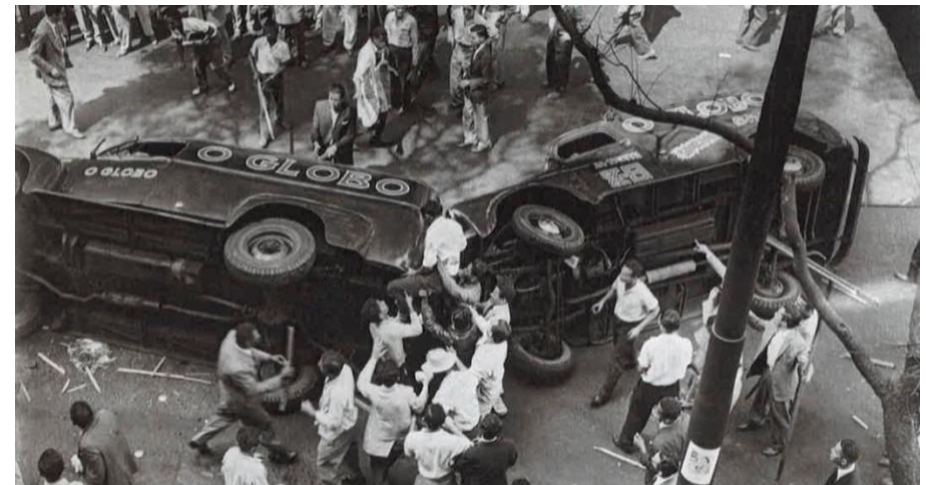


NOTES:

Romanisches Seminar  
Rechtswissenschaftliche Fakultät

## STATE, POWER AND VIOLENCE Between Law, History and Literature

Spring Workshop 2019



Unknown photographer. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 28.08.1954

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This workshop proposes to present and discuss four essential books to understand the complex relationship between **State, Power, and Violence**: Walter Benjamin's *Critique of Violence* (*Zur Kritik der Gewalt*), Giorgio Agamben's *Homo Sacer*, Michel Foucault's *Security, Territory, Population* (*La naissance de la biopolitique*) and Jacques Derrida's *Force of Law* (*Force de Loi*). With an interdisciplinary approach that involves Literary Theory, Cultural Studies and Law Studies, Legal History, the workshop claims to integrate students (Master and Bachelor) from Comparative Literature, Romance Studies, Law Studies, Film Studies, Art History and History and to establish a fruitful dialogue between different disciplines.

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Monday, 15.04.2019, 9:00-14:00 in RAA-E-30

Tuesday, 16.04.2019, 9:30-14:00 in RAA-G-01

Organised by:

Eduardo Jorge de Oliveira (Romanisches Seminar, Universität Zürich)

Elisabetta Fiocchi Malaspina (Rechtswissenschaftliche Fakultät, Universität Zürich)

## Day 1: Reading *State, Power, and Violence* from Walter Benjamin and Giorgio Agamben

### 9:00: Introductory remarks

### 9:30 - 11:00: Benjamin's *Critique of Violence (Zur Kritik der Gewalt)*

(Reading Walter Benjamin: Could we distinct legitimate and illegitimate violence?)

1. General introduction of the text and the author
2. Aspects of the text in the Legal History
3. Aspects of the text in Literature: "Literature, Myth and Violence".
4. **Elena Rosauro** (Romance Studies, UZH) "Entangled: Violence, State and Power through Latin American contemporary arts"
5. General discussion

### References:

Benjamin, Walter (1986). "Critique of Violence". *Reflections*. Essays, Aphorisms, Autobiographical, Writings. Translated by Edmund Jephcott. Schocken Books, New York.

Benjamin, Walter (1999). *Gesammelte Schriften*, vol. II.1, herausgegeben von R. Tiedemann e H. Schweppenhäuser, Suhrkamp, Frankfurt a.M., p. 179-204.

### 11:30 - 14:00: Agamben's *Homo Sacer*

(The logic of Sovereignty, particularly the "Paradox of Sovereignty")

1. General introduction of the text and the author
2. Aspects of the text in Legal History
3. Aspects of the text in Literature: "The ambivalence of the sacred" and "Sacred life."
4. **Salwa Shkukani** (Law Faculty, UZH): "Anticipatory Self-Defense in International Law A Study in light of the United Nations Charter in the 20th century"
5. General discussion with **Prof. Dr. Pamela Cacciavillani** (Faculty of Law, University of Monterrey – Mexico)

### References:

Agamben, Giorgio (1998). *Homo Sacer*. Sovereign Power and Bare Life. Translated by Daniel Heller-Roazen. California, Stanford University Press. Agamben, Giorgio (1995). *Homo Sacer*. Il potere sovrano e la nuda vita. Torino, Einaudi.

## Day 2: Reading *State, Power, and Violence* from Michel Foucault and Jacques Derrida

### 9:30 - 11:00: Foucault's *Security, Territory, Population (La naissance de la biopolitique)*

(Police as the art of management life and the well-being of population)

1. General introduction of the text and the author
2. Aspects of the text in Legal History
3. Aspects of the text in Literature: Literature, Crime and Biopolitics.
4. **Maria Ordoñez** (Romance Studies – UZH), Bodies in trance. Disappearance, waste and economies of death
5. **Olena Stoliarchuk** (Faculty of Law, UZH), "International Security. Declaration on the Strengthening of International Security (1970)"
6. General discussion

### References:

Foucault, Michel (2007). *Security, Territory, Population*. Lectures at the Collège of France, 1977-1978. Translated by Graham Burchell. London, Palgrave Macmillan.

Foucault, Michel (2004). *Sécurité, Territoire, Population: cours au Collège de France, 1977-1978*. Paris, Gallimard, Seuil.

Foucault, Michel (2004). *Naissance de la biopolitique*. Cours au Collège de France (1978-1979). Paris, Gallimard, Seuil.

### 11:30 - 14:00: Jacques Derrida's *Force of Law (Force de Loi)* (*epokhe* of the rule)

1. General introduction of the text and the author
2. Aspects of the text in RAA-E-30 Legal History
3. Aspects of the text in Literature: some remarks about the sacred and the notion of text.
4. **Laurence Steinemann** (Faculty of Law, UZH) "Theorizing the Brazilian National Truth Commission"
5. General discussion

### References:

Derrida, Jacques (1992). "Force of Law". The "Mystical Foundation of Authority". In Carlson, David; Cornell, Drucilla; Rosenfield, Michael (ed). *Deconstruction and the Possibility of Justice*. New York, Routledge, p. 3-67.