Critical social theories are generally understood to be distinct from other normative theories by their explicit orientation towards emancipation: They not only inquire into the actualized freedom of a given form of social life, but claim to point towards a »freedom in view« – an end that might aid those participating in social struggles. John Dewey’s experimentalist social theory cherishes this very ideal of social inquiry. It contributes to a critical social research in a variety of ways, some of which, so we believe, are still to be discovered. It is, however, rarely discussed explicitly as a critical theory or in the context of other traditions of social critique, as exemplified by the Frankfurt School. This workshop aspires to investigate from different angles John Dewey’s contributions to critical social theory.

Further information
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Venue
Room I
Institut für Sozialforschung
Senckenberganlage 26
60325 Frankfurt am Main
Freedom in View?
The Critical Theory of John Dewey

Friday, April 17th

9:00 Welcoming address by professor Axel Honneth and the organizing committee

9:30 Panel 1: The Art of Critique (Chair: Just Serrano)


10:15 – 11:00 Arto Laitinen (Tampere), “Habits, Traditions of Inquiry, and Determinate Ought”

11:15 – 12:00 Arvi Särkelä (Frankfurt/Lucerne), “Immanent Critique as Self-Transformative Praxis”

12:00 Lunch

13:30 Panel 2: Nature and Social Critique (Chair: Arvi Särkelä)


14:15 – 15:00 Federica Gregoratto (Frankfurt), “The Nature of Gender: A Deweyan Approach to the Problem of the Sex/Gender Distinction”

15:00 Coffee break

15:30 Panel 3: Democracy and Its Problems (Chair: Federica Gregoratto)

15:30 – 16:15 Dirk Jörke (Darmstadt), “From Democratic Theory to Democratic Socialism (and Reverse)”
16:15 – 17:00 Justo Serrano (Frankfurt), “The Logic of Mobilization: Exploring the Democratic Value of Situated Inquiries”

Dinner in Mezzanotte, Leipziger Straße

Saturday, April 18th

9:00 Panel 4: Traditions of Critique (Chair: Just Serrano)

9:00 – 9:45 Andreas Hetzel (Darmstadt), “Praxis and Experience: Dewey's Critical Theory”

9:45 - 10:30 Roberto Frega (IMM-CNRS, Paris), “John Dewey’s Two Projects of Social Philosophy”

10:30 Coffee Break

11:00 Panel 5: Critique, Norms and Ideals (Chair: Federica Gregoratto)

11:00 – 11:45 Martin Hartmann (Lucerne), “Can a Pragmatic Ethics Be merely Procedural?”

11:45 – 12:30 Annette Pitschmann (Salzburg), “Towards an Unideological Understanding of Ideals: Dewey on the Structure of Ends-in-View”

12:30 Lunch

13:30 Panel 6: Work, Economy and Praxis (Chair: Arvi Särkelä)


15:00 Coffee break

15:30 Final discussion