

UNIVERSITY *of* NORTH TEXAS

Department of Philosophy
and Religion Studies

presents
A Lecture by

Gijs van Oenen

Globalizing Power and Testimonial Politics



The state of the political, in our networked, globalizing world, is a state of concern. In particular, it seems increasingly difficult to articulate political counter-voices, against dominant views that are associated with the control over “globalizing” economic and cultural institutions or networks. In their recent and much-discussed book **Empire**, the philosophers Michael Hardt and Toni Negri conclude that our post-imperialist world (i.e., the United States and its political culture) no longer has any “outside,” and that therefore critical voices, arising from external perspectives, are irredeemably doomed; they are either overruled or assimilated into the system. I contest this assertion through an analysis of the political resilience of hybrid voices, that is to say, voices and speakers that “double cross” the border between inside and outside, moving both within and without the dominant political and cultural system. I consider the Latin American genre of the *testimonio* as a prime example of such hybrid resilience. I conclude that finding political counter-voices implies finding new forms and practices of *testimonio*.

Tuesday, April 1, 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in EESAT 110

Gijs van Oenen is professor of ethics, legal philosophy and social philosophy at the Department of Philosophy of Erasmus University, Rotterdam, The Netherlands. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of Amsterdam, where he taught at the Law School, the Department of Political Science, and the Department of Philosophy. He published a book on **The Uses of Illegality**, and an edited volume on the virtues of tolerance as the deliberate lax enforcement of law. His research interests include issues of identity formation, citizenship, the rule of law, and multiculturalism.

The lecture is free and open to the public.

For special accommodation, contact us at 565-2266 or philosophy@unt.edu.