Mirt Komel is philosopher and writer, professor and researcher at the Faculty of Social Sciences and Faculty of Arts of the University of Ljubljana (currently also chair of the Department of Cultural Studies), as well as guest researcher at the Peace Institute of Ljubljana and at the Department of Arts & Humanities of the University of Trieste.

Author of the monographs An Attempt of a Touch (Paskus nekega dotika), Socratic Touches (Sokrati dotiki), Discours and Violence (Diskurz in nasilje), The Guillotine of Spirit (Gilotina duha), and Twin Peaks and Postmodernism (Twin Peaks in postmoderнизem), as well as of the novels Pianist's Touch (Pianistov dotik) and Medsočje (Medsočje). Affiliated with Ljubljana’s Lacanian School and co-founder of the International Hegelian Association Aufhebung, his main research topics consist of Hegel-Marxism and Theoretical Psychoanalysis, (Post-)Structuralism and Linguistics, Cultural and Haptic Studies, Existentialism and Experientialism.

The Eternal Recurrence of PeakSpeak: Repetition in Twin Peaks: The Return

The lecture will revisit Twin Peaks: The Return (Showtime 2017), as well as the two original seasons of Twin Peaks (ABC 1990-91) together with the movie Fire Walk With Me (1992) through the concept of repetition. Repetition is one of the fundamental concepts of contemporary philosophy in general and post-structuralism in particular (Lacan, Deleuze, Žižek), a concept that has its formidable forerunners in authors such as Nietzsche, Kierkegaard, and Freud. Twin Peaks, if it is, arguably, considered as one of the masterpieces of postmodernism, employs amply the concept of repetition that structures its main events and contents from beginning to end, most prominently the motif of the death of Laura Palmer that functions as the trauma around which a whole world of fantasy is constructed through the distinctive language of PeakSpeak.

Less than Touching: Jean-Luc Nancy’s philosophy of touch from Corpus to Noli me tangere

The lecture will address Jean-Luc Nancy’s–one of the few living legends of French post-structuralism whom Derrida, among others baptized as “the greatest philosopher of touch” in his On touching: Jean-Luc Nancy–concept of touch. Nancy is known as a philosopher who deals with a variety of topics, but if there is one red thread that links all of his works from the very beginning to the last ones, than it is most definitely the concept of touch. The lecture will thus focus on the concept of touch as developed by Nancy from Corpus to Noli me tangere, from a linguistic attempt of grasping the body of touch in terms of language, to the artistic geometrical representation of touching. Both aspects can be best exemplified in the various artistic representations of the famous scene from the Gospel of John in the New Testament, where the resurrected Christ first does not let his “pupil” Mary Magdalene touch him, and than paradoxically proceeds in guiding “doubting” Thomas’s finger into his wound.