

Advertisement for the post of Postdoctoral Fellow in Humanities

Date: 14 March 2018

Applications are invited for the post of one Postdoctoral Fellow in Humanities in the following research area(s): Critical Theory and/or Continental Philosophy

Qualification: Ph.D. in Philosophy or Literature (English or any Modern European Language or Comparative) or Political Theory or any related field. A readiness to engage in theoretical reflection along with a literary, philosophical, political, and/or cultural studies focus is necessary. Expertise in some aspect of Critical Theory or Continental Philosophy is highly desirable.

Salary: Rs. 40,460 per month (Gross pay)

Duration: 1 year (extendable up to another year, subject to satisfactory performance and availability of funds)

Apply to: Interested applicants should email their CV and a 1-page cover letter (describing their past accomplishments, research interests, and career goals), a research proposal (not more than 1000 words), a writing sample, along with the names and contact information of three referees to adity@iiserb.ac.in.

Please include an abstract (about 200 words) in your research proposal.

In your research proposal (no more than 1000 words in total), please indicate:

- The topic
- The questions and goals of your project
- The methodology to be employed
- Any preliminary work done

As a writing sample, please include a contextualised chapter from your book or dissertation, an article, work in progress, or some equivalent material (no more than 5000 words).

This position will remain open until filled. Shortlisted candidates will be called for interview by e-mail. No TA/DA will be paid to the candidate for appearing in the interview. The selected candidate will be notified by e-mail and expected to join immediately.

Description of research project:

My current research focuses on the development of an “aleatory dialectic” and the associated emergence of a temporal, dialectical, and revolutionary subjectivity in the interpretation of dialectical materialism proposed by Althusser and Badiou following Marx and the Epicureans. The notion of materialism developed by these thinkers spatialises time, while dialectics, plural, emerge as aleatory irruptions in an atemporal regime of things. Before such eventual irruptions, not only is there no such thing as time, there is nothing resembling a subject. My question here concerns that which orients the not-yet-subject to inscribe itself into ever-new (revolutionary) temporalities. At the other end of the spectrum, I also look at thinkers like Hegel and Sartre, who develop an intensional notion of the subject that finds itself embroiled in a linear time that progresses within a totalising dialectic. This version is in constant danger

of undermining the revolutionary potential of the subject, whose gradual emergence is not unlike eternal stasis. Yet it is only here that we have any concept of a subject before an event. My aim is to formulate a pre-revolutionary temporality of the aleatory subject by dialectically co-ordinating these two incommensurable modes of thought.

My previous research explored the possibility of subjectivity and freedom in Alain Badiou's philosophy through a close reading of his set-theoretical ontology and his 'objective' phenomenology, in order to discuss the position of the subject in relation to an ethics (Kantian/ Lacanian – focussing on decision, action, and universality) and a politics (Marxist/Rousseauist – focussing on organisation and the state) respectively. This analysis aimed to formulate a new concept of freedom by arguing that Badiou's work gives hope to the existence of a collective political subject, one which is paradoxically free because it lives for an imperative – a truth it believes in.

I particularly welcome research projects in the following areas:

- Critical Theory;
- Modern and Contemporary French Philosophy;
- Early Modern Philosophy;
- German Idealism;
- Ancient Greek Philosophy;
- History of Political Thought;
- Marxist Theory;
- Frankfurt School;
- Feminist Philosophy/Queer Theory;
- Lacanian Psychoanalysis;
- Cultural Studies

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