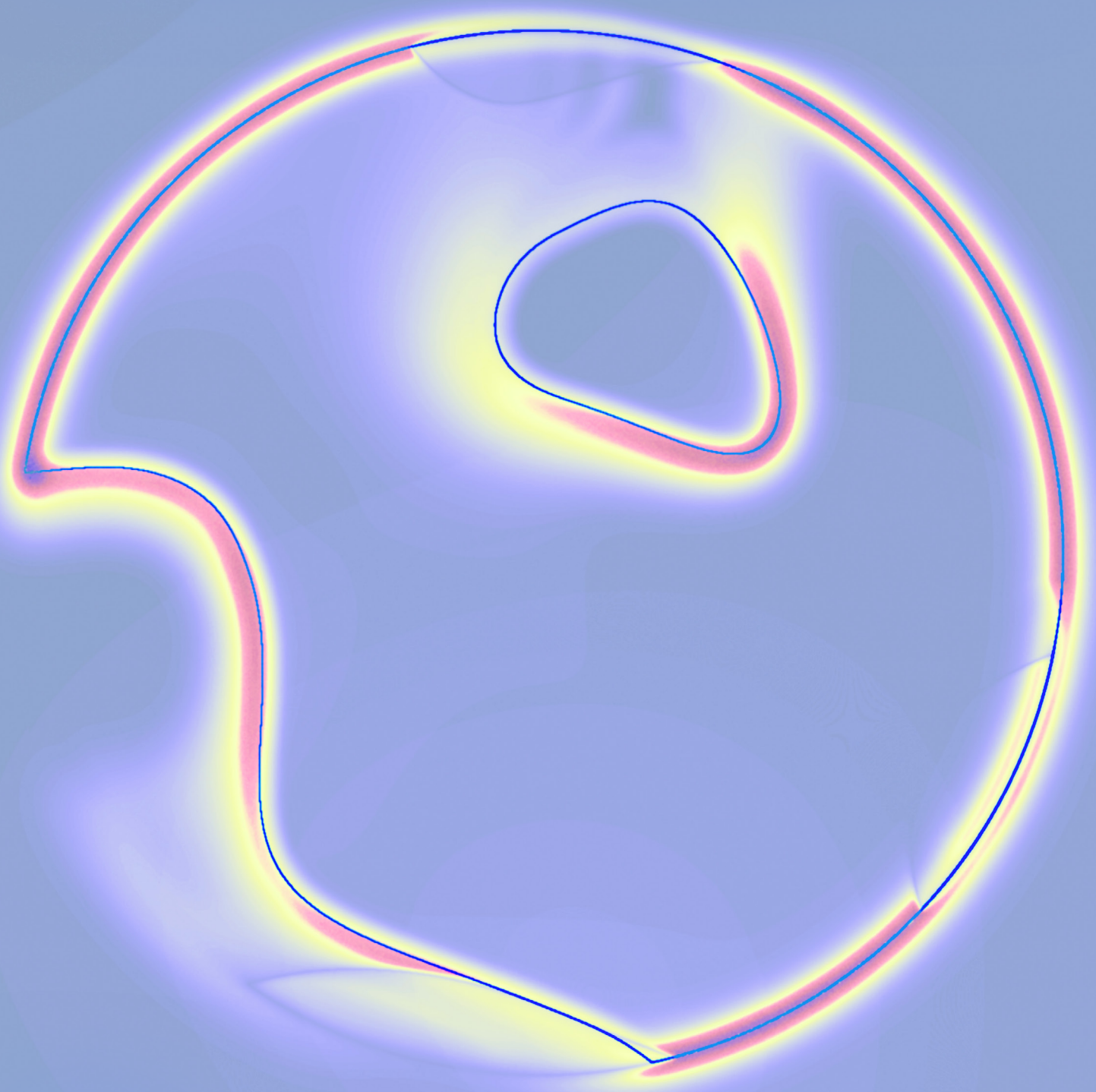


# What New philosophy for a multipolar world is Universalism?



Program

June 21 — 22, 2024  
Palazzo Diedo, Venice

**B** Berggruen  
Institute  
Europe

# What New philosophy for a multipolar world is Universalism?

June 21 — 22, 2024  
Palazzo Diedo, Venice

## What lies between eurocentrism and relativism?

As new power centers emerge around the world, each with a claim to the legitimacy of their civilizational values and particular truth procedures, can we still speak of universal values and universal truths? How can we imagine a new philosophical basis for a post-globalization, post-eurocentric and in many ways post-liberal world? Can climate change, the rise of AI, and other planetary challenges influence how we think about our common destiny as humanity?

In the context of its “Year of the Planetary”, the Berggruen Institute Europe sets out to investigate these questions with a philosophical essay series, two books, and a symposium in Venice.

On June 21/22 thinkers from all continents will gather for two days of philosophical creation and a public marathon of interviews on universalism led by Hans Ulrich Obrist and Lorenzo Marsili.

Special artistic contributions by Alexander Kluge and the duo Holly Herndon & Mat Dryhurst will explore the theme of Universalism through the language of image, video, and sound.

### **Participants to the investigation include:**

Frédérique Ait-Touati, Barbara Cassin, Emanuele Coccia, Souleymane Bashir Diagne, Zhao Dingxin, Mamadou Diouf, Manthia Diawara, Arturo Escobar, Sun Ge, Holly Herndon & Mat Dryhurst, Yuk Hui, Nadia Yala Kisukidi, Alexander Kluge, Margaret Levi, Julie Mehretu, Pankaj Mishra, Carlo Rovelli, Nikolaj Schultz, Zhao Tingyang, Ece Temelkuran, Ge Wang, Zhang Xudong, Slavoj Žižek.

