

Materiality

Vienna University of
Economics and Business

Call for Papers

Psycho- analysis

Subject

February 13–14
2025

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Materiality / Psychoanalysis / Subject

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Organized by the **Network Subjectivation Research**, a working group in the **Section for Biographical Research** and the **Section for Sociology of Knowledge of the German Sociological Association**, in cooperation with the **Vienna University of Economics and Business (WU)**

The conference organized by the Network Subjectivation Research, a working group in the Sektion Biographieforschung and the Sektion Wissenssoziologie of the German Sociological Association (DGS), seeks contributions for its upcoming event titled «Materiality/Psychoanalysis/Subject», to be held at the Vienna University of Economics and Business on February 13-14, 2025.

Vienna has long been a center for discussions around subjectivity, psychoanalysis, and social theory. In this conference, we aim to build upon these traditions and bring fresh perspectives that examine how subject formation is influenced by material conditions and psychoanalytical insights.

In recent debates, materiality has become a central topic (Froschauer & Lueger, 2020; Milko-Schefzig, 2024). Increasingly, attention is paid not

only to human interactions but also to how physical objects, environments, and spaces shape subject formation in various contexts, such as privacy, work, and social integration. How do material conditions influence the process of becoming a subject in these different spheres?

Psychoanalysis offers another framework to explore the deeper, subjective experiences of individuals, focusing on introspection as a subject in societal contexts (Schüle, 2016; Charim, 2022). Feminist theory has enriched psychoanalysis by critically expanding its core concepts and has long interrogated and deconstructed psychoanalytic notions of the subject.

In this conference, psychoanalysis will be discussed in terms of its potential to understand internal subjective states shaped by external, structural also material conditions.

Submissions may focus on either **Materiality and Subject** or **Psychoanalysis and Subject**, but contributions that explore the **intersection** of these two themes are also possible.

Subjectivation research is always to be understood as social analysis (Bosančić et al. 2022), with particular emphasis on questions of governance, power relations, mechanisms of exclusion, resistant practices, subversion and agency, and questions of participation and recognition.

We welcome theoretical, empirical, and methodological papers that examine these topics. Possible contributions may address questions such as:

Materiality and Subject

- How do material environments such as architecture or objects influence subject formation in work, private, or public spaces?
- What role does materiality play in processes of social inclusion and exclusion of subjects?
- How do different forms of materiality reflect or challenge power relations and subject formation?

Psychoanalysis and Subject

- How can psychoanalytical approaches provide insights into the subject's internalization of social structures and material conditions?
- What is the role of unconscious processes in shaping the process of subject formation within contemporary social theory frameworks?
- How does psychoanalysis help us understand resistance, agency, and subject formation in contexts of power dynamics?

Submission Guidelines:

Please submit an abstract (max. 500 words) in English or German by November 30, 2024. The notification is given promptly. Each submission should include a brief bio (max. 100 words) and contact details. Send all materials as a single PDF file to:

materiality-and-psychoanalysis@wu.ac.at

The conference aims to be as accessible as possible. Please inform us of any specific needs you may have so that we can accommodate them. We look forward to your submissions and hope to foster an enriching dialogue on these compelling themes!

Literature:

Bosančić, S., Brodersen, F., Pfahl, L., Schürmann, L., Spies, T., & Traue, B. (2022). Following the Subject. Grundlagen und Zugänge empirischer Subjektivierungsforschung - Foundations and Approaches of Empirical Subjectivation Research. Springer.

Miko-Schefzig, K. (2025, forthcoming). The materiality of the subject – on the relationship between subjectivation and artifacts. In: Brodersen, F./Pokitsch, D./Röhler St./Trucco, N. (Hrsg.). Adaptive Subjekte. Linking collaboration and contradiction. In memoriam Saša Bosančić. Reihe: Subjektivierung und Gesellschaft / Studies in Subjectivation. Springer.

Charim, I. (2022). Die Qualen des Narzissmus: Über freiwillige Unterwerfung. Paul Zsolnay Verlag.

Froschauer, U., & Lueger, M. (2020). Materiale Organisation der Gesellschaft: Artefaktanalyse und interpretative Organisationsforschung. Beltz Juventa.

Schüle, J. A. (2015). Soziologie und Psychoanalyse: Perspektiven einer sozialwissenschaftlichen Subjekttheorie. Springer-Verlag.