

Friday and Saturday
17th – 18th, April 2015

International Workshop

FREEDOM IN VIEW? THE CRITICAL THEORY OF JOHN DEWEY

Roberto Frega (Paris), Judith Green (New York), Federica Gregoratto (Frankfurt), Martin Hartmann (Lucerne), Dirk Jörke (Darmstadt), Arto Laitinen (Tampere), Annette Pitschmann (Salzburg), Emmanuel Renault (Paris), Arvi Särkelä (Frankfurt/Lucerne), Thomas M. Schmidt (Frankfurt), Justo Serrano (Frankfurt), Italo Testa (Parma)

Organizers

Federica Gregoratto, Axel Honneth, Arvi Särkelä, Justo Serrano

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)

9:30 – 10:15 Thomas Schmidt (Frankfurt), “‘Criticism is Judgment’: Perception and Normativity in Dewey’s Concept of Critical Judgment”

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)

13:30 – 14:15 Italo Testa (Parma), “The Authority of Life: The Critical Task of Dewey’s Habit Ontology”

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”

20:00 **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)

13:30 – 14:15 Emmanuel Renault (Paris Ouest), “Dewey and His Critical Conception of Work”

14:15 – 15:00 Judith Green (Fordham, New York), “Emancipating Piketty’s Pragmatist Political Economy: Deweyan Critical Pragmatists as Partners in Paradigm Shift”

15:00 **Coffee break**

15:30 **Final discussion**