

# CENTER for EXPERIMENTAL LECTURES

March 12, 2020—RISD Museum, RISD Sculpture, RISD Center for Arts & Language  
Introduction presented as a livestream via Zoom, followed by livestream via Twitch at:  
<http://www.experimentallecures.org>

## ***Borders***

by Naama Tsabar, in collaboration with Muireann Nic an Bheatha,  
Ariana Padovano, Teo Von Baeyer, Asher White, and the musician Fielded

**Asher White:** This lecture serves as both a eulogy to the now defunct American bookstore chain Borders, which had locations all across the midwest, and at one point had opened international stores in the UK and Australia. I had countless experiences at different locations around the greater Chicagoland area as little kid, and look towards these moments as guidance for a meditation on gender, performance, and the quest for a stable identity.

**Muireann Nic an Bheatha:** Labhróidh mé faoi chuid de na teorainneacha a bhí agam agus mé i mo chónaí i dtíortha éagsúla i rith mo shaol. Labhróidh mé níos mó faoi thaithí na teorann ná an pholaitíocht timpeall na dtíortha. Creidim go minic go gceaptar go bhfuil teorainneacha ag léiriú go fisiciúil i bhfoirm balla mar shampla ach i mo thaithí phearsanta ní hamhlaidh a bhí. Ba mhaith liom machnamh a dhéanamh ar an gcaoi a

**Teo Von Baeyer:** *Two hands, with the cuffs of a warm-toned plaid shirt and several rings visible, set a small cardboard shipping box down into the frame, and open it from the top. The hands then play a short tune on a small, single-octave glockenspiel. A hand then introduces a tennis ball into the box, wobbling it as it "speaks."*

Teny the Tennis Ball: *Hi, I'm Tenny the Tennis ball and you are gonna learn all about me and the things that have happened to me and my best friend Fivey.*

*A hand introduces another smaller tennis ball into the box.*

Fivey the Tennis Ball: *Hi, I'm Fivey the Tennis ball and I'm Teny's best friend.*

Teny: *Yeah, that right.*

Fivey: *They Call me Fovey because I'm smaller than Teny.*

Teny: *Yeah, that's right, because five is smaller than ten.*

Fivey: *Yeah*

בהרצאה שלי אני אתמקד בגבול בו תוכן הופך לצורה ביצירתה של להקת הקוקטו טווינס, וספציפית בכתיבת השירים ובהגשה של זמרת הלהקה אליזבת פריזר, בזמן הקצוב אני אנסה לשרטט מערכת חסים בין הכנסת מלל לשירי הלהקה והתפרקותה.

**Ariana Padovano:** In 1698, Scottish mathematician John Craig published a book entitled *Mathematical Principles of Christian Theology*. In this text, Craig uses a combination of probability and log-likelihood ratios to predict that the Second Coming of Christ will occur before the year 3150. Craig's work was poorly received by his peers, and has been largely overlooked by mathematicians and the clergy alike, but the existence of this text proves the point of my lecture: the perceived divide between western science and religion has been mostly fabricated, and very recently. My lecture will trace the interconnected histories of physics and the Catholic church, and discuss the gendered borders of both disciplines.

The origins of both physics and Catholicism can be traced back to Pythagoras, Greek mathematician, and philosopher. A 19th-century story surrounding Pythagoras' birth, rumors circulated that his mother was a virgin impregnated by Apollo and that he ascended to heaven when he died, making him very Christ-like figure. He eventually left Greece for Italy, beginning a sort of divine mathematical commune. His followers were very secretive about their knowledge – they took vows of silence, gave up their material possessions, and swore vegetarianism. Pythagoras was largely a mystery, and his teachings were passed on through his disciples and their disciples. Pythagoras was largely a mystery, and his teachings were passed on through his disciples and their disciples. Pythagoras was largely a mystery, and his teachings were passed on through his disciples and their disciples.

The idea that the Catholic church is a relic of a bygone era is a common narrative, when in fact the ideas of the church are often more relevant than ever. The Catholic church is a relic of a bygone era is a common narrative, when in fact the ideas of the church are often more relevant than ever. The Catholic church is a relic of a bygone era is a common narrative, when in fact the ideas of the church are often more relevant than ever.



angel as well

Fivey: Isn't that amazing.

Teny: Yaah, it is amazing.

Fivey: Wow, we are such beautiful angels.

Teny: Yeah we are both the same, the same as we were before but with halos.

Fivey: No, no, no, we used to be tennis balls, now we're angels, it's different. **--השמעת מקטע מהשיר--**

Teny: Oh, oh okay.

Fivey: Yeah it's really different--I'll **שמעו כעת נקטע מתוך מילון השיר!**

Teny: Oh alright, I didn't mind being a tennis ball, but, uh, I think being an angel does suit me well. **מילות השיר הן:**

Fivey: Well, well, yeah but it suits me well too.

Teny: Well, it's not like it's a competition.

Fivey: **Sorrow for letting someone else** define you know who you are at every age  
 Teny: Yeah just because we are both angels, no need to know who is the better angel.

Fivey: **What impression am I making?**  
 Teny: Well it doesn't matter that you made me an angel because I am one now.

Fivey: **I see me as other people see me**  
 Teny: Well, I won't forget about it but you can forget about it if you want.

Fivey: **There is no going back**  
 Teny: **I can't stop feeling now**  
*Hands play gluckenspiel stacco, aggressively hitting with the mallet.*

Fivey: **I am not the same, I'm growing up again (x2)**  
 Teny: What do you think angels do, now that we are angels of course we've got to do angel stuff.

