



University
of Victoria

GRADUATE COLLOQUIUM

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

Nocturnal Explorations: Rhythmanalysis and Chrono-Urbanism



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11:30 am – 12:50 pm

Cornett Building, Room A225

The dimension of the night has long been left in the shadows by urbanists, architects, politicians, and city dwellers who focused their attention on daily activities and planning. However, in recent years the night has received an increasing attention following the rise of nighttime economies, sleepless societies, and 24/7 cities (Bonfiglioli, Crary, Gwiazdinski, Straw), contributing to the formation of the so-called “Night Studies” field. Regarding the night as an object of study helps to “shed light” upon temporality, rhythms, and the intertwining links between space and time. It leads to rethinking the city and urban life in terms of rhythms through Henri Lefebvre’s theory of “rhythmanalysis,” focusing on the aesthetic, bodily, and sensorial experience of space. It also points towards what geographer, Luc Gwiazdinski, has named “chrono-urbanism”: an urbanism that looks at time management as a collective issue in urban areas, and insofar to the implementation of time-oriented politics. This talk explores the aesthetico-political dimension of the night. We will go on a journey through nocturnal explorations of nightlife practices, drawing on examples of festivals and disco-culture from Montreal and Italy. The marginal and ephemeral position such nocturnal practices have occupied in space, but also in time, created the opportunity for experimentation in the aesthetics and politics of the urban night and need to be addressed to understand the diverse, and often divergent, needs and tensions in order to create a more inclusive and accessible city.

EVERYONE WELCOME.

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