

Constraints of Creativity

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School of Arts,
Languages and Cultures

CIDRAL

The Centre for
Interdisciplinary
Research in the
Arts and Languages



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The Dialectic of Realism

Workshop

17 April, 10 A.M.-12 P.M.

Room 2.10, Roscoe Building

A narrative impulse and a scenic impulse: as Fredric Jameson persuasively argued in *The Antinomies of Realism*, the history of literary realism can be seen as largely shaped by the dialectic between these two competing drives, each identified by a particular temporality. Yet realism's dialectic between a narrative and a scenic impulse would seem to leave out something crucial for the understanding of realist narrative in the last quarter of the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th. The talk will aim at reassessing Jameson's dialectical view of realism in light of the speculative turn in the history of the European novel to which the perceived exhaustion of French naturalism contributed in a decisive way. In particular, Jameson's dialectic of realism will be mobilized and subsumed under a larger dialectical framework encompassing a further, temporally neuter, impulse, which will be labeled the "speculative impulse," and which will help reconsider some of the most important developments of realism in the late 19th and early 20th century.

A preparatory reading for this event can be downloaded

here: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/bbfb7cnw3hsfwf1/Jameson-AntimoniesofRealism%28extract%29.pdf?dl=0>
or via the CIDRAL website.