

Beauvoir and Marxism Research Group

The purpose of this document is to outline the foundational structure and objectives of the *Research Group on Beauvoir and Marxism* that we would like to create.

The Format

We plan to hold regular meetings at fixed time intervals (e.g. once a month). We would like to keep the format open or up for discussion. The meetings can take one of the following forms, or switch between them:

- Presentations and discussions of works in progress
- Open, but thematically focused debates on topics at the intersection of Beauvoir and Marxist thought
- Reading group discussions of specific texts (primary and secondary literature) on the topic
- Presentations of ongoing or planned projects, ideas, papers
- Discussions of possible common future projects
- ...

Anyone is welcome to share their ideas and oversee organising one of the meetings.

The Goals

The meetings of the research group aim to:

- Facilitate networking
- Provide constructive feedback on participants' work

- Discuss topics of common concern
- Address impasses, difficulties, etc. in our research on these topics
- Share relevant literature and knowledge
- Initiate potential future collaborations
- Plan conferences, seminars, workshops, webinars, journal special issues or edited volumes related to the topics discussed
- ...

The Approach to the Central Topic

The methodological orientation of the research group, without expecting individuals to master all points, is geared towards:

- Rigorous historical, political, theoretical, biographical *contextualization*
- Clear awareness of the *many layers* of Beauvoir's relationship to Marx and Marxism: theoretical, more or less explicit engagement (published texts); feminist militancy in the 1970 (e.g. her involvement with the revue *Questions féministes*; the interviews she gave, etc.); her engagement in the debate around the "third way" between US capitalism and Soviet-style communism in Post-War France before the polarization of the Cold War; the debate of those around *Les Temps Modernes* with the Communists that took place in newspapers and journals in the late 1940s; etc.
- Critical dialogue on equal terms with the more established academic tradition that studies Sartre's and Merleau-Ponty's relationship with Marxism
- ...

What Kind of Community

The community of (academic and non-academic) researchers we would like to build aims to be:

- Open, inclusive, safe
- Devoid of power hierarchies as much as possible
- Mindful of basic rules of respectful communication: no one-to-one conversations within the meetings; no judgements and denigration of others; no verbal violence of any kind; listening to each other respectfully
- To safeguard these aims, every meeting will have one or more moderators
- ...

Next Steps

An open plenary online meeting in January 2024, in which:

- Participants can briefly introduce themselves and their research, methodological, and other interests
- We will discuss the goals of the group and the proposed methodological approaches
- We will delineate how to proceed: the format of next meetings, the moderators, the method of communication, etc.

To express your interest, fill this form

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe5BJMux_yrqxP_LeURlhPvilSVYiRAshMtodr_hkN23sSpHg/viewform

Contacts

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