

# Cultures & temporalities



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School of Arts,  
Languages and Cultures

**CIDRAL**

The Centre for  
Interdisciplinary  
Research in the  
Arts and Languages



## Freddie Rokem (Tel Aviv University)

### Exploring the Domains of Dramaturgy

Co-Organised by CIDRAL, LIS, Drama, German Studies and the Centre for Jewish Studies

25 May, 5-7 P.M.

John Shaw Studio Theatre, Martin Harris Centre

#### Reading Kafka/Staging Kafka

Public lecture

Walter Benjamin's interpretation of Franz Kafka's work, published on the tenth anniversary of Kafka's death in 1934, is in part based on Benjamin's understanding of Brecht's ideas and practices of the theatre. And in reverse, in his answer to the question "What is Epic Theatre?" published five years later, Benjamin introduces the interruption which is more Kafkaesque than Brechtian. My presentation will explore what this strange interaction between Kafka and Brecht as mediated through the texts of Benjamin means; and how it has influenced two Israeli productions based on Kafka's texts.

26 May 10 AM-12 P.M.

Room G16, Martin Harris Centre

#### The Ludic Logic of Tragedy

Symposium

Logical argumentation and reasoning have been embedded in tragedies, beginning already two generations before Aristotle formulated the principles of logic. Therefore these logical principles can also be extracted from tragedies, like Antigone and Oedipus Tyrannus. Looking more closely at the 'use' of logic in these classical tragedies – in particular the deductive syllogism and the law of contradiction – this lecture draws attention to the fact that logical reasoning often collapses and is even subverted, in particular in contexts trying to define what it means to be human. Arguing with rational means that there is something contradictory (and irrational) in human nature creates a paradoxical situation on which the "ludic logic of tragedy" is based.