

## CFP: Foucault as Boundary Object 10 May 2024, University of Sussex

In commemoration of the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Michel Foucault's death, this one-day transdisciplinary conference will bring together researchers from across the University of Sussex to explore Foucault's work as a Boundary Object.

First theorised in the field of Science Technology Studies, the concept of a boundary object refers to objects which are 'plastic enough to adapt to local needs,' and constraints but 'robust enough to maintain a common identity,' across the multiple contexts they are put to work in (Star and Greisemer, 1989: 393). To consider Foucault's work as a boundary object, then, is to celebrate simultaneously the coherence and the generative capacity of Foucault's theoretical and methodological contributions as they have moved across and within disciplinary boundaries, theoretical traditions, and methodological approaches. In this respect, the theme pays homage the diverse legacies of Foucault's work, recognising the rich intellectual trajectories that have been opened up by his: conceptualisations of discipline, biopolitics, and governmentality; theoretical and historical explorations of sexuality, race, psychiatry, and the subject; innovative methodologies crystallised in the concepts of archaeology, genealogy and discourse. The conference organising committee therefore welcome a broad range of contributions in order to capture this conceptual and methodological multiplicity as it is located within and across the boundary. Possible topics may include:

- The relevance of Foucault for exploring contemporary issues and crises
- Contemporary innovations and reinventions of Foucault's conceptual and methodological ideas
- Work that utilises and/or develops underexplored or neglected concepts in Foucault's work
- Thinking 'beyond Foucault' through dialogues between Foucault and a range of contemporary thinkers and/or concepts
- Locating Foucault's work at the intersections of particular disciplinary boundaries

The conference is open to researchers at all career stages and in any role at the University of Sussex. If you would like to present your work, please submit a 250-word abstract that includes your name, email address, and the department you are based in so we can ensure presenters are chosen from across the university. Send your submissions to the organising committee via Yari Lanci ([y.lanci@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:y.lanci@sussex.ac.uk)) by March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024.