

S6

PROMISSORY NOTES, OR HOW THE BODY TRADES IN FUTURES

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In the Nietzschean cast, to promise is to guarantee a kind of stability within the subject: to remain identical to oneself in all the tenses—to be accountable, responsible, predictable so that a promise made in the past can be fulfilled in the future. Memory takes centre stage here—one must remember oneself through time—as does the movement of time. While his analysis highlights certain essential elements to making promises, our interests shift away from questions of sovereignty and bad conscience to explorations of bodily potentialities. We think of promises as time travelers with uncertain futures, as promissory notes that may or may not be legal tender but that carry us through goals, hopes, injuries lasting and passing, broken dreams and unanticipated wins. Promises move, and it is the quality of this movement that captivates us.

With this panel, we want to look at the kinds of promises that our bodies in movement can bring. What happens as we simply attempt to keep going, whether that's freestyling in a lane next to Ann Cvetkovich by continuing to get ourselves to the swimming pool in times of public depression, or lacing up for our long runs "because it make[s] [us] think so good that [we] learn things even better than when [we're] on [our] bed[s] at night," following Alan Sillitoe, or if we simply give ourselves over to "dogpaddling around in the meanwhile," a la Lauren Berlant? We want to think about how bodies in movement can promise futures, and we want to think about how these promises are kept, how they are broken, and how they sometimes fail to materialize. Bodily promises can set you up to feel like a protagonist, have you dreaming of winning, or imagining something that feels like a cousin of redemption, but they can just as easily leave you with a pulled ego, a stress reaction, or a fracture in your relationship or your day. When our bodies write promissory notes, we can never be sure they'll make good on them. Or, if we'll even want to cash those

checks when they come. Still what choice do we have? Movement is in part an agreement to get going, to fuck around and find out what happens next.

This stream seeks proposals that write and think with the promises, annoyances, and weirdnesses of moving bodies. We are interested in thinking with people across disciplines and various scholarly dispositions.

Possible topics and themes include but are not limited to:

- Affect, memory, and the body
- Queer bodies in motion
- Moving while trans
- Crip theories of movement
- Race, affect, and bodies on the move
- Running or swimming along in queer time
- Affects of injury or flow states
- Visual culture or material culture and the body