Fivey: **There's no going back, I can't stop feeling now**  
 Teny: Well yeah, of course, like uh like uh the things that angels do that we both know about.

Fivey: **I had to fantasize**  
 Teny: Yeah, yeah, of course, all those things we both know about that angels do.

Fivey: **I was a princess, mum and dad were queen and king**  
 Teny: Yeah let's do those things like uh, like uh... g.. G.. g..

Fivey: **I ought to have what feeling?**  
 Teny: ...giving.. giving gifts!

Fivey: **I see me as other people see me**  
 Teny: Yeah, yeah, of course, that's what I was going to say.

Fivey: **There is no going back, I can't stop feeling now**  
 Teny: Yeah, yeah that's what I said. Okay, let's givesome gifts.

*Hand introduces a pink ribbon into the box.*

Fivey: **I am not the same, I'm growing up again (x2)**  
 Teny: Here, look I got you a ribbon.

Fivey: **There's no going back, I can't stop feeling now**  
 Teny: Oh wow, thank you, I love this ribbon. It really--it really makes me feel really important.

Fivey: **Feeling now**  
 Teny: Oh yeah, I'm glad you like it. Well what about for me?

Fivey: **There is no going back, I can't stop feeling now**  
 Teny: Oh of course, uh, I got you this star.

*Hand introduces a glow-in-the-dark star into box.*

Fivey: **I am not the same, I'm growing up again (x2)**  
 Teny: Oh wow, thank you, I love this star. I feel so so important also. The same amount of important as you do, I'm sure.

Fivey: **There's no going back, I can't stop feeling now**  
 Teny: I had to fantasize, that would be what you feel.

*Hands play gluckenspiel.*

Fivey: **Just to survive**  
 Teny: Well, uh, wow, I have so much plaque in my teeth.

Fivey: Wh..what?

Teny: I have a lot of plaque in my teeth.

Fivey: Oh, okay, uh, why are you telling me?

Teny: It's just really getting on my nerves.

Fivey: Okay, yeah, maybe brush your teeth or something?

Teny: Oh, that's a great idea that will get the plaque out of my teeth.

Hand brings in a blue tooth brush and scrubs the larger tennis ball.

Brush brush brush brush brush.

Fivey: I was a famous artist everybody took me seriously.  
Well, now that you mention it I think I might have plaque in my teeth

Teny: Even those who did  
Well, yeah but this toothbrush is too big for you.

Fivey: Never understood me  
Maybe turn it around or something.

Teny: What do you mean?

Fivey: I had to fantasize just to survive  
Just try turning it around

Teny: Okay.. oh! wow.

Fivey: Yeah, thought so, it's one of those double-sided toothbrushes where  
the other side of the toothbrush is smaller.

Look על ידי הכנסת שפה מוסכמת אל תוך המעקה השני פריזר מתנת לשניים

Teny: Wow, that's great. Lets brush our teeth together.

Fivey: Yeah, ממשעות, מערך המנתק את השירה משאר צילי השיר ומכניס אותה אל תוך

Hand alternates scrubbing the two tennis balls with the smaller and larger ends of the toothbrush.  
מבנה הנשען על משמעות מילולית

Fivey: מהלך בו פריזר משרטטת גבול בינה לבין חברי הלהקה, בין קולה לסאונד  
Brush, brush, brush, brush.

Teny: נגינתו של גוטרי. כמו במשמעות מילות השיר פריזר דוחשת עצמאות והגורף  
Brush, brush, brush, brush

Fivey: Brush, brush, brush, brush

Teny: Brush, brush, brush, brush  
עצמית אוטונומית לקיומה.

Wow, my teeth are so clean

Fivey: Mine as well, wow!  
הקוקטו טווינס מוציאים אלבום נוסף ב-1996, milk and honey, גם הוא נשען

Hands play glockenspiel.  
על מערך מילולי לשירים. ב-1997 הלהקה מתפרקת.

Teny: Well, a lot happened, uh, we've played in the playground, and we've  
brushed our teeth. we gave each other gifts.  
בתחילת דרכם התפרדת של פריזר ומערך מוסכם מילולי שצורקת מעות

Fivey: ממשעות מצלילי הלהקה, הלהקה התפרקה גוף אחד אמרנו בלגו, שגם איברי הגעים  
I remember you had a tower in that playground. And we are still best friends...

יחדיו בתנועה אחת.

Hands play glockenspiel

Fivey: הכנסת משמעות מילולית ביצירתם המאוחרת יצר כמו שבר בגוף זה, היפרדות  
Time to go to bed.

Teny: ותחימת, איבר ממשנהו. התפרקות המערכת ומיסוסה אל תוך גובלות שמחצה  
Yeah, it is

Fivey: I'll get in my sleeping bag.

לה.

Hand puts small tennis ball in small bubble wrap pouch

Teny: And I'll get in my bed.

Hand puts small block in corner and puts big tennis ball on it.

Teny: Wow I'm so cozy, goodnight.

Fivey: Yeah I'm so cozy too. Goodnight to you as well Teny.

Hands remove box and contents from frame

**Fielded:**

No body gets you higher than your own/  
I've been here for a while/  
I've been here for too long/  
And though the apple of my eye deceives me/  
I stay here for a while/ 'cause I can never leave/

I need something/I leave something/I keep something/ I know not what I do/ but stay tuned/  
I need you/ I need you/

I try to keep it upright/ and I try to make it alright/

And oh/  
lay down/ lay down/ what you thought you knew x3

No body gets you higher than your own/  
I've been here for a while/  
I've been here for too long/  
And though the apple of my eye deceives me/  
I stay here for a while/ 'cause I can never leave/