# What New philosophy for a multipolar world is Universalism?

June 21 — 22, 2024  
Palazzo Diedo, Venice

## Thursday 20th June

**Berggruen Institute Europe - Casa dei Tre Oci**  
Fondamenta delle Zitelle 43, Giudecca

Water taxis depart from hotels – \*information under “Event Logistics” below.

**7.00 pm**

### **Welcome Dinner**

This welcome dinner brings together participants to “What is Universalism?” with participants to “Planetary Metaphysics”, a closed-door seminar taking place over 19th and 20th of June at Casa dei Tre Oci.

*Dinner by Cipriani*



# Friday 21st June

**Palazzo Grassi**

**Campo San Samuele 3231**

Water taxis depart from hotels – \*information under “Event Logistics” below.

**11.00 am**

**Visit to the exhibition “Julie Mehretu. Ensemble” at Palazzo Grassi**  
with Julie Mehretu and Hans Ulrich Obrist.

**12.30 pm**

**Light Lunch at Palazzo Grassi**

*transfer by water taxi to Palazzo Diedo*

**Palazzo Diedo**

**Fondamenta Trapolin 2386**

**2.00 pm – 6.30 pm**

**First Closed-Door Work Session**

*Information on methodology sent separately.*

**6.30 pm**

**Welcome toast at Palazzo Diedo**

**7.30 pm**

**Aperitif presentation of “Adventures of Enlightenment”**

by Alexander Kluge with Hans Ulrich Obrist

**8.00 pm**

**Seated Dinner**

*by Cipriani*

**9.00 pm**

**Dinner dialogue**

between Hans Ulrich Obrist & Julie Mehretu

# Saturday 22nd June

**Palazzo Diedo**

**Fondamenta Trapolin 2386**

Itinerary from hotel to the venue - \*information under “Event Logistics” below.

**10.00 am – 1.00 pm**

**Second Closed-Door Work Session**

*Information on methodology sent separately.*

**1.00 pm – 5.00 pm**

**Free time**

**5.00 pm – 11.00 pm**

**Public Event: Marathon of Interviews on Universalism**

**Marathon of Interviews on Universalism led by Hans Ulrich Obrist and Lorenzo Marsili.**

Each interview will last under 20 minutes. Timeline will be announced on the day.

**Participants:**

Frédérique Ait-Touati, Barbara Cassin, Emanuele Coccia, Souleymane Bachir Diagne, Mamadou Diouf, Manthia Diawara, Arturo Escobar, Yuk Hui, Nadia Yala Kisukidi, Alexander Kluge, Margaret Levi, Pankaj Mishra, Carlo Rovelli, Nikolaj Schultz, Ece Temelkuran, Ge Wang, Zhang Xudong

**The marathon will be interrupted by a 30 minutes lecture performance on Universalism by Holly Herndon & Mat Dryhurst.**

*Food and drinks will be available throughout the marathon for all participants.*

# What New philosophy for a multipolar world is Universalism?

June 21 — 22, 2024  
Palazzo Diedo, Venice

## List of Participants

### Participants attending in Venice

Frédérique Ait-Touati  
Barbara Cassin  
Emanuele Coccia  
Souleyman Bashir Diagne  
Mamadou Diouf  
Manthia Diawara  
Arturo Escobar  
Holly Herndon & Mat Dryhurst  
Yuk Hui  
Nadia Yala Kisukidi  
Alexander Kluge  
Margaret Levi  
Julie Mehretu  
Pankaj Mishra  
Carlo Rovelli  
Nikolaj Schultz  
Ece Temelkuran  
Ge Wang  
Zhang Xudong

### Curators

Hans Ulrich Obrist and Lorenzo Marsili

### Berggruen Leadership attending in Venice

Nicolas Berggruen  
Nathan Gardels  
Nils Gilman  
Dawn Nakagawa  
Lorenzo Marsili  
Bing Song

# What New philosophy for a multipolar world is Universalism?

June 21 — 22, 2024  
Palazzo Diedo, Venice

## Logistics And Event Details

<b>Date</b>	21—22 June 2024
<b>Venue</b>	Palazzo Diedo – Berggruen Arts&Culture Center Fondamenta Trapolin, 2386, 30121 Venezia VE
<b>Hotel</b>	<b>Santa Chiara Hotel</b> <b>Santa Croce, 548, 30135 Venezia VE</b>

### **Airport-Venue transfer**

You can take a cab (car) to Piazzale Roma, presenting the receipt for the refund.  
From Piazzale Roma to hotel Santa Chiara is a 2 minutes walk.

### *Day by day local Transfer*

#### **Thursday 20th June      Hotel - Casa dei Tre Oci**

→ Private water taxi to be provided and organized by the Institute at 6.45 pm /  
Return from venue to hotel at 9.30pm

