

THE CONSTITUTION OF

The Association for Critical Theory at the CUNY Graduate Center

ARTICLE I: MISSION: The Association for Critical Theory at the CUNY Graduate Center (hereinafter to be referred to by its official acronym: 'ACT' and to potentially appear in publications in its official short form: 'The Association for Critical Theory') is an interdisciplinary scholarly discussion group at the CUNY Graduate Center that invites students and faculty from all departments to share interests, ideas, and information about contemporary scholarship concerning the interdisciplinary concerns of Critical Theory, a diverse tradition wherein the critical analysis of the human experience in all of its aspects, or in particular aspects, is undertaken with an emphasis on a scholarly approach which combines the tools, approaches and insights of the social sciences and the humanities. Our concerns owe much to the work of the 'Frankfurt School' tradition of interdisciplinary scholarship, though the current and future state of the field draw from, reflect critically upon, but are limited by that influence. Our primary purposes are to foster an intellectual and social community of scholars that encourages interactions across disciplines and between faculty and students and to further inquiry into human affairs that is, simultaneously, conscious of explanatory, practical and, especially, normative concerns and to maintain an ACT library in ACT office space at the CUNY Graduate Center for the use of our members.

ARTICLE II: EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES: The group's monthly meetings shall feature opportunities for members and invited guests to address various aspects of the contemporary directions and developments Critical Theory scholarship, current and ongoing research projects of members of ACT, upcoming events both within and without the CUNY Graduate Center, trends in related scholarly professions and publishing. ACT will also hold periodical meetings where a scholar or non-academic of interest to the association will meet members and invited guests to discuss affairs concerning our shared interests. In addition to these meetings we also hope to organize periodical scholarly events including: presentations by individual scholars, invited from both within and without the CUNY Graduate Center, graduate student conferences that center on Critical Theory or a derivative or related aspect thereof, and panel discussion events including the participation of students, faculty members, or non-academics. We will seek to involve faculty members in our graduate student conferences, when possible. Each event also has a social component, since these events offer an opportunity for those working in various disciplines to come together, network and consider working together in the future. Participation in ACT activities should reflect general acceptance of the ACT mission statement contained in Article I of this Constitution.

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP: Membership shall be open to any Graduate Center students and we welcome participation from other CUNY faculty and students, as well as those from other institutions. ACT shall have at least twenty (20) members, who are matriculated students at the Graduate School & University Center of the City University of New York. Voting membership shall be restricted to matriculated students at the Graduate School & University Center of the City University of New York. Non-voting membership will be extended to any of the following classes of member or any combination of the following classes of members: (1) alumni of the Graduate School & University Center of the City University of New York; (2) matriculated graduate students at all colleges of the City University of New York; (3) non-matriculated graduate students at all colleges of the City University of New York; (4) matriculated undergraduate students at all colleges of the City University of New York; (5) members of the faculty of all colleges of the City University of New York; (6) members of the staff with faculty status at all colleges of the City University of New York; (7) members of the staff at all colleges of the City University of New York.

ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP AND VOTING RULES: a)

Membership shall be comprised of matriculated and non-matriculated students within the GC who indicate their wishes to assume the privileges and responsibilities of membership. b) Each member in good standing who is a matriculated student may hold any office in the organization. c) Each member in good standing, matriculated or non-matriculated, holds one vote. d) In order to maintain good standing, a member must have a good record of participation in meetings and events of the association during the present semester. e) Each member shall be entitled to participate and be a member of other associations within the GC.

ARTICLE IV: CO-CHAIRS AND RECORD-KEEPING: Every

academic year, elections will be held for no more than four officer positions. Voting members may nominate themselves or other voting members. Rules concerning co-chair officers: a) ACT officers shall consist of four co-chairs, equally sharing all responsibilities and duties; b) Elections for all offices shall be held at the second meeting of each semester; c) Co-chairs may be removed from office at any time by a simple majority (50% + 1) vote of the members in good standing; d) Any committees formed shall be comprised of volunteers. In addition to functioning as the official liaisons to the Doctoral Students' Council Co-Chair for Student Affairs, Co-Chairs share the following responsibilities: maintaining the group's property; scheduling and running meetings, organizing events, and applying for funding; notifying the DSC Co-Chair of Student Affairs of group status changes; submitting an activity report and the most recent version of the Constitution, and membership information to the Co-Chair for Student Affairs at the end of each semester. All funding received by the ACT shall be disposed of at the direction of the Co-Chairs in consultation with each other. Each year the elected co-chairs should decide unanimously upon one co-chair to assume the position of 'Director of the Association for Critical Theory at the CUNY Graduate Center' who shall have no unique powers, but who shall have the primary responsibility and duty of seeing that the mission of the Association is not compromised and that the mission is continuously forwarded by every possible means. The co-chair committee will have the power to adopt resolutions following from this Constitution. Such resolutions should be approved unanimously by the co-chairs, or by a majority thereof. Such resolutions will be recorded in a file available to all members of the organization upon request. And notification of the impact of any such resolutions should be communicated to all members of the organization in a timely fashion after the adoption of such resolutions. Any such proposed resolution should be considered before a decision of the co-chairs in a meeting which is open to attendance by all ACT members. This Constitution may be amended with the unanimous approval of all sitting Co-Chairs with the advice and consent of a majority of the ACT membership expressed at a meeting of the ACT membership. At least one Co-Chair of the ACT must be in attendance at each official meeting of the ACT membership and must serve as chair of each meeting. Membership rolls and records of the Co-Chairs and Directors of the ACT must be maintained by the ACT in perpetuity. All past Co-Chairs will be, upon graduation from the CUNY-GC, considered, unless they specify otherwise in writing, members of the ACT in good standing but without voting or office-holding abilities in perpetuity. Maintenance of the records of the ACT, including this Constitution, shall be the duty of the Director of the ACT and may be delegated to another member.

[signatures to be inserted in final copy]