

Futuring Critical Theory

International Conference – September 13–15, 2023 – Frankfurt, Germany

Call for Participation

On the occasion of its 100th anniversary, the Institute for Social Research (IfS) is hosting an international conference with the aim of reorienting Critical Theory in the light of the existential challenges of our times. *Futuring Critical Theory* will address the challenges posed by the current multiple crises, as well as theoretical critiques and renewals of Critical Theory's concepts in four sections:

Section I – Dissecting Critical Theory: The conference will be opened with an inventory of the conceptual repertoire of Critical Theory. How can the core of critical theorizing be preserved in radically changed (and changing) societies? Which concepts and perspectives have to be updated, which ones may have lost their analytical capacity?

Section II – Globalizing Critical Theory: For most of its history, Critical Theory has taken a strongly Euro-Atlantic perspective. What are the theoretical, normative, and practical implications of broadening and decentering the »critical gaze«? How can non-Western epistemologies contribute to a Critical Theory of global capitalism?

Section III – Materializing Critical Theory: The long, but often disregarded tradition of critical engagement with society's relationships with nature has to take center stage in a Critical Theory for the 21st century. How should Critical Theory be adapted to make sense of the ecological contradictions of our time? Which changes are necessary if theoretical innovations such as New Materialism and critical Post-humanism or Transhumanism are to be taken seriously?

Section IV – Recomposing Critical Theory: The final section of the conference will be devoted to the question of how Critical Theory should be reconfigured in the light of the multiple crises we are currently witnessing. Do we need new answers – or do we have to pose different questions?

Keynotes and invited speakers include:

Athena Athanasiou (Panteion University of Social and Political Sciences), Gurminder K. Bhambra (University of Sussex), Robin Celikates (Freie Universität Berlin), Didier Fassin (Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton), Estelle Ferrarese (Université de Picardie Jules Verne, Amiens), Verónica Gago (Universidad Nacional de San Martín, Buenos Aires), Rahel Jaeggi (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin), Martin Jay (University of California, Berkeley), Stephan Lessenich (Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main), Éric Pineault (Université du Québec, Montréal), Poulomi Saha (University of California, Berkeley)

With this Call for Participation we invite national and international scholars in the social sciences and humanities to submit abstracts for papers to be presented in one of the four sections. There will be three speakers in each section who will present for approximately 20–30 minutes. The conference will be held at Goethe University Frankfurt on September 13–15, 2023. The conference language is English.

Please send your abstract (max. 500 words) and a short CV as a PDF-file before March 31, 2023 to 100@ifs-frankfurt.de. You will be informed of the decision on your abstract by April 15, 2023.

Conference attendance and participation is free of charge for invited presenters. Financial support for travel and accommodation is available for national and international presenters who would otherwise be unable to attend the conference. Please state whether you might require financial support in your application.

For further information, please contact: 100@ifs-frankfurt.de.