

Melanie Sehgal

A Thousand Subjectivities

James, Whitehead, Deleuze

In *A Thousand Plateaus* Félix Guattari and Gilles Deleuze describe the equation PLURALISM=MONISM as “the magic formula we all seek”. The talk will discuss William James’ notion of pure experience and Whitehead’s concept of actual entities as answering to this query. From a Jamesian and Whiteheadian angle the equation of pluralism and monism requires a fundamental reworking of the notion of subjectivity, precisely in the way that Guattari has called for in *The Three Ecologies*. By reading Deleuze and Guattari diffractively with James and Whitehead, the talk will sketch a radically non-anthropocentric concept of subjectivity, even a metaphysics of a thousand subjectivities.

21st February 2018 5–7pm
Richard Hoggart Building (RHB) 251
Goldsmiths, University of London
Lewisham Way
London SE14 6NW

Part of the Pluralistic Variations Lecture Series
Organiser: Dr Martin Savransky (Sociology)

Melanie Sehgal is Junior Professor of Literary, Science and Media Studies at the European University Viadrina, Frankfurt (Oder), and currently serving as Professor of Philosophy of Culture at the same university. She holds a PhD in Philosophy from the Technical University Darmstadt. Together with the artist Alex Martinis Roe, she is leading the multidisciplinary working group FORMATIONS, which experimentally explores ways of knowing beyond modern habits of thought. She is also a member of the Interdisciplinary Network for the Critical Humanities, Terra Critica. She is the author of *Eine situierte Metaphysik. Empirismus und Spekulation bei William James und Alfred North Whitehead* (Konstanz Univ. Press 2016) and various articles.