

List of *Problématiques* for CSPT Doctoral Candidacy Exams (September 2024)

The CSPT Doctoral Candidacy Exam will consist of two (2) mandatory Categories (or parts). For both Categories, the student and their (Co-)Supervisor will identify two *problématiques* (or two sets of related *problématiques*) from the list of *problématiques* below. A *problématique* not on the list may be proposed with the permission of the CSPT Director. From the sources they find appropriate in relation to their selected *problématiques*, the student and their (Co-)Supervisor will construct two Reading Lists (20 books or equivalent in each). The bibliographies for these lists *may* be drawn from the [former CSPT Reading List](#), but such is for guidance only and not compulsory. Having both “contemporary” and “foundational” texts is encouraged. For more information, see the CSPT Doctoral Candidacy Exams Procedures document (September 2024).

1

Ontology & Technology

ontology; (anti)foundationalism; emerging or speculative ontologies; the fate of Reason; metaphysics; critique of subjectivity; nihilism; technocultural interfaces; theorizing digital media; media, culture & history; technology & modernity; media and technology; critical digital studies; new spatio-temporalities; speed and acceleration; posthuman (technological and biological)

2

Gender, Sexuality, Queer

gender; sexuality; race/body/desire/power; gender/class; gender/race; queer futures; queer indigenous studies; queer & trans-identity; theorizing body in society; gendered bodies; body politic; biopower & biopolitics; feminisms; indigenous feminism; personal/political; private-public; critical perspectives on gender & sexuality; gender & identity; domination & oppression; domination and resistance; identity politics; cultural studies

3

Human, Humanism, Post-Humanism, Animal

the animal; posthumanism & modernity; post- & trans-humanism; posthuman (technological and biological); animal-human subjectivity; critique of subjectivity; subjectivity and post-subjectivity; origins & ends; distinctions & merging; limits & boundaries

4

Critique, Ideology, (post)Marxism

Hermeneutics; immanence & transcendence; political economy; postcolonial critique; historical & dialectical materialism; feminist critique of political economy; ideological; state apparatus; critiques of capitalism; theorizing crisis; after critique; power, ideology, & subaltern; (false) consciousness; power & resistance; knowledge & power; marxisms; postmarxism; social revolution; neoliberalism; globalization; cosmopolitanism & globalization; (use & exchange) value; hegemony; capital and the state; anarchism; socialisms; aesthetics & aesthetic politics; negative dialectics; critique of instrumental rationality; destruction of aesthetics; domination & oppression; domination and resistance; materialism & idealism in theorizing language; utopias and utopianism

5

Ecology, Environment, Nature

economies & ecologies; nature; nature-culture; cities & civilizations; political ecologies; posthuman & postnatural; critical political economy & political ecology; politics of space; human & animal

6

Colonialism, indigeneity, postcolonialism

postcolonial critique; history and histories; postcolonialism; colonialism and neo-colonialism; migration & hybridity; indigeneity & hybridity; Africanity, negritude, afropolitanism; national liberation; settler/denizen colonialism; indigenous nationhood & governance; settler colonialism & territorial dispossession of indigenous peoples; indigeneity, sovereignty, & the state; indigenous decolonization and resurgence; constitutionalism and indigenous peoples; indigenous political theory; indigenous feminism; indigenous knowledge; indigenous legal and political traditions; decolonization; anti-colonial resistance; diaspora; identity politics; violence & nonviolence; exile; Third World, third cinemas, & revolutions; restorative justice and reconciliation; knowledge & memory; epistemological difference; domination & oppression; domination and resistance

7

Acting, Social Movements, Identity

Identity politics; collective action; social movements; mobilization; violence & nonviolence; critique of violence; liberation/emancipation, revolution, restorative justice and reconciliation; recognition; pluralism (value pluralism, legal pluralism, political pluralism); relations of difference; relations of equivalence; articulation; hegemony; domination & oppression; domination and resistance; deliberation, communication, & “the other”; identity, community, & difference; empty & floating signifiers; discursive practices; cultural studies

8

Governmentality, Sovereignty

the state; space & power; nationalism & citizenship; sovereignty and state violence; human rights (& genocide); radical politics & state power; anarchism and direct action; war and political violence; state of exception; *homo sacer*

9

New Materialisms, Bodies, Affect

subjectification; new materialisms; affects; bodies; ethics and empathy; subjectivity and language; mediation and materiality; body and space; phenomenology of the body

10

Language, Meaning, Representation

memory & meaning; politics of the novel; problem of language and representation; problem of interpretation; trauma and memory; hauntology; spectrology