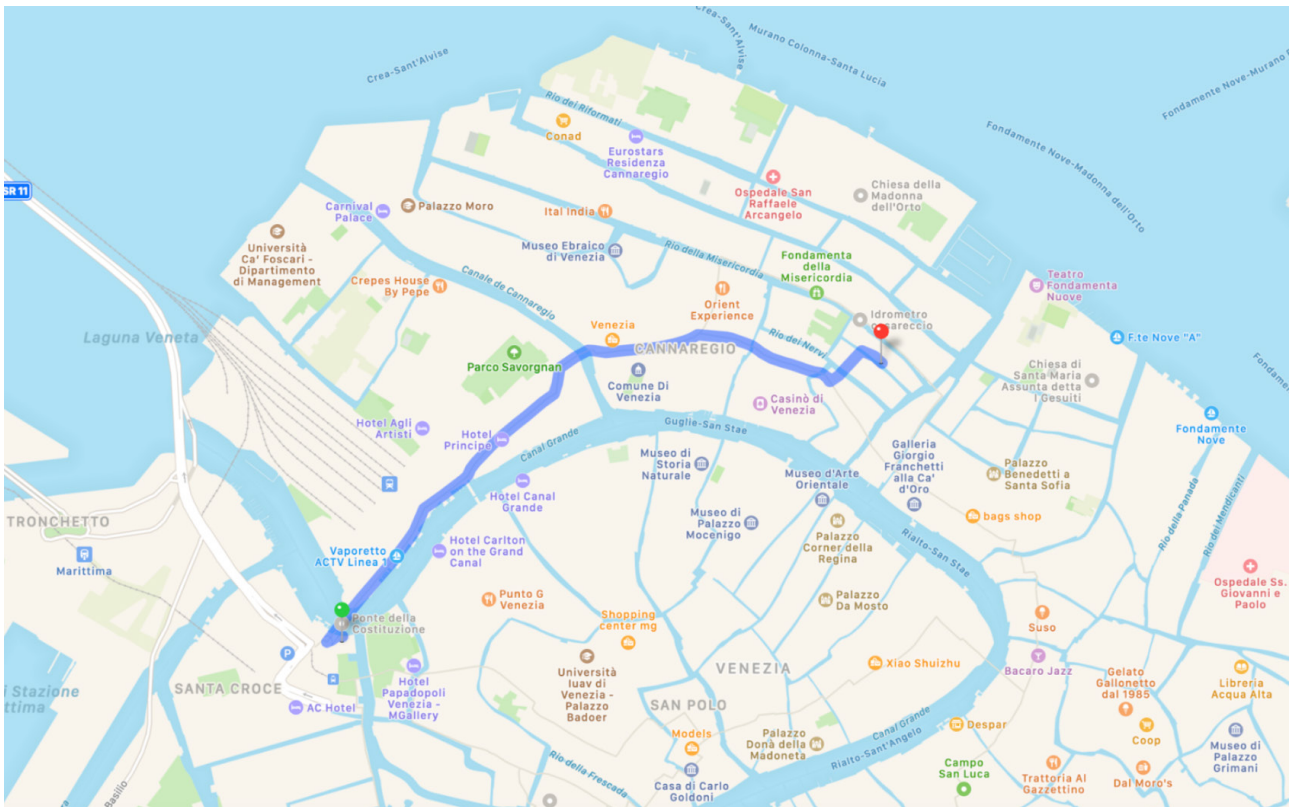
#### **Friday 21st June: Hotel   Palazzo Grassi**

→ Private water taxi to be provided and organized by the Institute at 10.30 am

#### **Saturday 22nd June      Hotel - Venue (Palazzo Diedo)**

→ Private water taxi to be provided and organized by the Institute at 9.45 am /  
Return from venue to hotel at 9.30pm





## General Infos

### Ground Transportation

We recommend ACTV's public transportation, the "Vaporetto."

The closest stop to Palazzo Diedo is "San Marcuola - Casinò" (Line 1-2).

Consider purchasing a daily ticket or the 2 or 3 day ticket, as needed.

### Water Taxi

If you would like to book your own water taxi, contact Serenissima

at (+39) 041 5228538

<https://serenissimataxi.it/>

or Consorzio Motoscafi Venezia at

(+39) 041 240 6711

<https://www.motoscafivenezia.com/en/>

### On-site Contacts

Gaia Remor

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# What New philosophy for a multipolar world is Universalism?

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Palazzo Diedo, Venice

## Biographies



### **Frédérique Ait-Touati**

is a stage director and science historian. A researcher at the CNRS, she is interested in the

links between science, the arts and politics. Her books include *Contes de la Lune* (2011), *Terra Forma* (2019), *Trilogie Terrestre* (2022) and *Théâtres du monde* (2024). Her plays have been presented at the Théâtre Nanterre-Amandiers, the Berliner Festspiele in Berlin, the Crossing the Lines Festival in New York, the Kaaitheatre in Brussels, the Théâtre National de la Criée in Marseille, the Centre Pompidou and the Théâtre de l'Odéon in Paris. She is an associate artist at the CDN in Tours and in residency at the Théâtre National de Chaillot in Paris. After training in music and dance (at the Grenoble and Marseille Conservatoires), she trained as a stage director at the ENS in Lyon and then at the ADC Theatre in Cambridge, while pursuing a thesis in the history of science. She taught at Oxford University from 2007 to 2014 before returning to France to devote herself to theatre and research.

Her shows and books explore common research questions: the relationship between the arts and knowledge in the fields of theories of life, ecology and the sciences of the Earth system; contemporary artistic

practices (theatre, performance, visual arts, architecture) and the development of sensitive knowledge through the arts. Her books include *Contes de la Lune, essai sur la fiction et la science modernes* (Gallimard 2011), *Fictions of the Cosmos* (Chicago 2011), *Terra Forma. Manuel de cartographies potentielles* (B42 and MIT Press, 2019 and 2021) with Alexandra Arènes and Axelle Grégoire, *Le Cri de Gaïa* (2021) with Emanuele Coccia, Vinciane Despret, Baptiste Morizot and Nastassia Martin, *Trilogie Terrestre with Bruno Latour* (2022), and *Théâtres du monde. Fabriques de la nature en Occident* (2024).



### **Nicolas Berggruen**

is the Founder and Chairman of the Berggruen Institute and has spearheaded its growth,

establishing its presence in Los Angeles, Beijing, and Venice. Focusing on great transformations in the human condition brought on by factors such as climate change, the restructuring of global economics and politics, and advances in science and technology, the Institute seeks to connect and develop ideas in the human sciences to the pursuit of practical improvements in governance across cultures, disciplines, and political boundaries.

Committed to visual arts and architecture, Berggruen sits on the boards of the Museum Berggruen, Berlin, and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. He is a member of the International Councils for Tate, London; the Museum of Modern Art, New York; Fondation Beyeler, Basel; and of the President's International Council for The J. Paul Getty Trust, Los Angeles. Berggruen has also collaborated on projects with renowned architects including David Adjaye and Shigeru Ban.

