional temporality characteristic of ED. Disordered eating obeys different rhythms, a time radically stretched or violently compressed. In all this, but even after a supposed 'recovery' from an ED, disordered eating remains paradoxically linked to the most elementary, by definition 'chronic' condition of an organism dependent on food intake. Can narrative time articulate these temporal complexities; can it absorb the intensely repetitive structures of ED or the questionable notions of recovery and relapse?

The still very much uneven gender distribution of ED attests to the perniciously patriarchal structures of social life, yet ED also exhibit the overdetermined nature of consumption in capitalist societies. For many decades, ED have been a focal point of feminist attention and activism. But can the resilience, endurance, and refusal encountered in ED become modes of political resistance?

Dis-Ordered Eating

Organized by
**Clio Nicastro and
Nadine Hartmann**

**Keynote Speaker
Susie Orbach**