



Dangerous Minds: Making more sense of the far right

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October 18, 2019

9:00am – 4:30pm

Summary

The purpose of the workshop is to take another, more sober look at two philosophers who are perennial favourites within the contemporary academy: Friedrich Nietzsche and Martin Heidegger. For decades it has been assumed by intellectuals on the left that these two powerful thinkers can be key resources for progressive and egalitarian politics. That assumption is very much in need of careful re-examination in light of the recent and quite alarming return of far-right politics. The contemporary alt-right has its own intellectuals, who very much pride themselves on being an intellectual vanguard. There is a far-right canon.

Beiner, in his book *Dangerous Minds*, cites a book review on a far-right website that offers the following list of intellectual beacons for the alt-right: Nietzsche, Heidegger, Carl Schmitt, Alain de Benoist, Guillaume Faye, and Alexander Dugin. The question for participants in the workshop is: In this new context of seemingly resurgent fascism, or “fascoid” populism, can we continue to read thinkers like Nietzsche, Heidegger, and Schmitt without giving renewed scrutiny to their relevance for the radical right?

Required Readings

Beiner, Ronald. 2018. *Dangerous Minds: Nietzsche, Heidegger, and the Return of the Far Right*. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press. [Webster Library Course Reserves Room \(3 hour loan\)](#)

Additional Resources*

Nietzsche, Friedrich Wilhelm. 1997. *Untimely Meditations*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. <https://www-fulcrum-org.lib-ezproxy.concordia.ca/concern/monographs/5138jf36g>

- "On the Uses and Disadvantages of History for Life", pp. 57-123.
- "Schopenhauer as Educator", pp. 125-194

Nietzsche, Friedrich Wilhelm. 2002. *Beyond Good and Evil: Prelude to a Philosophy of the Future*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. [See online course reserves for link](#)

- "What is Noble?" pp. 151-177.

Heidegger, Martin. 2008. *Basic Writings: Key Selections from 'Being and Time' to 'The Task of Thinking'*. New York: Harper Perennial Modern Thought. [See online course reserves for link](#)

- "Letter on Humanism", pp. 213-266.

*If you are registered for non-credit and are unable to access these *additional resources*, please send an email to wssr@concordia.ca

