

## On Cruelty: Global Reflections from the Age of Revolutions to the War on Citizenship

This is the second meeting of the workshop series on *Civility, Cruelty, Truth*. A one-day event hosted by the Stanford Humanities Center, the workshop will explore the genealogies, promises, and limits of civic virtue—at the heart of which is the city, the classical *polis*, itself— as a universal ideal. European in its fundamental contours, marked by a constitutive fascination with the rule of law, borders, and security, at once coercive and oblique in whom it excludes and includes, how it punishes and immunizes, the city was promised as the humanist center of ethical and sovereign life, one upon which anticolonial struggles against European empires were also first conceived and mounted. This workshop will examine the ambiguous foundations and resolutions of that vision in Europe, Asia, and the fatal waters in between; a vision that has come to be marked today by extreme violence and tragic displacements, and which now presses new questions against the very limit of the modern political imagination.