Berggruen is co-author with Nathan Gardels of *Renovating Democracy: Governing in the Age of Globalization and Digital Capitalism* (University of California Press) and *Intelligent Governance for the 21st Century*, a Financial Times Book of the Year, and is co-publisher of Noema Magazine. Nicolas Berggruen is Chairman of Berggruen Holdings, the investment vehicle of the Nicolas Berggruen Charitable Trust.



**Barbara Cassin**

is a French philologist and philosopher. She was elected to the Académie

française on 4 May 2018. She is the recipient of the Grand Prize of Philosophy of the Académie française. She is an emeritus Research Director at the National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS) in Paris. Cassin is a program Director at the International College of Philosophy and the director of its Scientific Council and member of its board of directors. She was a director of Collège international de philosophie established by Jacques Derrida. In 2006 she succeeded Jonathan Barnes to the directorship of the leading centre of excellence in Ancient philosophy, Centre Leon-Robin, at the

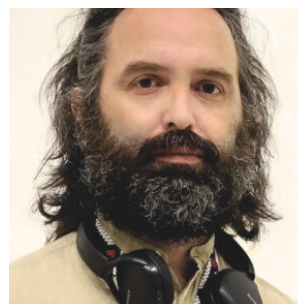
Sorbonne. In recent years she has been teaching seminars and writing books in partnership with Alain Badiou.

Her work centers on Sophism and rhetoric, and their relation to philosophy. In a footnote in 2007's *Logic of Worlds*, Alain Badiou portrays her work as a synthesis of Heideggerian thought with the linguistic turn.

From 1991 to 2007, she co-directed with Alain Badiou the series *L'Ordre Philosophique*, at Le Seuil publishers. She is the series editor of Unesco's journal *Revue des Femmes Philosophes*.

She is the author of *L'Effet Sophistique* (1995) and the editor of *Vocabulaire Européen des Philosophies*, (2004) an international collective work of philosophers sponsored by the European Union. She has also written *Google-moi. La Deuxième Mission de l'Amérique* (2007)

In September 2012, a Cerisy symposium about her works was held, with contributions by Étienne Balibar, Fernando Santoro, Michel Deguy, Souleymane Bachir Diagne, Philippe-Joseph Salazar and Alain Badiou, among others. Barbara Cassin is also an art curator and her exhibition of translation is highly acclaimed



**Emanuele Coccia**

Doctor in medieval philosophy from the University of Florence, Emanuele Coccia taught

between 2008 and 2011 at the University of Freiburg im Breisgau, Germany. He was a visiting professor at the Tokyo Imperial University (Todai) in 2009, at the University of Buenos Aires in 2010, at the Heinrich Heine University of Düsseldorf in 2013, and in 2015-2016 he taught at the Italian Academy for advanced studies at Columbia University

in New York. He dedicated his early research to the study of medieval philosophy. His first work deals with the doctrine of the intellect of Latin Averroism. He then published, with Giorgio Agamben, an anthology on angels in Judaism, Christianity and Islam, which shows for the first time how the theology of angels was an important source of reflection on power in Europe.

His research then evolved towards the theory of the image and the nature of living beings. In 2010 he published *La Vie sensible*, a work hailed by Roger-Pol Droit in *Le Monde* as a “philosophical meteorite” that proposes a “very unusual journey”.

In 2017 *La Vie des Plantes* received the Prix des Rencontres philosophiques de Monaco,] and has been translated into eleven languages. The work was praised in the press. In 2019 Coccia was scientific consultant for the exhibition “Nous les arbres” at the Fondation Cartier.



**Souleymane  
Bachir Diagne**

Senegalese philosopher focused on the history of logic and mathematics, epistemology, the

tradition of philosophy in the Islamic world, Identity formation and African literatures and philosophies.

Professor of Philosophy and Francophone Studies at Columbia University, New York, he is also the Director of the Institute of African Studies. His most recent books include *Le fagot de ma mémoire*, Philippe Rey, 2021; *De langue à langue. L'hospitalité de la traduction*, Albin Michel, 2022; *African art as Philosophy*, New York, The Other Press, 2023.



**Mamadou  
Diouf**

is Leitner Family Professor of African Studies (Middle Eastern, Southern Asian and African Studies

Department) and History (History Department) at Columbia University, New York. He previously served at the University of Michigan (2000-2007), the Council for the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA) and Cheikh Anta Diop University, Senegal. His publications include, *L'Afrique dans le temps du monde* (2023); « Peindre le pouvoir, Exposer l'autorité en Afrique/Painting Power: Exposing Authority in Africa », (essay), Kehinde Wiley, *Dédale du Pouvoir/A Maze of Power*. Catalogue of an Exhibition at the Musée du quai Branly-Jacques Chirac, Paris (09/20/2023 to 01/14/2022. Paris, Templon, 2024;

*Senghor et les arts. La reinvention de l'universel* (with Sarah Frioux-Salgas et Sarah Lignier, catalogue of an exhibit at the Musée du quai Branly-Jacques Chirac, Paris 2023) and the following edited books: *Déborder la Négritude. Arts, politique et société à Dakar* (with Maureen Murphy, 2020); *The Arts of Citizenship in Africa. Spaces of Belonging* (with Rosalind Fredericks, 2015); *Les arts de la citoyenneté au Sénégal. Espaces Contestés et Civilités Urbaines* (with F. Fredericks, 2013); *Tolerance, Democracy and the Sufis in Senegal*, 2013); *Rhythms of the Afro-Atlantic: Rituals and Remembrances*, (with I. Nwankwo, 2010) and *New Perspectives on Islam in Senegal: Conversion, Migration, Wealth, Power and Femininity* (with Mara Leichtman, 2009).

