Posthuman capitalism is the newly-dominant tendency in 21st century capitalism for living labor power to become a mere ‘infinitesimal, vanishing quantity’ (Marx) in the vast majority of global production processes. Capitalism has arguably entered a new phase in the last 10-20 years, characterized by the rapid and general automation of the vast majority of labor processes, tending to devalue and eliminate living labor from production not only in the traditional, North Atlantic centers, but, above all—and most devastatingly—across the Global South. The categorial reading of Marx’s Capital that Althusser was the first to call for in Reading Capital (1965) offers today the necessary means to grasp this still-obscure historical development of global capitalism. For Althusser, capital forms a complex structure of structures, one characterized not by a single mechanistic tendency, but rather by radical historical contingency and the changing nature of its various ‘structures in dominance’. This newest phase of global capitalism arguably makes it more urgent than ever to return to his conceptual mode of reading Capital in the current conjuncture and crisis.

MARCH 7, 2018 | 6PM
MUSIC ROOM, ROCHAMBEAU HOUSE | 84 PROSPECT ST.
This event is sponsored by the Department of French Studies at Brown University