

# *the project of theory*

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## BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

SUMMER SCHOOL: PHILOSOPHY AND ARCHITECTURE



UNIRI



DELTALAB



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INSTITUT  
ZA FILOZOFIJU  
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Book of Abstracts  
**The Project of Theory**

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# SUMMER SCHOOL ARCHITECTURE AND PHILOSOPHY

Summer school *Architecture and Philosophy* is joint interdisciplinary project (started in 2016) organized by Institute for Philosophy and Social Theory (University of Belgrade), Center for Advanced Studies Southeast Europe (University of Rijeka), Institut für Architektur (Technische Universität Berlin) and Politecnico di Torino.

1st Summer School Architecture and Philosophy,  
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3rd Summer School Architecture and Philosophy,  
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3-7 May 2022, Moise Palace Cres  
**The Project of Theory**  
<https://cas.uniri.hr/5th-summer-school-the-project-of-theory/>

# BOOK OF ABSTRACTS

5th Summer School: THE PROJECT OF THEORY

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## The Projective Character of the (Positional) *Sur-* in the Concept of *Surrationalism*

This research aims to reconstruct the question of the ‘projective character of theory’ through Gaston Bachelard’s concept of *surrationalism*. Bachelard begins the essay, “Le surrationalisme,” published in the first issue of the periodical *Inquisitions*, with the following words: “The decisive action [*l’action décisive*] of reason [*raison*] is almost always confused with monotonous recourse [*recours monotone*] to the certitudes of memory [*aux certitudes de la mémoire*].” The ultimate consequence of this ‘looking back’ would be the loss of the originally dynamic character of reason, and, correspondingly, the loss of the potential for the new. In order to deconstruct such a *recours*, Bachelard introduces the concept of *surrationalism*, which he uses to emphasize the importance of restoring the ‘function of turbulence and aggressiveness’ to reason. Accordingly, the character of this *sur-*, which stands for such mobility, would have to be *psychological*. However, ‘psychological’ here does not mean subjective, but rather non-discursive. Its value lies in the possibility to *singularize* reason, that is, to revive it in order to bring forth the new. Precisely because of this affinity to the singular, we could consider *surrationalist* activity particularly projective. But its projectiveness could result only from a certain act of *negation*. In the phrase ‘the project of theory,’ there is an implicit assertion that theory is not complete; yet, if this ‘project’ were aimed at the completion of theory, then it would cease to be *its* project. The specificity of such a project would then be objectification of rationalism, suggested by the prefix *sur-*. In this sense, *sur-* indicates a positioning which, although it occurs in terms of negation, is directed towards a ‘synthetic epistemology,’ thereby producing the new as an epistemological difference. So, the negation inherent in the *sur-* of a *surrationalist* act remains constructive, and therefore, entirely architectural.