This course will consider theoretical topics that arose in post-war continental philosophy (for example, Deleuze's ontology, Foucault's biopolitics, and Latour's collective of humans and non-humans) which have served as a basis for recent attempts to reconcile the human and social sciences with the natural sciences around so-called „big picture questions“ (ecological crisis, biotechnological progress) and around such bridging concepts as human and non-human agency, assemblage, emergence, force and mimicry as well as „bio-terms“ (biocitizenship, bioeconomy, biocapitalism and biosocial). Focusing on case studies drawn from archaeology, anthropology, history, literature, film and bio-art, the course will try to indicate what sort of topics, research questions, approaches, theories and concepts might lead to an integration of these various kinds of knowledges.

First meeting: Wednesday, March 30th, 5:15 pm, bldg 50-51B

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