Professor Diouf is a member of the Columbia University Committee on Global Thought. He was elected member in 2024 at the American Academy of Arts and

Sciences. He was the president of the Scientific Committee of Council of the Development of Social Science Research in Africa (CODESRIA), a member of the International Scientific Committee of the Fondation de la Maison des Sciences de l'Homme (FMSH, Paris, France) and chair of the Board of Directors of the Social Science Research Council (SSRC).



### **Manthia Diawara**

is a Native of Mali, West Africa. He currently holds the title of Distinguished University

Professor of the Arts and Sciences at New York University, where he teaches Comparative Literature and Film, and writes about the arts and cultures of the African Diaspora. Manthia Diawara is the recipient of several awards including the New York Chapter of NAACP Prize, The PHI BETA KAPPA distinguished scholar, The Rockefeller, Mellon, Fulbright, Andy Warhol and Ford Foundations Awards. He is the founder/ editor of Black Renaissance/Renaissance Noire magazine.

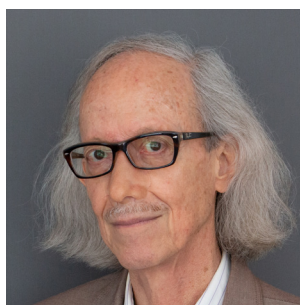
Diawara's notable publications include books like *In Search of Africa*, *We Won't Budge*, *An African Exile in the World*, *African Cinema: New Forms of Politics and Aesthetics*, *Black American Cinema*; and films and video installations including: "Edouard Glissant, One World in Relation," "An Opera of the World (Documenta 13)," "Negritude: A Dialogue between Soyinka and Senghor," "The New Baroque of Voices (Sao Paulo Biennial 2021)," "AI: African Intelligence (2022)" and "Angela Davis, A World of Greater Freedom (Sharjah Biennale)."



### **Mat Dryhurst**

is a British artist, musician, and technological researcher based in Berlin, Germany. Dryhurst often

works on interdisciplinary audiovisual projects in collaboration with Holly Herndon. The duo is known for their contributions to music and art, in which they explore the creative potential and ethics of creating content using technologies, such as AI, Web 3.0, and blockchain. Dryhurst and Herndon have been listed among Art Review's Power 100 in 2021 and 2022.



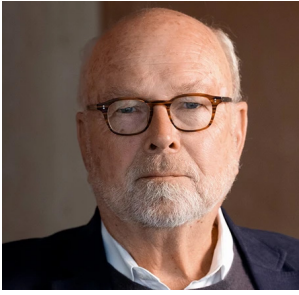
### **Arturo Escobar**

Activist researcher focused on political ecology, anthropology of development, so-

cial movements, political ontology and post-development theory.

Escobar is a major figure in the post-development academic discourse and has been described as a "post-development thinker to be reckoned with".[4] He has authored influential books criticizing development practices championed by western industrialized societies and exploring possibilities for alternative visions of development, including *Encountering Development* (1995) and *Designs for the Pluriverse* (2018). His most recent books are *Pluriversal Politics* (2020); and *Relationality: An Emergent Politics of Life Beyond the Human* (2024, with M. Osterweil and K. Sharma).





## **Nathan Gardels**

is the editor-in-chief of Noema Magazine, co-founder and a senior adviser to

the Berggruen Institute. He has been editor of *New Perspectives Quarterly* since it began publishing in 1985. He has served as editor of *Global Viewpoint* and *Nobel Laureates Plus* (services of the Los Angeles Times Syndicate/Tribune Media) since 1989. These services have a worldwide readership of 35 million in 15 languages.

Gardels has written widely for *The Wall Street Journal*, the Los Angeles Times, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Harper's Magazine*, *U.S. News & World Report* and *The New York Review of Books*. He has also written for foreign publications, including *Corriere della Sera*, *El Pais*, *Le Figaro*, *The Straits Times* (Singapore), *Yomiuri Shimbun*, *O'Estado de Sao Paulo*, *The Guardian*, *Die Welt* and many others. His books include *At Century's End: Great Minds Reflect on Our Times* and *The Changing Global Order*. He is co-author with Hollywood producer Mike Medvay of *American Idol After Iraq: Competing for Hearts and Minds in the Global Media Age*. Since 1986, Gardels has been a Media Fellow of the World Economic Forum (Davos). He has lectured at the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) in Rabat, Morocco, and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in Beijing, China. Gardels was a founding member at the New Delhi meeting of *Intellectuels du Monde* and a visiting researcher at the USA-Canada Institute in Moscow before the end of the Cold War. He has been a member of the Council of Foreign Relations, as well as the Pacific Council, for many years. From 1983 to 1985, Gardels was executive

director of the Institute for National Strategy, where he conducted policy research at the USA-Canada Institute in Moscow, the People's Institute of Foreign Affairs in Beijing, the Swedish Institute in Stockholm and the Friedrich Ebert Stiftung in Bonn. Prior to this, he spent four years as key adviser to the Governor of California on economic affairs with an emphasis on public investment, trade issues, the Pacific Basin and Mexico. Gardels is co-author with Nicolas Berggruen of *Renovating Democracy: Governing in the Age of Globalization and Digital Capitalism* (University of California Press) and *Intelligent Governance for the 21st Century*, a *Financial Times Book of the Year*. Gardels holds degrees in Theory and Comparative Politics and in Architecture and Urban Planning from UCLA. He lives in Los Angeles with his wife, Lilly, and two sons, Carlos and Alexander.

Gardels was previously a member of the 21st Century Council, Council for the Future of Europe, and *Globalization and Geopolitics*.



