**Volcanic Lines: Deleuzian Research Group**

**Statement of Aims and Objectives**

‘Depth is like the famous geological lines from NE to SW, the line which comes diagonally from the heart of things and distributes volcanoes: it unites a bubbling sensibility and a thought which “rumbles in its crater”.

Gilles Deleuze, Difference and Repetition

‘It's the mouth of a volcano. Yes, mouth: and lava tongue. A body, a monstrous living body, both male and female. It emits, ejects. It is also an interior, an abyss. Something alive that can die. Something inert that can become agitated, now and then. Existing only intermittently. A constant menace. If predictable, usually not predicted. Capricious, untameable, malodorous.’

Susan Sontag, The Volcano Lover

**Staging Encounters**

Volcanic Lines: Deleuzian Research Group is based in the University of Greenwich Philosophy Department. The department is located on the Maritime Greenwich campus of the University in one of the baroque courts that make up the Old Royal Naval College, a World Heritage Site on the banks of the River Thames. The launch of the Research Group in Autumn 2006 followed the success of The Work of Gilles Deleuze International Conference in July 2006. Its aim is to organise events focusing on a diverse range of philosophers.

The Deleuzian inspiration is to stage encounters between different figures and test the limits of this approach. It will not be restricted to considering only the encounters Deleuze himself staged and developed. It will seek to continue his approach of seeking more challenging encounters and indeed questioning whether his own work was either too narrow, in excluding figures such as Hegel, or too broad in its range to be effective. Does it make sense to talk about encounters if they can produce anything and involve any thinker? The research group will also have an interdisciplinary edge, tapping into Deleuze research in departments other than philosophy. In this way it will be both radical and boundary breaking whilst being rigorous and critical in testing the limits and depths of the Deleuzian practice of encounter.

To achieve this the group will seek to extend a broad range of encounters and pursue their depth and productivity in each case. This will involve much consideration of what is learnt about the other partner in the encounter and not only about Deleuze’s philosophy. This should ensure a balance between the partners and stretch the capacity of encounter to produce something new and productive given all the differences involved. This should provide a rigorous testing ground for Deleuze’s reading of different thinkers and for his capacity to encounter those he neglected or who have come after him. It will test the limits of their influence upon his thought and the capacity of both sides to survive the rigor and violence of encounter. Thus we ask, is the encounter ever exhausted? Is it ever unproductive? The range of thinkers will extend to contemporary concerns with the limits of Deleuze’s thought in areas such as political resistance.

Colloquia will feature the presentation of a paper relevant to Deleuze studies although it may focus upon another thinker and potential partner in encounter and in this way allow the depth of this alternative to be considered on its own terms. Online discussions of papers will be designed to extend the question session at the end of the paper.

Reading group workshops will be focused workshops. They will involve short presentations or short papers to provide the themes of each session. These will not be papers to be discussed and the sessions will not be chaired. Rather the intention is to provide the focus to get through the text in a limited time frame and to allow conclusions to be reached about particular themes. Workshops will either meet over a number of weeks with sessions held on a particular evening every week or will be one day workshops with several sessions.

Conferences will provide the time to stage an encounter with a number papers and discussions involving scholars from further afield.

**Research Output**

In Print

An edited collection of essays will be published by Continuum Press (now Bloomsbury) under the title *Thinking Between Deleuze and Kant*.

Online

The *deleuze at greenwich* website exists to provide information about Deleuze related events, calls for papers and publications at Greenwich and beyond. Anyone wishing to contribute information or suggested links is most welcome to e-mail these to volcaniclines[at]hotmail.com

The dialogues at greenwich blog allows for reports on events to be posted and for discussion begun at these to be continued and developed. We would also like to invite people to post their work in progress or pre-prints for discussion. If you are interested in contributing pieces we’d be delighted to hear from you and will send you details about posting. Please feel free to contribute to any discussion in the comments box at the bottom of each post. We hope this will provide a valuable terrain for testing ideas and readings for those who cannot make the events at Greenwich as well as developing and making available the work done at these events. Online publishing should allow the research group to make a contribution to the wider research community by disseminating contributions to key debates and trajectories in Deleuze studies and to the study of (potentially) related thinkers.

**Organisers**

Events are organised by Matt Lee, Lecturer in Philosophy, Edward Willatt, who recently completed a PhD in philosophy at Greenwich, and other members of the Philosophy Department at The University of Greenwich.