

PROGRAM IN EXPERIMENTAL CRITICAL THEORY
SPRING 2022 LECTURE SERIES

**"The Creation of Eve and Pandora in 'Differential Comparison':
Myths of Foundation and Michel Foucault's *Aveux de la Chair*"**

With Claude Calame

Directeur d'Études, *École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales, Paris*
(Centre AnHiMA: *Anthropologie et Histoire des Mondes Antiques*)



In his *History of Sexuality*, Michel Foucault intends to offer a "genealogy of the subject of desire" and of the "arts of existence" through the experience of the flesh, in the comparative passage from the Greco-Roman paradigm to Christianity in the first centuries. Relying on philosophers, moralists, physicians, and Fathers of the Church, Foucault fails to take into consideration the narratives that we identify as "founding myths," while focusing his investigation on a subject of desire understood in the masculine. Through a narratological approach and in a perspective of differential and critical comparison, we would like to return to the two founding narratives which are (from the point of view of what sexuality has become for us), on the one hand the Old Testament narrative of the birth of Eve, and on the other hand the Hesiodic narrative of the creation of Pandora. We will envision them as much from the standpoint of the values they represent as from the standpoint of the gender relations they stage, while emphasizing their poetic pragmatics. In conclusion, we will come back to one of the aporias of Foucault's investigation.

Monday, May 9th
12:00-1:00 PM PT via Zoom
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