## **Nils Gilman**

is the Chief Operating Officer and Executive Vice President at the Berggruen

Institute, in which capacity he directs the day-to-day activities of the Institute, leads its research program, and serves as Deputy Editor of *Noema Magazine*. He has previously worked as Associate Chancellor at the University of California, Berkeley, as Research Director and scenario planner at the Monitor Group and Global Business Network, and at various enterprise software companies including *Salesforce.com*. He is the author of *Mandarin of the Future*:

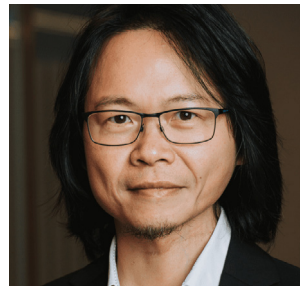
Modernization Theory in Cold War America (2004), *Deviant Globalization: Black Market Economy in the 21st Century* (2011), and the forthcoming *Children of a Modest Star: Planetary Thinking for an Age of Crises* (2024). He holds a Bachelors, Masters, and Doctorate in History from U.C. Berkeley.



**Holly Herndon**

is an American artist and composer based in Berlin, Germany. After studying composition at Stanford University and completing her Ph.D. at Stanford University's Center for Computer Research in Music and Acoustics, she pursued a music career internationally. Herndon's music often includes human singing voices (including her own), is primarily computer-based, and regularly uses the visual programming language Max/MSP to create custom instruments and vocal processes. She has released music on the labels RVNG Intl. and 4AD. Her third full-length album, *Proto*, was released on May 10, 2019.

In addition to her solo work, Herndon has been involved in numerous artistic collaborations, including projects with Iranian writer Reza Negarestani, Chicago-based producer Jlin and Dutch design studio Metahaven. Her long standing collaborator is Mathew Dryhurst. Herndon and Dryhurst are notable for their work exploring the possibilities of creating content using technologies, such as AI, Web 3.0, and blockchain. Herndon and Dryhurst host a podcast called *Interdependence*, where they discuss technology and the arts with guests who are working at the forefront of integrating arts and technology in their work.



**Yuk Hui**

Yuk Hui is a Hong Kong philosopher and professor of philosophy at Erasmus University

Rotterdam. He is known for his writings on philosophy and technology. Hui has been described as one of the most interesting contemporary philosophers of technology. Hui has taught at the Leuphana University, Bauhaus University, and has been a visiting professor at the China Academy of Art and the University of Tokyo. He has been the convenor of the Research Network for Philosophy and Technology since 2014 and sits as a juror of the Berggruen Prize for Philosophy and Culture since 2020. He lately teaches at the Erasmus University and the City University of Hong Kong.



**Nadia Yala Kisukidi**

is a French philosopher, writer and academic, who has re-examined the notion of "black-

ness" with its colonial implications in France and the rest of Europe. Also interested in contemporary art, she has been selected as one of two curators for the 2020 Yango Biennale in Kinshasa. Kisukidi, who has written widely on French and African philosophy, published *Bergson ou l'humanité créatrice* (Bergson or Creative Humanity) in 2013. Since 2011, she has held a number of workshops in various French universities, the University of Geneva and at the Dutch Jan van Eyck Academie in Maastricht. From 2014 to 2016, she was vice-president of the Collège international de philosophie. Her



work centres on 20th-century French philosophy, philosophy of religion and African philosophical perspectives, with historical, ethical and political analyses.

In connection with Aimé Césaire's works on "la négritude" (blackness), Kisukidi explains that she likes the way he arrives at the universal by dynamizing the essentialisms and separatisms to build what she refers to as *une politique des solidarités* (a political agenda of solidarities).[9] In late 2019, she was invited to write "A Letter to Europe"



### **Alexander Kluge**

born in Halberstadt in 1932, is a multi-faceted individual. He is a lawyer, author, and filmmaker.

er. His literary works include the *Chronik der Gefühle* (in two volumes) and the recent *Book of Commentary* published by Suhrkamp Verlag/Seagull. Kluge has been recognized for his contributions, receiving prestigious awards such as the Buechner Prize and Theodor W. Adorno Prize. Kluge's films like *Abschied von gestern* and *Artisten in der Zirkuskuppel: ratlos* have also garnered acclaim, winning awards at the Mostra Internazionale di Venezia.

In addition, Alexander Kluge has delved into collaborative projects and exhibitions, such as *The Boat is Leaking. The Captain lied*, an exhibition at the Fondazione Prada (jointly with Anna Viebrock and Thomas Demand), explored themes of opera and music and *Der Tempel der Ernsthaftigkeit* at the Kunsthalle Weishaupt in Ulm with artists including Katharina Grosse. In recognition of his prolific career, Alexander Kluge was awarded the Mortier Medal at the Salzburg Festival in August 2021.



### **Margaret Levi**

is professor of Political Science and Senior Fellow of Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies

and of the Woods Institute for the Environment, and is faculty fellow and former Sara Miller McCune Director of the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences (CASBS), Stanford University. She is co-director of the Stanford Ethics, Society, and Technology Initiatives. She is the winner of the 2019 Johan Skytte Prize and the 2020 Falling Walls Breakthrough. She has been elected to the National Academy of Sciences, the British Academy, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the American Philosophical Society, and the American Academy of Political and Social Sciences, and she served as president of the American Political Science Association. She is currently a Cook Center Distinguished Fellow, Duke University. The most recent of her many books are *In the Interest of Others* (Princeton, 2013), co-authored with John Ahlquist, and *A Moral Political Economy: Present, Past, Future* (Cambridge University Press, 2021), co-authored with Federica Carugati. She writes about what makes for trustworthy governance in states and organizations and what evokes citizen compliance, consent, and dissent. She is currently engaged in projects to reconceptualize political equality, to reimagine property rights, and to develop a social science of care and caregiving.



**Lorenzo  
Marsili**

is an activist philosopher and writer and the Director of Berggruen Institute Europe.

