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**The Book-as-Subject**  
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**A PhD summer seminar: October 26-27 & 30-31
2016**

Liran Razinsky & Raphaël Sigal

The Program for Hermeneutics and Cultural Studies

Bar Ilan University

The seminar focuses on the relationship between authors and their books. More specifically, we wish to explore the process, drama and fantasy through which some authors identify with their texts. Identification here is taken in the strong sense: Can a book contain me as a whole? Can I put all of me (my being-in-the-world, my subjectivity, my imaginary) in the book I am writing? Can the book, in exchange, stand for me as a subject, that is, keep me alive in the world in the form of a book? As odd as it may seem, that desire was at the core of many authors' attempt to produce what we will hypothesize as the book-as-subject. Among them: Rousseau, Mallarmé, Artaud, Leiris, Benjamin etc..

To explore these questions we shall also linger on several tangential concerns. Thus, we will look at the idea of the book as a general metaphor for the human subject; we will examine

“personal” texts: letter correspondence focusing on the dynamics of self and other; we will ask what is at stake in publishing one’s book, and will try to put words to the void that awaits the author setting down to write a novel. Finally, we shall also look at books as objects that one can possess or, perhaps, be possessed by.

The Seminar will be conducted by Dr. Liran Razinsky (Bar Ilan) and Dr. Raphaël Sigal (Amherst College).

הסמינר יתקיים באוני' בר אילן, בנין 604, חדר 309 (קומה 3) בימים רביעי וחמישי, ה-26 וה-27 לאוקטובר 2016, ובימים ראשון ושני, ה-30 וה-31 לאוקטובר, בין השעות 10:00 ו-13:30. הסמינר ייערך באנגלית, ומיועד לתלמידי/ות מ.א ודוקטורט.
לפרטים ולהרשמה (הרשמה מוקדמת חובה): Liran.Razinsky@biu.ac.il

Detailed Plan:

SESSION 1, October 26th: *The Book as Subject*

Reading:

- ~ Several short passages by Jacques Lacan, Michael Sheringham, Michel Leiris, Jorge Semprun, and Marcel Proust
- ~ Antonin Artaud, *Correspondence with Jacques Rivière*

SESSION 2, October 27th: *Others: A. Letters B. The fate of the text*

Reading:

- ~ Vincent Kaufman, *Post Scripts* [sections]
- ~ Hélène Cixous, *OR, My Father's Letters* [sections]

Freud in quest of glory (On *The Interpretation of Dreams*, no reading)

SESSION 3, October 30th: *The Preparation of the Novel, and the absolute book*

Reading:

- ~ Roland Barthes, *The Preparation of the Novel* [sections]
- ~ Stéphane Mallarmé, *The Book, Spiritual Instrument*
- ~ Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *Confessions* [introduction]

SESSION 3, October 31st: *Living with Books*

Reading:

- ~ Walter Benjamin, *Unpacking my library*
(אני פורק את ספרייתי)
"Paris streets" (section P, *Arcades Project*)
Hashish in Marseille
- ~ Georges Perec, *Espèces d'espaces* (מבחר מרחבים)
Brief Notes on the Art and Craft of Sorting Books