## ICI Lecture Series ERRANS environ/s - Monday, 11 March 2019, 19:30, in English

The 'event' has been marked as exceptional Whether it is in small group associations ICI Lecture Series ERRANS environ/s and momentous in postwar philosophy and that reorganize socioeconomic relations in There is hardly a discipline, field, or discourse theory. The recent spate of commemorations the context of labour, education, and care, within the natural and social sciences nor the of May '68 has reiterated that exceptionalism; or the practice of listening, questioning, and humanities that hasn't long been touched and as period nostalgia, political flashpoint, re- struggling to find a voice, (a crucial narrative transformed by the notions of milieu, envivolutionary reboot... 'Eventalness' - distin- of feminist consciousness-raising), or in po- ronment, or Umwelt. The recent revival and guished by singularity, rupture, the break, the litical technologies of destratification that proliferation of ecological discourses can be interval, the void, the moment (Patrice Man- are deployed both right and left, energies are understood, at least in part, as a response to iglier's identification of '68 with 'le moment recovered. They emanate from practical, ordi- the increasingly complete immersion in techphilosophique') - coalesces into a grand apo- nary acts as well as the stuff of decomposition, nologically in-formed environments. ria of the Political. What does it mean to take impasse, obstacle courses of junk and detritus The transdisciplinary impact of these new exception to this exceptionalism of the Politi- (the ZAD, la zone à défendre at Notre-Dame concepts has not yet been captured, nor is it cal? Félix Guattari's writings on micropolitics des Landes). The rich poesis of ecosophy, of- clear that it can be captured, but while the life and ecosophy answer this by scoring sensate fering up a micropolitics of densified milieu, sciences play a prominent role in them (havenvironments: intensities of power and de- environmental déclenchements, and resistant ing adopted, in the 19th century, concepts sire; the viscosity of social atmospherics, jardinage, lies in the fallows of post-'68; be- from physics and transgressed into the social psychic pulsations, and drives. These sensible coming perceptible in the blurred retrospect sciences, for example, as racist discourses and materialities blur the sharp outlines of epic on 'the event' of '68. turning points that structure theories of the 'matter' of politics.

Political, opening up other ways of naming the Emily Apter is Julius Silver Professor of stead, this process appears to be a multidirec-French and Comparative Literature at New tional, non-hierarchizable, and errant move-York University and a Remarque-Ecole Norment, itself constituting a complex ecology of male Supérieure Visiting Professor; she has knowledge. also taught at the University of California, ERRANS environ/s contemplates aspects of Los Angeles; UC Davis; Cornell University; this frequently divergent, potentially errant, and Williams College. Apter is editor of the and certainly ongoing transformation of not book series 'Translation/Transnation' from only the sciences or cultures of knowledge, Princeton University Press and serves on sev- but also cultural and artistic production at eral editorial boards. Her books include *Unex-* large. It will investigate the ways in which an ceptional Politics: On Obstruction, Impasse, and attention to environments can have the effect the Impolitic (2018), Against World Literature: of dissolving boundaries or making them per-On The Politics of Untranslatability (2013), meable, questioning clear-cut distinctions, and The Translation Zone: A New Comparative undermining naive ontologies, decentring the Literature (2006).

social Darwinism), they don't operate as the leading science in this transformation. In-

subject, folding nature and culture, and producing complex political ecologies attuned to far-reaching entanglements.

An ICI Berlin event in cooperation with The American Academy in Berlin

**Emily Apter Blurring the Event:** Micropolitics and Ecosophy, May '68 to the ZAD