The founder of transnational political NGO European Alternatives and the cultural institution Fondazione Studio Rizoma, his research and political work focus on defining and promoting futures beyond the nation-state. A regular public speaker and international media commentator, he was the founding editor of the independent journal *Naked Punch Review* in London and Beijing and writes regularly for the *Guardian* and *Il Sole 24 Ore*. He has degrees in philosophy and sinology from the University of London, and his books include *Il Terzo Spazio* (Laterza, 2017), *Citizens of Nowhere* (Zed Books, 2018), *La tua patria è il mondo intero* (Laterza, 2019), and *Planetary Politics* (Polity Press, 2020). Lorenzo lives between Berlin, Venice, and Palermo.



**Julie  
Mehretu**

is an Ethiopian American contemporary visual artist, known for her multi-layered

paintings of abstracted landscapes on a large scale. Her paintings, drawings, and prints depict the cumulative effects of urban sociopolitical changes.

Mehretu is included in *Time's* 100 Most Influential People of 2020. The following year, *The New York Times* described her as a “rare example of a contemporary Black female painter who has already entered the

canon.” In October 2023, Mehretu broke the auction record for an African artist at Sotheby’s Hong Kong, with her piece *Untitled* (2001), which sold for \$9.32 million. She is one of two women to have made the list of top 10 most expensive contemporary artworks sold at auction in 2023.



**Pankaj  
Mishra**

Essayist, novelist, and sociologist, his non-fiction works include *Temptations of the West:*

*How to Be Modern in India, Pakistan, Tibet, and Beyond*, along with *From the Ruins of Empire: The Intellectuals Who Remade Asia*, and *A Great Clamour: Encounters with China and Its Neighbours*, and he has published two novels.

He is a Bloomberg opinion columnist, and prolific contributor to other periodicals such as *The Guardian*, *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker* and the *New York Review of Books*.

His writings have led to a number of controversies, including disputes with Salil Tripathi, Niall Ferguson and Jordan Peterson. He was awarded the Windham–Campbell Prize for non-fiction in 2014.



**Dawn  
Nakagawa**

is President of the Berggruen Institute. Since joining as the Institute’s first employee,

Dawn has helped the Institute to grow into an organization of global reach and influence. Prior to the Institute, Dawn was

Executive Vice President of the Pacific Council on International Policy, a global leadership network dedicated to enhancing awareness of and developing solutions to global challenges. She also co-directed the project on California's Adaptation to Climate Change, recruiting the taskforce that would later be appointed as California Adaptation Advisory Council to the state. Dawn earned an MBA from the University of Chicago Booth School of Business and an undergraduate degree in Political Science from McGill University.



**Hans Ulrich  
Obrist**

Among his many contributions and activities, he is the Artistic Director at the Serpentine

Galleries, London and the Co-editor of the Cahiers d'Art review. He is the author of The Interview Project, an extensive ongoing project of interviews.

Hans Ulrich Obrist is Artistic Director of the Serpentine in London, and Senior Advisor at LUMA Arles. Since his first show *World Soup (The Kitchen Show)* in 1991 he has curated more than 350 exhibitions. Most notable amongst these are the *Do It* series (1993–), *Take Me (I'm Yours)* in London (1995), Paris (2015) New York (2016), and Milan (2017); and the Swiss Pavilion at the 14th International Architecture Biennale in Venice (2014). Obrist has also co-curated the *Cities on The Move* series (1996–2000), *Laboratorium* (1999); the operatic group exhibition *Il Tempo del Postino* in Manchester (2007) and Basel (2009), and *The 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 Rooms* series (2011–2015). Obrist's recent exhibitions include Enzo Mari at Triennale Milano (2020) and *WORLDBUILDING* at Centre Pompidou Metz (2023) and Julia

Stoschek Collection Dusseldorf (2022). The Handwriting Project, which protests the disappearance of handwriting in the digital age, has been taking place on Instagram since 2013. He is also co-editor of the Cahiers d'Art review. He lives and works in London.



**Carlo  
Rovelli**

Carlo Rovelli is a theoretical physicist known for his work on loop quantum gravity, on the

nature of space and time, and on the relational interpretation of quantum theory. He has also worked on the history and philosophy of science. Born in Italy, Rovelli has worked in the United States, France and Canada. He is member of the Institute Universitaire de France, honorary professor of the Beijing Normal University, Honoris Causa Laureate of the Universidad de San Martin, Buenos Aires, member of the Académie Internationale de Philosophie des Sciences. He is currently affiliated to the University of Aix-Marseille in France, the philosophy department of the Western Ontario University and the Perimeter Institute in Canada, and is Fractal Faculty at the Santa Fe Institute for Complexity. Rovelli has been awarded the 1996 Xanthopoulos Award for "the best relativist under forty" and the 2024 Lewis Thomas Prize for Writing About Science. During the last decade, he has written global best sellers translated in more than fifty languages. Among these is "Seven Brief Lessons on Physics", translated in more than 40 languages, "The Order of Time", and "Helgoland", on quantum theory. Rovelli is strongly engaged politically; in 2019 he has promoted the Peace Dividend Initiative, involving 60 Nobel Laureates in asking for a worldwide collaborative military expenses reduction. He has been included



in the 2019 list of the 100 most influential “Global Thinkers” by Foreign Policy magazine and in the 2021 list of The World’s 50 Top Thinkers by Prospect magazine.



**Nikolaj Schultz**

sociologist working on the implications of climate change for social theory.

He was a close col-

laborator of late French philosopher Bruno Latour (1947-2022) in the years before his passing. In 2022, Schultz and Latour co-authored *On the Emergence of an Ecological Class. A Memo* (Polity Books, 2023), a short text on how to construct from below a strong political subject ready to fight for the habitability of the planet in the wake of global climate change. It is translated in more than a dozen languages and quickly became a point of inspiration for political actors such as the Green Party in France (EELV) and the German Climate Movement. Lately, Schultz published *Land Sickness* (Polity Books, 2023), currently translated into eight languages, a hybrid text that he calls an “auto-ethnographic essay” on the sociological and existential questions that the Anthropocene force us to pose.



