

# Inheriting



**A Workshop on Questions of  
Inheriting, Interpreting and Reading**

Jointly Organized by the German  
Departments of Brown, Harvard and  
Yale Universities

**Friday, April 22, 12–6:30pm  
Barker Center 114,  
Harvard University**

# Inheriting

This inter-university workshop invites graduate students of Brown, Harvard and Yale Universities to a joint discussion on questions of inheriting, interpreting and reading. "It is dangerous to be an heir", warns Nietzsche in *Thus Spoke Zarathustra*. Receiving an enigmatic heritage or legacy always calls for the labor of reading: the heir is the one who must ceaselessly interpret. Yet the demand of reading that is imposed upon us as heirs both invites and eludes interpretation. The act of inheriting thus appears as an infinite task, one that we cannot cease to undertake and reflect. No wonder that Jacques Derrida once said: "This is one of the possible definitions of deconstruction— precisely as legacy." In this workshop we will address selected problems of intellectual and cultural inheritance with the help of such thinkers as Nietzsche, Benjamin, Derrida, and others.

**Meals and travel expenses are included. Advance registration required. Spaces are limited. Please contact Gerhard Richter at [gerhard\\_richter@brown.edu](mailto:gerhard_richter@brown.edu) by Monday, April 18 for registration and reading materials.**

## Program:

- 12:00am Gerhard Richter (Brown):  
"Inheriting: Some Basic Concerns"  
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- 1:00pm Lunch break  
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- 1:30pm Nicole Sütterlin (Harvard):  
"Inheritance and/as Trauma:  
Derrida and the Concept of the Crypt"  
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- 2:30pm Paul North (Yale): "The Meaning  
of Heritance in a Moral Universe"  
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- 3:30pm Coffee break  
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- 4:00pm Student group work  
and presentations
- 6:30pm Dinner

