

Symposium

Frantz Fanon's Social Therapy 'To Give Body to an Institution'

With

Kader Attia
Camilla Caglioti
Christopher Chamberlin
Sara El Daccache
Carles Guerra
Tobi Haslett
Samia Henni
Samah Jabr
Jean Khalfa
Brigitta Kuster
Karima Lazali
Wietske Maas
Paul Marquis
David Marriott
Marlon Miguel
Marianna Scarfone
Wanderley Santos
Saniya Taher
David Ventura
Elena Vogman
Robert J. C. Young

The symposium *Frantz Fanon's Social Therapy: 'To Give Body to an Institution'* explores Frantz Fanon's political, clinical, and aesthetic approach to institutions along three interrelated lines. First, it delves into the impact of Saint-Alban on Fanon's conception of madness and the institution as both in need of a cure and capable of curing — a sociogenic and phenomenological perspective attentive to embodiment, subjectivity, and history. Second, it turns to his work at Blida-Joinville and Charles-Nicolle, where colonial alienation thwarted the implementation of social therapy, yet where Fanon and his collaborators experimented with media, spatial, and aesthetic practices to propose new forms of collective life. Finally, it considers the legacies of Fanon's clinical practice, tracing how his insights into the entanglement of psychiatry, politics, and colonial violence continue to inform contemporary understandings of trauma, resistance, and institutional life in postcolonial and neocolonial contexts.



ICI Berlin | Christinenstraße 18-19, Haus 8 | D – 10119 Berlin
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29 – 30 January 2026
Symposium

10:00 – 21:00
ICI Berlin, in English

Organized by
Camilla Caglioti, Marlon Miguel, and
Elena Vogman as part of
the Research project 'Madness, Media, Milieus.
Reconfiguring the Humanities in Postwar Europe'
(Bauhaus-Universität Weimar,
funded by Freigeist Fellowship of
the Volkswagen Foundation)
in collaboration with ICI Berlin

Image Credit: Frantz Fanon,
captured by François Tosquelles's camera
in conversation with psychiatrist Georges Daumezon.
Still from Carles Guerra,
Watching Tosquelles's Films, 2022

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Programme

Day 1
29 January 2026

- 10:00 Introduction
Camilla Caglioti, Marlon Miguel, Elena Vogman
- 10:30 – 12:00 Panel I
- Carles Guerra
Tosquelles and Fanon, an Intertwined Genealogy
Marianna Scarfone
Fanon and the Others:
1950s French Psychiatrists Against Racialized Medicine
- 12:00 – 13:30 Lunch Break
- 13:30 – 15:30 Panel II
- Paul Marquis
Fanon from Below:
Patients Records and Social Therapy in Colonial Algeria
Jean Khalfa
Fanon's Djinn
Robert J. C. Young
The Irreversible Vitiating of Existence
- 15:30 – 16:30 Coffee Break
- 16:30 – 18:30 Panel III
- Karima Lazali
De la liberté d'avoir un corps (In French)
Wanderley Santos
The Post-Colonial Unconscious:
Fanon, Klein, and the Politics of Subject
Christopher Chamberlin
Notes on the Family

Day 2
30 January 2026

- 10:00 – 12:00 Panel IV
- David Ventura
Discrepant Refusals in Fanon and Glissant
Tobi Haslett
Fanon's Resignation
David Marriott
Without Truth: Fanon's Concept of Confession
- 12:00 – 13:30 Lunch Break
- 13:30 – 15:30 Panel V
- Samah Jabr
When the Clinic Meets the Colonial Condition:
Fanon's Legacy in Contemporary Palestinian Mental Health Practice
Sara El Daccache
Hermeneutics of the Symptom:
A Fanonian Clinic in Palestinian Refugee Camps in Southern Lebanon
- 15:30 – 16:30 Coffee Break
- 16:30 – 18:30 Panel VI
- Brigitta Kuster
Un cinéma qui panse: Fanon and the cinéclub in Blida-Joinville
Saniya Taher
Cinematic *Socialtherapie*, from Blida to *J'ai huit ans*:
Fanon and the Psychopolitics of the Image
Samia Henni
Frantz Fanon and Psychocolonial Spaces
- 18:30 – 19:00 Break
- 19:00 Screening and Conversation
Disenclosing the Psyche
With Kader Attia and Wietske Maas