## The University of Bergen Department of Linguistic, Literary, and Aesthetic Studies Digital Culture Research Group is pleased to welcome guest lecturer

## Samuel Weber



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Monday, October 22, 14:15–16:00 Seminarrom 548, plan 5. Lauritz Meltzers hus, Fosswinkelgate 6 Lecture open to the public:

"Origins and Relevance of Walter Benjamin's Media Theory: From Reflexivity to 'Sobriety'"

Samuel Weber is professor at Northwestern University. He is a leading authority on the writings of Walter Benjamin. In his book Mass Mediauras: Form, Technics, Media (1996) Weber showed the continued importance of aura to the aesthetics of the media age. He has translated Benjamin, as well as Theodor Adorno and Jacques Derrida into English. In Bergen Weber will do a broad historical presentation and assessment of Benjamin's media theory.

Professor Weber studied with Paul de Man and Theodor W. Adorno, whose book, *Prisms*, he co-translated into English. The translation of, and introduction to Theodor Adorno's most important book of cultural criticism helped define the way in which the work of the Frankfurt School would be read and understood in the English-speaking world. Professor Weber has also published books on Balzac, Lacan, and Freud as well as on the relation of institutions and media to interpretation. In the 1980s he worked in Germany as a "dramaturge" in theater and opera productions.