

## Conference 2012

### Censorship

Despite the rise of ‘new media’ more difficult to control and restrict within borders, censorship as the practice of limiting, regulating or expunging information, images and opinions continues to be a feature of many political contexts. In addition to examining the familiar—current and historical—manifestations of censorship as a tool of repression, this year’s conference considered the more subtle and unexpected ways in which censorship may operate in environments ostensibly open to freedom of expression, and in particular the role of technologies, cultural conflict, and institutional frameworks in determining what can be articulated and how. Our investigations led us to consider the meaning and reach of the term ‘censorship’ as a way of classifying practices of affecting access to written, spoken or visual forms of representation. Must censorship always denote a conscious and direct repressive intervention? Are there necessary forms of regulation for which it is not an appropriate term? Or should it be re-invoked to describe the effect of some of our most apparently ‘free’ exchanges and frameworks of communication? And finally, what is the relationship between censorship and the material—economic and social—mechanisms through which viewpoints and accounts of the world are transmitted?

### Guest speakers

- Roger Berkowitz, Associate Professor of Political Studies and Human Rights at Bard College and Academic Director of the Hannah Arendt Center for Politics and Humanities
- Klaus Wivel, Danish journalist
- Derek Scally, Berlin correspondent for *The Irish Times*
- Christiane Wilke, Assistant Professor at the Department of Law at Carleton University, Canada
- Miklos Haraszti, Hungarian writer, editor, professor and human rights promoter
- Jutta Lietsch, Southeast Asia correspondent for *the taz (the tageszeitung)*
- Karsten Voigt, German politician, SPD
- Nicholas Kulish, Berlin bureau chief for *The New York Times*
- Evgeny Morozov, writer and editor, visiting scholar at Stanford University and Schwartz fellow at the New America Foundation
- Heba Amin, Egyptian artist