

DESIRE + CAPITAL

VOL. 2: THE COMMODITY — DECEMBER 5-6 2022

From money, the god of commodities, we move to the commodity itself. The two are inextricably bound: foundational abstractions for comprehending the concrete realities of capital. This only becomes more apparent in the contemporary strains of financialization and globalization that multiply and intensify the networks for commodities and money to flow — in short, for value to be produced and subsequently accumulated as capital. Money multiplies unto itself, but the commodity is what allows us to clarify the relations involved — the way we begin to understand the composition of the social relations of capital. This will

find further expression in Labor (Power). It is no accident that it is through the commodity that Marx comes to understand this. After all, while cash may rule everything around us,¹ what are you going to use it for and why? What do you do to get your hands on it? Or, more poetically, “How much a dollar really cost?”²

1 Wu-Tang Clan. “C.R.E.A.M.” *Enter the Wu-Tang (36 Chambers)*. Loud Records, 1993.

2 Lamar, Kendrick. “How Much a Dollar Cost.” *To Pimp a Butterfly*. Top Dawg Entertainment, 2015.

PROGRAM 05.12.2022 (POLAK 2-16)

- 11:00 Lecture: Viola Marchi
- 12:30 Lunch (Erasmus Pavilion)
- 14:00 Public Discussion: The Commodity
- 15:30 Coffee Break
- 16:00 Lecture: Gianmaria Colpani
- 17:30 Borrel (Erasmus Pavilion)

PROGRAM 06.12.2022 (MANDEVILLE T3-35)

- 14:00 Masterclass: Gianmaria Colpani
- 15:30 Coffee and wrap-up

Please e-mail articulationsofdesire@gmail.com to sign up for the Masterclass and receive the text.

Gianmaria Colpani is Assistant Professor of Gender and Postcolonial Studies at Utrecht University and co-editor of *Sexual Politics between the Netherlands and the Caribbean* (2019) and *Postcolonial Responses to Decolonial Interventions* (2022).

Viola Marchi is Postdoctoral Researcher at the University of Bern and co-editor of *Throwing the Moral Dice: Ethics and the Problem of Contingency* (2022).

THE READING GROUP (all available free at marxists.org, page references to Penguin Editions)

Marx, Karl. “Introduction” and Excerpt: “Circulation or the Turnover of Money” - “Capital and Labor.” *GR*. pp. 81-112 and 186-266.

Marx, Karl. Re-read Part I (particularly I.1.1.4) + II. *CI* pp. 121-280.