



Department of Philosophy Colloquium Amia Srinivasan



5/9/2025



3 pm - 5 pm



HIB 55

Genealogies of Oppression:

Psychoanalysis, Feminism and Liberation

Like Simone de Beauvoir and generations of feminists before and after her, Sigmund Freud – the founder of psychoanalysis – argued that women were not born, but made. Should Freud's account of the origins of the hierarchical sex distinction – his genealogy of patriarchal gender – be read as an affront feminist sensibilities, or a confirmation of them? Can Freud's genealogy, with its explanatory emphasis on the unconscious, the infantile and the arational, be read as a feminist genealogy? More broadly, of what use, if any, is the psychoanalytic framework to contemporary projects of political liberation?

If you have any questions, please contact philos@uci.edu

BIO

Amia Srinivasan is the Chichele Professor of Social and Political Theory at All Souls College, Oxford. She works on topics in epistemology, political theory and feminism, and is the author of *The Right to Sex: Feminism in the Twenty-First Century* (2020). She is a contributing editor of the *London Review of Books*, and her writing for a public audience – on animals, the university, free speech, death, technology and other topics – has also appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Review of Books*, *Harper's*, *The Nation*, and elsewhere. She is currently at work on a book about critical genealogy, titled *The Contingent World: Genealogy, Epistemology, Politics*.