

CLT 609 — Fall 2017  
“The Cleave and Common Grounds”  
Tuesdays 4:00–6:50 p.m.

Michel Foucault inspired generations of critical thinkers when he forged the notion of “heterotopia.” Like utopias, heterotopias are at a remove – but only spatially, not temporally. Unlike utopias, heterotopias “claw and gnaw at us,” for they are of our world. Concentration camps, cemeteries, and slums are names for some of these “spaces otherwise” as Foucault was prone to put it. Unable to ignore them, what are we to make of these rebarbative spaces?

While some of the metaphysical and epistemological implications of heterotopias are now evident, their ethical repercussions have been largely neglected. Our readings for the seminar address these consequences and suggest new paths across an important field still very much alive in the humanities. Historical, photographic, and literary examples of “spaces otherwise” should work to reveal that when two or more people imagine them, their endeavor to do so *in common* can foster ethical relationships of an especially insightful and impactful sort.

Our reading list will include Michel Foucault, Marguerite Duras, Giorgio Agamben, Georges Didi-Huberman, René Char, Blaise Pascal, Étienne Balibar, Gerald Manley Hopkins, Immanuel Kant, and Martin Heidegger. Films by Georges Lacombe and Alain Resnais. Photographs by Eugène Atget.



### Required Readings

Michel Foucault, *The Order of Things*  
Michel Foucault, “On Spaces Otherwise”  
Michel Foucault, *The Will to Knowledge (History of Sexuality, I)*  
Giorgio Agamben, *Homo sacer I*  
Marguerite Duras, “Construction Sites” in *Whole Days in the Trees*  
Marguerite Duras, *Hiroshima mon amour* (scenario)  
Alain Resnais, dir. *Hiroshima mon amour*  
René Char, *Formal Cleave (Partage formel)*  
Georges Didi-Huberman, excerpts from certain volumes of his *L’œil de l’histoire* series  
Étienne Balibar [essays on point of heresy]  
Blaise Pascal, *Pensées* (“il n’y a point d’hérésie”)  
Immanuel Kant, “The Analytic of the Sublime” in *Critique of the Power of Judgment*  
Martin Heidegger, “The Origins of the Work of Art,” “Was heißt denken”  
Georges Lacombe, dir. *La Zone*  
Eugène Atget, photographs of “la Zone”

### Supplementary Readings

Robert Harvey, *Sharing Common Grounds: A Space for Ethics*  
Michel Foucault, *The Care of the Self (History of Sexuality, III)*  
Molly Nesbit, *Atget’s Seven Albums*