



Joseph A. Buttigieg

University of Notre Dame

The Subaltern in Gramsci's Writings: Genealogy of a Concept

The term 'subaltern' has acquired widespread currency since the pioneering work in the 1980s of a group of Indian historians, The Subaltern Studies Group, who derived the concept from a partial translation of Antonio Gramsci's prison notebooks. Still, very little attention has been given to Gramsci's actual writings on subalterns and subalternity. Gramsci's concept of the subaltern emerges explicitly for the first time in his prison notebooks but is foreshadowed in some of his earlier writings. In my talk I will discuss some of Gramsci's pertinent pre-prison writings and provide a detailed analysis of his 'special' notebook that he entitled, "On the Margins of History: The History of Subaltern Social Groups."

November 14, 2014

Wells Hall B-342

4:00 PM

Joseph A. Buttigieg is William R. Kenan Jr. Professor of English; Director, Ph.D. in Literature Program; Director, The Hesburgh-Yusko Scholars Program; Co-Director, Italian Studies at Notre Dame. His specialty is Modern European literature, literary theory. His main interests are modern literature, critical theory, and the relationship between culture and politics. In addition to numerous articles, Buttigieg has authored a book on James Joyce's aesthetics, *A Portrait of the Artist in Different Perspective*. He is also the editor and translator of the multi-volume complete critical edition of Antonio Gramsci's *Prison Notebooks*, a project that has been supported by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. Several of his articles on Gramsci have been translated into Italian, German, Spanish, Portuguese, and Japanese. He was a founding member of the International Gramsci Society of which he is president. The Italian Minister of Culture appointed him to a commission of experts to oversee the preparation of the "National Edition" of Gramsci's writings. Buttigieg serves on the editorial and advisory boards of various journals, and he is a member of the editorial collective of *boundary 2*.



Michigan State University is committed to providing equal opportunity for participation in all programs, services and activities. Accommodations for persons with disabilities may be requested by contacting the Department of Romance and Classical studies at (517) 353-8350 by 5:00 PM, November 11th. Requests received after this date will be honored whenever possible.

Proudly presented by Michigan State University's Department of Romance and Classical Studies, with co-sponsors: Center for European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies and Global Studies in the Arts and Humanities.