

Wednesday, 4/11
12 PM
Kiva Auditorium
Temple University

DE-COLONIZING CRITICAL THEORY? A CONVERSATION

DRUCILLA CORNELL

Rutgers University

Moderated by Lewis Gordon, *Philosophy, Religion, and Judaic Studies, Temple University*
Commentary by Jane Gordon, *Political Science, Temple University*



Drucilla Cornell is one of the world's leading feminist philosophers and legal theorists. She is Professor of Political Science, Women's Studies, and Comparative Literature at Rutgers University. Prior to beginning her life as an academic, Cornell was a union organizer. She played a key role in organizing the conference on deconstruction and justice at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law in 1989, 1990, and 1993—a conference at which Jacques Derrida is thought by many to have made his definitive philosophical turn toward the ethical. Professor Cornell has held numerous distinguished appointments and received many accolades for her work. She is the co-editor, with Seyla Benhabib, of *Feminism as Critique: On the Politics of Gender* (1987); with David Gray Carlson and Michel Rosenfeld of *Hegel and Legal Theory* (1991); with Carlson and Rosenfeld of *Deconstruction and the Possibility of Justice* (1992); and of *Feminism and Pornography* (2000). She has published many books, which include: *Beyond Accommodation: Ethical Feminism, Deconstruction and the Law* (1991, new edition 1999), *The Philosophy of the Limit* (1992), *Transformations: Recollective Imagination and Sexual Difference* (1993), *The Imaginary Domain: Abortion, Pornography, and Sexual Harrassment* (1995) *At the Heart of Freedom: Feminism, Sex, and Equality* (1998), *Just Cause: Freedom, Identity, and Rights* (2000), *Between Women and Generations: Legacies of Dignity* (2002), and *Defending Ideals* (2005). She is part of a published philosophical exchange with Seyla Benhabib, Judith Butler, and Nancy Fraser entitled *Feminist Contentions* (1995). Her work has been translated into French, German, Japanese, Serbo-Croatian, Portuguese, and Spanish. She lectures widely and has recently given papers and conducted seminars in South Africa, Japan, Serbia, and Macedonia. She delivered the prestigious Ryle Lectures at Trent University in Canada in 2003. A produced playwright, productions of her plays *The Dream Cure*, *Background Interference*, and *Lifeline* have been performed in California, New York, Florida, and Ohio. Her dramatization of James Joyce's *Finnegan's Wake* runs every year in Dublin, Ireland. Professor Cornell has been working in South Africa on the legal systems there, and she is currently completing a book about the future of critical theory.

This event, sponsored by the Institute for the Study of Race and Social Thought, the Center for the Humanities, the Philosophy Department, Women's Studies, and the Department of Religion at Temple University, is free and open to the public.

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