



## Idealism versus Materialism: Dissident Historiographies

**THURSDAY**  
**FEBRUARY 13, 2020**

**LOCATION:**

*Student Union Memorial Center*  
*Agave Room*

**TIME:**

*4:00 pm*



This talk will discuss how the obsessive taxonomizing of intellectual currents as systems in European intellectual history emerges in the eighteenth century and continues to the present day. Despite their overt antagonism, German Idealist and Marxist historiographies prove complicit with one another in this respect. This talk will make the case that Heinrich Heine's literary and political activity in the diaspora underlies a specifically poetic intervention that explains the continuity between Idealist and Marxist historiographies while offering a veritable alternative to them. Against thinking in systems, Heine's attention to the decisive role of contingency and materiality in the developments of the supposedly spiritual domains of literature and philosophy offers a history of conflictual tendencies, conjuncturally constituted and materially modified. This talk will place Heine's intervention in a greater tradition of dissident historiographies, spanning from the materialism of Spinoza and Marx to literary theory today.



**SIARHEI BIAREISHYK**

Siarhei Biareishyk is a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures at the University of Pennsylvania. His current project, "Formalism and the Materialist Tradition: Literature, Politics, Ontology," traces evolving concepts of form and notions of life from literary and scientific debates around 1800 to the disciplinary formations of literary studies in the early twentieth century. He is also currently completing his first book, tentatively titled *Spinozan Mediations: The Limits of Materialist Thought in Novalis and His Contemporaries*.