

## MARXISM & (BIO)POLITICS

The Twentieth Annual Conference of the Marxist Reading Group  
Keynote Speakers: Christopher Breu, Tru Leverette, and Alexander Weheliye  
22-24 March 2018  
University of Florida, Gainesville, FL

In the midst of a new materialist turn in theory, from Object Oriented Ontology and ecocriticism to Afropessimism, the MRG sees biopolitics as an opportunity to reconnect materialism to politics. Biopolitics enables us link the corporeal, the biological, and the artificial through materialist thought. Thinkers from Sylvia Wynter to Alexander Weheliye have used biopolitical theory to expand the category of the human, which has traditionally been understood as the white, propertied male subject. This conference seeks to investigate how these new articulations of the human, and the biopolitical turn more generally, can be used to reinvigorate Marxian praxis.

The MRG invites scholars of any discipline to clarify and explore questions such as: How do our current political conversations invoke biopolitics, and what are their productive capacity for materialist thought? In what ways do biopolitics intersect with theoretical frameworks for race, gender, and sexuality? What are the political stakes of decentering the category of the human? What is the relationship between biopolitics and the Anthropocene? How can biopolitics become sites of resistance to dominant cultural and political forms?

Papers and panels addressing any aspect of Marxism and biopolitics will be considered, but possible topics of interest include:

- Afropessimism
- Afrofuturism
- Animal studies
- Anthropocentrism
- Black Marxism
- Climate change
- Ecocriticism and environmentalism
- Health, health care, medicine, self-care
- Indigeneity
- Labor movements
- Life after the subject
- Necropolitics and thanatopolitics
- Object oriented ontologies
- Post-humanisms

Please submit an abstract of up to 250 words with 4-5 keywords for a 15-20 minute presentation, along with contact information, to [theufmrg@gmail.com](mailto:theufmrg@gmail.com) by **Friday 19 January 2018**. We will also consider panel proposals, but do ask that panelists represent multiple institutions and provide a brief description and rationale along with the panelists' abstracts. Please indicate any a/v requests, and let us know if you have participated in past MRG conferences or if you are a

UF-MRG alumnus. Authors of accepted presentations will be notified by February 5, 2018. For questions concerning the conference, please contact us at [theufmrg@gmail.com](mailto:theufmrg@gmail.com). For more information, visit our website: <http://www.english.ufl.edu/mrg/>.