

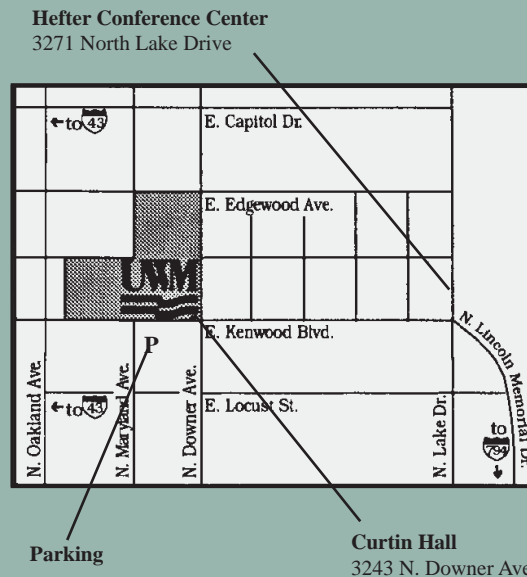
DEBT

The international conference **DEBT** will examine the idea of debt in its various senses. Debt has become a central element of US-dominated global capitalism, as the United States has borrowed massively from foreign lenders to finance consumer spending and meet the ballooning expenditures for its social programs, as well as to pay for two ongoing wars abroad. The notion of debt plays a crucial role in traditional as well as modern accounts of ethics that emphasize the indebtedness of subjects to each other and to society as a whole. The specter of catastrophic climate change has led theorists, environmental activists, and members of the clergy to underscore the debt of those living in the present to future generations in calling for restraints upon current patterns of industrial production and consumption. The **DEBT** panels, in examining the meaning of debt in the areas of economics, the environment, and ethics, will address such questions as: How do notions of indebtedness affect moral and political life under postmodern global capitalism? How does the idea of indebtedness help us to understand interdependence, whether it pertains to the economy or to the environment? What are the challenges to developing an ethics based upon a sense of debt and obligation in a postmodern society?

A volume of essays growing out of the conference will be prepared for the Center's book series, 21st Century Studies, with Indiana University Press.

The conference **DEBT** is sponsored by the Center for 21st Century Studies, College of Letters and Science, with support from the Graduate School, University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee. The Theaster Gates performance at Milwaukee Art Museum is presented by the Chipstone Foundation.

April 29–May 1, 2010



a Center for 21st Century Studies conference
at the University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee

performance sponsored by
Chipstone Foundation,
Milwaukee Art Museum

conference organizers:
Peter Y. Paik and
Merry Wiesner-Hanks
conference coordinator:
Kate Kramer



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DEBT

April 29–May 1, 2010

Conference begins at 6¹⁵ pm, Thursday, April 29 at the Lubar Auditorium, Milwaukee Art Museum, continues Friday, April 30 at UWM in Room 175, Curtin Hall (3243 North Downer Avenue), and concludes Saturday, May 1 at the Hefter Conference Center (3271 North Lake Drive)

29 April 2010 Thursday

5⁰⁰ **Speaker Registration:** Chipstone Decorative Arts Galleries, lower level, Milwaukee Art Museum

6¹⁵ **Performance:** Theaster Gates and Potter Dave, Lubar Auditorium, Milwaukee Art Museum

30 April 2010 Friday

12³⁰ **WELCOMES**
Merry Wiesner-Hanks, Center for 21st Century Studies
G. Richard Meadows, Dean, College of Letters & Science
Peter Y. Paik, UW–Milwaukee

1⁰⁰–2³⁰ **THE ECONOMICS OF DEBT**
Richard D. Wolff (University of Massachusetts–Amherst): "Consumer Debt and the Economic Crisis"
Elaine Lewinnek (California State University–Fullerton): "The Cost of the American Dream: Historic Perspective on the Housing Crisis"
Joel Magnuson (Portland Community College, Oregon): "Looking Beyond the Recession"
Moderator: **John Heywood** (UW–Milwaukee)

2⁴⁵–4¹⁵ **THE ECOLOGY OF DEBT**
Gerry Canavan (Duke University): "Debt, Theft, Permaculture: Justice and Ecological Scale"
Genese Sodikoff (Rutgers University): "Lazarus Effects: The Spectral Ecology and Political Economy of Extinction Debt in Madagascar"
Julianne Lutz Warren (New York University): "Placing Debt"
Moderator: **Erica Bornstein** (UW–Milwaukee)

4³⁰–6⁰⁰ **KEYNOTE**
Michael A. Gillespie (Duke University)

1 May 2010 Saturday

10³⁰ **Coffee & Continental Breakfast**

11⁰⁰–12³⁰ **THE ETHICS OF DEBT**
Eleanor Courtemanche (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign): "Unintended Consequences from Dickens to Hayek"
Kennan Ferguson (UW–Milwaukee): "Debt's Moral"
Stephen Gardner (University of Tulsa): "How Debt Replaces Guilt: Social Order versus Sacred Order"
Moderator: **William Bristow** (UW–Milwaukee)

12³⁰–1³⁰ **Conference Lunch**

1³⁰–3⁰⁰ **THE DEMONS OF DEBT**
Morris Berman (Independent Scholar): "Is Debt the New Karma? Why America Finally Fell Apart"
Mary Poovey (New York University): "Demonizing Debt, Naturalizing Finance"
Moderator: **Jason Puskar** (UW–Milwaukee)

3¹⁵–4⁴⁵ **THE FUTURES OF DEBT**
Michael Tratner (Bryn Mawr University): "The Resurrection of an Economic God: Keynes Becomes Postmodern"
Donald T. Hester (UW–Madison): "China and the United States: The Bonds of Debt"
Steven Shaviro (Wayne State University): "The 'Bitter Necessity' of Debt: Neoliberal Finance and the Society of Control"
Moderator: **Tracey Heatherington** (UW–Milwaukee)

5⁰⁰–6⁰⁰ **Closing Discussion**