



**FRIDAY,**

**APRIL 5, 2024**

**12:00 PM (ET)**

**305  
INTERNATIONAL  
CENTER  
427 N SHAW LN,  
EAST LANSING, MI  
48824**

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CENTER FOR  
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(CERES)**



CERES Brown Bag Talk:

**MAKING EUROPE'S 'FIRST NEW LEFT':  
'ARGUMENTS' IN MILAN, PARIS, AND WEST  
BERLIN, 1954-1962**

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Conventionally, the term "New Left" is associated with student and youth movements in the years around 1968. This talk introduces an earlier renewal of politics and theory on Europe's non-orthodox intellectual left. In the 1950s, as establishment Communists, Socialists, and unionists accommodated the status quo, dissenters pushed for change. Politically, they critiqued mainstream parties and organizations and rejected the Cold War's bipolar frame; theoretically, they turned away from old dogmas about objective laws and historical necessity, engaging subjectivity, consciousness, and "praxis." My aim is to reconstruct not only this "first New Left" and its "socialist humanist" imaginary but also its deeper societal conditions. What accounts for its emergence, in scattered local milieus across varied national contexts? Breaking with explanations that privilege political events and the circulation of ideas, I ask how and why similar ideas arose among different groups in the first place. The talk addresses this question by way of three interrelated journal projects: *Ragionamenti* (Milan), *Arguments* (Paris), and *Das Argument* (West Berlin).