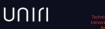
# the project of theory

May 3–7, 2022 Moise Palace, Cres, Croatia

## **BOOK OF ABSTRACTS**

SUMMER SCHOOL: PHILOSOPHY AND ARCHITECTURE











# 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.

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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, surindicates 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.