**Bing Song**

Senior Vice President, Berggruen Institute; Director, Berggruen Institute China Center

Bing Song is Senior Vice President of the Berggruen Institute and Director of the Institute’s China Center. Prior to joining the

Berggruen Institute, she was a senior executive with Goldman Sachs China for over a decade, and prior to Goldman, an experienced capital markets lawyer for many years. Earlier in her career, she undertook academic and policy research and published in the areas of administrative law, competition law, and comparative procedural laws.

Recently, she co-edited *Gongsheng Across Contexts – A Philosophy of Co-becoming*, which explores philosophical foundation of gongsheng, a conception of the world as consisting of mutually embedded, co-existent and co-becoming entities. Her edited volume *Wisdom and Intelligence – Artificial Intelligence Meets Chinese Philosophers*, published in 2021, marked the first systematic endeavor by prominent Chinese philosophers to address challenges and opportunities posed by frontier technologies such as artificial intelligence and robotics. In addition, Bing leads other projects of the China Center, which explore the intersection of frontier sciences and technologies, and Chinese philosophy.



**Ece Temelkuran**

is an award-winning Turkish novelist, a political thinker, and a public speaker whose

work has appeared in the Guardian, New York Times, Le Monde, La Stampa, New Statesman, and Der Spiegel, among several international media outlets. She won the Edinburgh International Book Festival First Book award for her novel *Women Who Blow On Knots* and the Ambassador Of New Europe Award for her book *Turkey: The Insane and the Melancholy*.

She is the author of the internationally acclaimed book *How to Lose a Country*.

Together: A Manifesto Against the Heartless World, her latest book has been published in several languages. Ece Temelkuran lived in Beirut, Tunis, and Paris, to write her novels. She was a visiting fellow at Saint Anthony's College Oxford to write *Deep Mountain: Across The Armenian Turkish Divide*. For the last six years, she has lived in Zagreb. She was a fellow at The New Institute, Hamburg, working on a project "A New Vocabulary for 21st Century Progressives" from March 2021 to September 2023. She is on the advisory board of *Progressive International* and *Democracy Next*. She received the *El Mundo Journalism Award* for her body of work. Currently, she is based in Berlin as a Robert Bosch Academy fellow.



**Ge  
Wang**

a philosopher and multi-faceted scholar from China with a background in German philoso-

phy and literature, is also an author of philosophical columns and a curator of academic and artistic projects. From 2009 to 2020, she served at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) in Beijing and is currently affiliated with the Institute of Philosophy at Freie Universität Berlin. Over the past two decades, she has taught at esteemed institutions such as Peking University and the Chinese Buddhist Academy, establishing herself as a passionate and dedicated educator. Her research spans German Idealism, early German Romanticism, Late Heidegger, and Chinese philosophy. In recent years, she has focused on the ethics of motherhood, particularly within the context of Chinese philosophies. Since 2020, she has lived in Berlin with her family.



**Zhang  
Xudong**

Xudong Zhang is Professor of Comparative Literature and East Asian Studies at NYU.

He is the founding director of the International Center for Critical Theory (ICCT), which co-organizes the Winter Institute series with University of Tokyo, Australian National University, and University of Bonn, Germany. He has published widely on critical theory and transcultural comparisons of Chinese and European modernities.

His research interests include critical theory; modernism and modernity; theories of representation, narrative, and interpretation; political philosophy; aesthetics; and twentieth century Chinese literature and culture. Of his ongoing concerns are literary criticism and theory as poetics, socio-ontology, and historiography in one; identity and identity-formation in politico-philosophical and cultural-civilizational contexts; a theory of comparison and comparability; and methodological reconsiderations of area studies. Publishing in both English- and Chinese-speaking worlds, he is currently at work on manuscripts on Hegel's aesthetics; Lu Xun; and the second volume of/sequel to his 2005/06 book, *Cultural Politics in the Age of Globalization*.

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## About the Berggruen Institute

The Berggruen Institute's mission is to develop foundational ideas and shape political, economic, and social institutions for the 21st century. Providing critical analysis using an outwardly expansive and purposeful network, we bring together some of the best minds and most authoritative voices from across cultural and political boundaries to explore fundamental questions of our time. Our objective is to have an enduring impact on the progress and direction of societies around the world. To date, projects inaugurated at the Berggruen Institute have helped develop a youth jobs plan for Europe, fostered a more open and constructive dialogue between Chinese leadership and the West, strengthened the ballot initiative process in California, and launched Noema, a new publication that brings thought leaders from around the world together to share ideas. In addition, the Berggruen Prize, a \$1 million award, is conferred annually by an independent jury to a thinker whose ideas have profoundly shaped human self-understanding and advancement in a rapidly changing world.

## About the European Center

The Berggruen Institute has established a presence in the heart of Europe at Casa dei Tre Oci in Venice. As the Institute's new center of European activity, Tre Oci will become a gathering place for global dialogue and new ideas, housing an international program of summits, workshops, symposia, and exhibitions in the visual arts and architecture.

Europe's exposure to the limits of the nation state makes it a unique intellectual base to explore our planetary future. The Berggruen Institute's European program will attract local and international guests, policymakers and philosophers, artists and architects, scientists and technologists—across cultures, disciplines, and political boundaries—to develop and promote long-term answers to the biggest challenges of the 21st century.

In centering its European program at Tre Oci, the Berggruen Institute will preserve the historic palazzo's function and identity as part of the cultural fabric of Venice. Designed as a private home and studio by the artist Mario De Maria and built on the Giudecca in 1913, the neo-Gothic Casa dei Tre Oci has a long history of hosting artists and intellectuals (including participants in the Venice Biennale) and serving as a venue for cultural meetings and debates.