



CAN COING NOTHING EMANCIPATE US? GIORGIO AGAMBEN ON BOREDOM AND THE POLITICAL

The aim of the presentation is to consider the political potential of boredom. Boredom, conventionally thought of as the state of uncommitted passivity, does not really correspond to an activistic domain of politics. Predominantly, it has either been associated with politics as a state to be overcome by political actions or – at best – as an ambiguous stimulus to political thinking. In my presentation, I would like to make this one-sided view more problematic by analyzing Giorgio Agamben's peculiar proposition to think of boredom *as* a politics. Inspired, among all, by Walter Benjamin's “The Arcades Project”, Agamben's philosophy of potentiality aims at making the potential of non-action a constitutive element of any political enterprise.

I mean to test Agamben's crucial concepts, as well as his important reading of Herman Melville's “Bartleby”, to see if treating boredom as a means of emancipation seems justified and can really be called productive.