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### **What is the Neo – Baroque? A Critical Reassessment**

The notion of ‘neo – baroque’ has been employed in the most diverse fields – from art history to philosophy, from media studies to cultural history – to describe a wide array of phenomena in contemporary culture that can be analysed in the light of 17th century’s baroque culture. This paper aims to reassess the heuristic value of this idea and interrogate its relevance for understanding today’s mediascape.

My talk will be divided into 3 sections. In section 1 I will discuss some of the most relevant definitions of the neo – baroque developed after the publication of Deleuze’s seminal essay *Le pli: Leibniz et le baroque* (1988). Section 2 will take the works of British artist and director Peter Greenaway as ideal case studies for exploring the return of the baroque in contemporary cinema. Section 3 will explore the possibility of developing a new theory of the neo – baroque by cross – fertilising and re – elaborating some of the theories developed over the last decades.

**Bio.** Mattia Petricola received his PhD in 2019 from the University of Bologna and has been a postdoc research fellow in comparative literature at the University of L’Aquila (Italy). His research interests sit at the crossroads of thanatology, speculative fiction, intermedial studies, and queer theory. He has published articles on Philip K. Dick, Peter Greenaway, the notion of spectrality in media studies, and queer hermeneutics. In 2021 he edited a dossier entitled *What do we Talk about when we Talk about Queer Death?* for *Whatever. A Transdisciplinary Journal of Queer Theories and Studies*. He is the Italian ambassador of the Association for the Study of Death and Society (ASDS).