

# **CITIZEN, SUBJECT, AND THE ANTHROPOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES**

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Differences of sex, race, culture, age, health, intelligence... usually functioned in “pre-modern” societies to establish hierarchies and groups among groups and individuals. With the advent of a “civic-bourgeois” universalism for which – as a matter of principle – every human being has access to citizenship (or, in Arendtian terms, a “right to have rights”), such differences should become politically irrelevant: what happens instead is a new definition, which makes them both more unstable and more violent. The meaning, trajectory, and modalities of this transformation will be considered around three paradigmatic questions: that of the “abnormal”, that of the new (admittedly: partial) equivalence of “race” and “culture”, and that of the multiplicity of sexes and sexualities. Finally, the class will discuss the implications of these patterns in terms of “internal exclusion” and the “uneasy” character of the modern subject.

**Session I: Monday, 24 May**

**“Bourgeois-Civic Universality and its Reverse”**

**Session II: Tuesday, 25 May**

**“Three Differences and their Difference: Abnormal, the Foreign Body,  
The Problematic Number of Sex(es)”**

**Session III: Wednesday 26 May**

**“The Uneasiness of the Subject”**

All mini-course sessions will be held from 5.00-7.00 pm in Room 1N1.4.1

**ALL WELCOME**

For further information:  
[www.essex.ac.uk/philosophy](http://www.essex.ac.uk/philosophy)

## **Suggested reading for mini-course by Etienne Balibar**

Etienne Balibar: "Citizen Subject", in E. Cavada, P. Connor, J.L. Nancy, eds., *Who Comes after the Subject?*, Routledge 1991).

Michel Foucault, *Abnormal, Lectures at the Collège de France 1974-1975*, Picador 2003); « The Dangerous Individual », in *Michel Foucault: Politics, Philosophy, Culture. Interviews and Other Writings 1977-1984*, Routledge 1988.

Etienne Balibar: Chapter on "The Nation Form" in Balibar and Wallerstein, *Race, Nation, Class. Ambiguous Identities*, Verso.

Etienne Balibar: "Fichte and the Internal Border", in *Masses, Classes, Ideas. Studies on Politics and Philosophy before and after Marx*, Routledge 1994.

Paul Gilroy: *After Empire: Multiculture or Postcolonial Melancholia*, Routledge (2004).

Claude Levi Strauss: "Race et Culture" (1972).

Sigmund Freud: Chapter on "Feminity" in the *New Introductory Lectures to Psychoanalysis [1933]* (Standard Edition by James Strachey and Peter Gay, *The Penguin Freud Library*, 1965).

Jacques Lacan: *The Seminar, Book XX "Encore": On Feminine Sexuality the Limits of Love and Knowledge* (Norton and Co., 1999).

Judith Butler: *Undoing Gender*, Routledge 2004.

Immanuel Kant: "What is Enlightenment?" (1784); *Critique of Pure Reason* (1781) (section on the "Paralogisms of Pure Reason").

(It must be understood that this is purely indicative; the class will deal more or less extensively with some texts, but also others, or they can serve as introductions to the questions addressed, in part or in totality, with the greatest freedom of choice).

Please see [here](#) for a selection of Professor Balibar's books