Humanities & the Anthropocene

Writing Retreat

17001 Calumet Trail (Garage Area)

Friday, January 26, 2024

The idea for this retreat is to discuss individual writing projects rather than to read papers for the sake of a general conversation on the conditions of writing in and on the academic humanities today. The discussion may however proceed on the basis of particular essays, and quotations will then be welcome and appropriate. It is a matter for all of us of taking a step back vis-à-vis our writing and attempting reflection and conversation on projects and goals for the short, medium, and long term. We live in a period of general decline of the academic humanities, driven by complex causes beyond personal responsibility. In such times, and as the corporate university insists upon quantitative rather than qualitative markers of professional advancement, it is easy to feel the pressure and even to become discouraged--which is of course a mistake, as the decline will pass and another cycle will start. After all, the humanities have a very long history.

This conversation is the first in the context of our project, but it will be continued. The predicament of the Anthropocene, which our project focuses on, imposes of course another set of stressing factors, and it is important to discuss them collectively.

Schedule:

9:00. Breakfast

9:30. Introduction

10:00-10:30. Small Group Discussion

11:00-1:00. Panel 1

Rodrigo de los Santos

Rafael Fernández

Donnie Secreast

Ananya Ravishankar

1:00-2:00. Lunch Break

2:00-4:30. Panel 2

Hayden Ridings

Raúl Carrillo

Marisabel Azucena

Rachel Cicoria

Michael Portal

4:30-5:00. Break

5:00-5:30. Special Session: AJ Baginski

5:30-6:30. Roundtable Discussion (Teresa Vilarós, Maddalena Cerrato, Adam Rosenthal, Alberto Moreiras will introduce with five minutes each)