

c:o/re Lecture:

***An-archaeology and spectral realism***  
with Hilan Bensusan

**Date:** 14 June 2022, 17h

**Location:** c:o/re Theaterstr. 75 (Statdpalais), Lecture Hall

**Online:**

<https://rwth.zoom.us/j/95808499574?pwd=ZCtQM0U5NGNQWUo5V0h0dFE4aTRmZz09>

Meeting-ID: 958 0849 9574

Code: 128631

**Abstract**

An-archaeology is a procedure to reshape the official foundational accounts of thought through adding virtual and counterfactual narratives. It springs from a certain mistrust in the capacity of any starting point to ground what comes next – and from the idea that no beginning is oblivious to its others. As such it is an attempt to think through the unruly; it comes close to what Emmanuel Levinas meant when he wrote “true as only fiction can be”.

Spectral realism is the belief in what haunts – even though, as Juliana Martinez professes, it is worth paying more attention to the haunting than to the ghost. It is an attempt to look towards the past through its effects in lores, traumas, inheritances and recurrent images. Saidya Hartman is engaging with specters when she tries to narrate what the past has systematically obliterated. Spectral realism is a stance towards the memory according to which the past is its salient mode of existence.

Both endeavors relate to the Aristotelian quest for the drawing line between remembering and imagining. Both draw on how memory cannot be thought through without the mutual imbrication of retention and retrieval – to refer to the main characters of the philosophy of memory that John Locke once rehearsed. This talk will explore what both an-archaeology and spectral realism have to say together about the past and what we could do with it.

**Bio**

Hilan Bensusan is Professor of Contemporary Philosophy at the University of Brasilia. He is the author of *Indexicalism: Realism and the Metaphysics of Paradox* (Edinburgh University Press, 2021) and *Being Up for Grabs: On Speculative Anarcheology* (Open Humanities Press, 2016). His other books published include *Portuguese: A diáspora da agência – Ensaio sobre o horizonte das monadologias* (The diaspora of agency – Essay on the horizon of monadologies) (EdUFBA, 2018), *Linhas de animismo futuro* (Lines of future animism) (Mil Saberes, 2017), *Heráclito – Exercícios de Anarqueologia* (Heraclitus – Exercises in anarcheology) (Ideias e Letras, 2012) and *Excessos e Exceções* (Excesses and exceptions) (Ideias e Letras, 2008).