

THE LOGIC OF MUTUAL INCLUSION & THE LIMITS OF THE HUMAN

PROF. BRIAN MASSUMI



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10am - 11:30am
Free Admission

AS7 #06-42,
The Shaw Foundation Building,
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The dividing line between the animal and the human has become increasingly blurred, as capacities once thought unique to humans have been observed among animals (tool-use, cultural transmission, proto-linguistic use of signs, self-recognition, altruism, etc.). The blurring of the boundaries presents great challenges to our sense of what it means to be human. But it presents just as far-reaching challenges to the very way in which we formulate such questions. If we can no longer identify particular qualities as exclusively human, how do we conceive of our difference? This talk will argue that we need to employ a different logic, one not of mutual exclusive categories, but of mutual inclusion. It is only by moving to a new, directly ecological, logic, that we transform the current crisis in our sense of ourselves into an opportunity for a reconnection to the continuum of life.

Professor Massumi is one of the most well-known philosophers and theorists in the field of cultural studies and affect studies. He received his PhD in French Literature from Yale University in 1987 and has lectured internationally. He is now teaching in the Communication Sciences Department at the Université de Montréal.

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