

WORKSHOP #5 LIBERATING STRUCTURES

TUESDAY, MARCH 2, 2021, 17:00-19:00

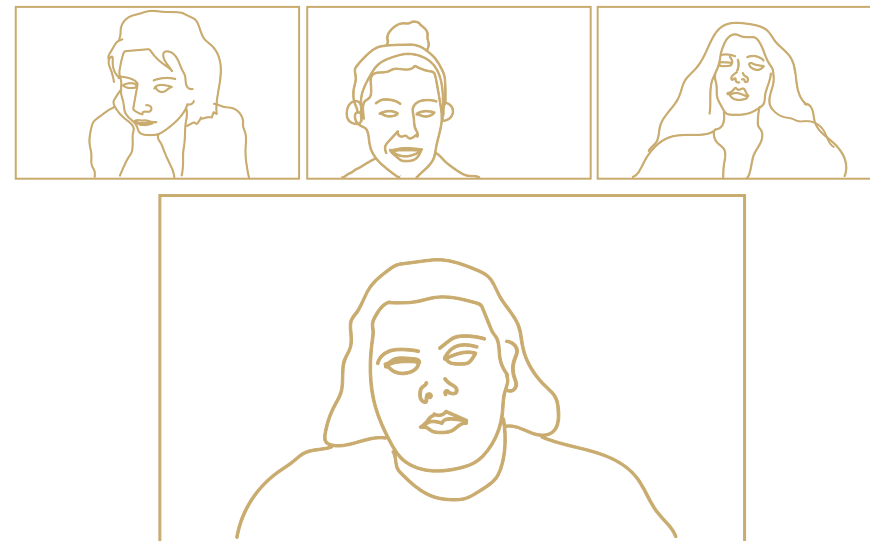
W/ CISSIE FU

How do pandemic conditions such as those brought about by COVID-19 invite us to reconsider how we teach, what we teach, for whom, and to what end? In this session with Cissie Fu, she proposed that we suspend 'laws of causality'. By this she meant disrupt the action-reaction pattern that grounds social norms we cannot keep and petrify political norms we cannot preserve. Instead could we practice pedagogical possibilities premised on the creativity of response?

To set the tone for the workshop and to locate us in time and space, Cissie first invited the group to participate in the 'word fountain'; a group exercise that was adapted for the online environment, where the host asks a question and invites the group to respond in five words or less. Key to the exercise is to wait for the host to give the go-ahead so that together the group enters their response at the same time. The effect of the exercise is the falling of words on the screen, creating the virtual impression of a water fountain of words. By doing this, we stepped away from the traditional way of labelling and presenting ourselves, and instead joined the flow of collective response.

Following the exercise, Cissie presented different ways of breaking vicious cycles of cause and effect and ideological trappings of binary thought. Cissie posed questions to

the group, asking: Can the reconfiguration of aesthetic and didactic assumptions of rest and motion, arrest and movement, unrest and inertia be the answer we were looking for?



Cissie Fu (AB Harvard; MSt, MSc, DPhil Oxford) is a political theorist and Dean of the Faculty of Culture + Community at Emily Carr University of Art + Design in Vancouver, Canada. She is co-founder of Political Arts Initiative, which invites 21st-century political imag-e-nations through digital media and the creative and performing arts, and is an editorial board member of *Krisis*, an international journal for contemporary philosophy based in Europe. She is currently completing a monograph on the politics of silence, towards resuscitating silence as a positive concept that can articulate and embrace constructive ambiguities in political practices of speech and action.

LIBERATING STRUCTURES

online WORKSHOP #5

w/ CISSIE FU TUE MAR 2, 5-7PM

How to unlearn together through pedagogies of engagement?

Hear! Here! is a platform and research project for Rietveld & Sandberg staff. In 2020/2021 the platform is dedicated to dialogue and critical pedagogy.

Joyful Militancy

How to create something new without the intention to make it dominant? When was the last time you felt fierce or felt you had to be fierce on someone else's behalf? See: Nick Montgomery and carla bergman, *Joyful Militancy*, CA: AK Press / IAS, 2017.

Unlearning and the Gift Contract

Learning or unlearning always comes at a cost. It's less about safety and it requires openness and courage to give and receive. How do we gift outside of the transactional? See: Vanessa Andreotti, Elwood Jimmy, and Bill Calhoun, 'Gift Contract', in: *Gesturing Towards Decolonial Futures*, 24 February, 2021.

Learning Organisations

What is a learning organisation? All institutions will have incorporated some aspects of white supremacy culture, because it has been sedimented into every aspect of life since modernity and capitalism. A learning organisation is not hierarchical, cultivates a culture of appreciation and safety, and is able to address change and challenges. See: *Dismantling Racism Works* adapted by The Centre for Community Organizations, *White Supremacy Culture in Organizations*, Montreal/Tiohtià:ke/Mooniyaang, Quebec: COCo, 2019, p. 42.