

CEG | Diferenças italianas – Laboratório sobre as perspectivas globais do pensamento italiano
Conferência | 23 de Maio 2023 | 18h00 | Greg Bird (Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo)

Sessão presencial: Salão Nobre de Palácio Ceia, Universidade Aberta

Sessão online: <https://videoconf-colibri.zoom.us/j/98852435523>

Title: “Dispositifs & Engineering”

Abstract: This presentation focuses on the various issues and problems being raised in contemporary dispositif thinking in Italian Thought. I focus on the two-fold problem that has been raised by key texts in dispositif thinking: the problem of dispositifs and the dispositif problem. First, what really matters for the problem of dispositifs is locating them, figuring out how they operate, and exposing their effects. Dispositifs are neither concepts, nor themes, but *engines* – generators and intellects. Across a now diverse body of texts on dispositifs there is emerging a new type of philosophy, which we might call a “philosophy of engineering.” Second, dispositifs materially posit tasks, questions, propositions, in short, problems. After the philosophical engineers have “figured them out,” they turn to the issue of addressing what is to be done or, better put, what can be done – the permissible and feasible – with dispositifs. What materially matters for the dispositif problem is finding a way to address the problems they pose. Over the course of my presentation, I shall present various examples of how contemporary theorists address this two-fold problematic. I end with a brief discussion of what I feel are some of the more inspiring accounts of how dispositifs can and should be politically addressed.

Bio: Greg Bird is an Associate Professor of Sociology, Cultural Analysis and Social Theory at Wilfrid Laurier University, Canada. He is social and political theorist with a focus on contemporary philosophy and biopolitics. His first book *Containing Community* (SUNY Press) won the Canadian Society for Continental Philosophy Annual Book Award (2017). He has published several articles and chapters in English and Italian, including in international journals such as the *European Journal of Social Theory*, *Configurations*, *Angelaki*, and *Human Studies*. He has published two co-edited books and four co-edited special journal issues. He sits on many international editorial boards and has held visiting researcher positions in Rome, Pisa, and Naples in Italy. He and Giovanni Tusa are the co-editors of a forthcoming 450-page anthology called *Dispositif. A Cartography* (MIT Press 2023). He is currently writing a series of essays examining genealogical strains of dispositif thinking in contemporary philosophy.