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Jahre

**ifs**

Institut für  
Sozialforschung

# Future Critical Theory

**Conference**  
**13–15 Sep 2023**

Goethe University Frankfurt, Campus Westend

[fct2023.ifs.uni-frankfurt.de](https://fct2023.ifs.uni-frankfurt.de)

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PETER WAGNER  
MARINA GARCÉS MASCAREÑAS  
PHILIP HOGH  
HENRIKE KOHPEIß  
BERND BELINA  
MAREIKE GEBHARDT

1:00–1:30 pm **Opening**

## Section 1 – Dissecting Critical Theory

1:30–3:00 pm **Keynote 1**

**Estelle Ferrarese** How vulnerable is Critical Theory? On the Experience of Vulnerability  
*Comment: Rainer Forst*  
*Chair: Sarah Speck*

6:00–7:30 pm **Evening Conversation**

100 Years of Critical Theory –  
100 Years of Solitude?  
**Martin Jay** in conversation with **Rahel Jaeggi**  
*Chair: Martin Saar*

3:30–5:30 pm **Panel 1**

**Bernd Belina** Space in the Frankfurt School: Adorno on »Provinciality«  
**Daniel James, Kristina Lepold, Bastian Ronge** Critical Theory's Racial Blindspot  
**Peter Wagner** Capitalism: A Critique  
*Chair: Susanne Martin*

3:30–5:30 pm **Panel 2**

**Marina Garcés Mascareñas** Collapse and promise  
**Tatiana Llaguno Nieves** Dependence: A Critical Theory Approach  
**Yves Winter** Critical Theory and the Imaginary  
*Chair: Andreas Streinzer*

## Section 2 – Globalizing Critical Theory

9:30–11:00 am **Keynote 2**

**Gurminder K. Bhambra** Critical Theory in a Reparative Frame  
*Comment: Martin Saar*  
*Chair: Susanne Heeg*

11:30 am–1:30 pm **Panel 3**

**Brigitte Aulenbacher** »There is no right life in the wrong one« – Feminist and Intersectional Reflections on the Marketization and Digitalization of Care and Care Work  
**Tine Haubner** Rethinking Critical Theories of Work in Times of Informalization  
**Esteban Torres** The World Society, the Intersystems and a New History of Capitalism  
*Chair: Sabine Flick*

11:30 am–1:30 pm **Panel 4**

**Henrike Kohpeiß** Dynamics of Unfeeling – Colonial Affect and the Climate Crisis  
**Sangwon Han** Understanding Fear as (Anti-) Political Affect: Towards A Critical Theory of Authoritarian Capitalism  
**Hannah Peaceman** Mind the Gap. Mediating Postcolonial and Continental Critical Theory  
*Chair: Felix Trautmann*

## Section 3 – Materializing Critical Theory

2:30–4:00 pm **Keynote 3**

**Éric Pineault** Ecologizing Critical Theory. From the Materiality of Social Relations to the Ecological Contradictions of Advanced Capitalism  
*Comment: Birgit Blättel-Mink*  
*Chair: Sarah Nies*

4:30–6:30 pm **Panel 5**

**Anna Clot-Garrell** How do Materialities Matter? Empirical Insights into the Cross-fertilization between Critical Theory and New Materialisms  
**Philip Hogg** Materialism's Historicity  
**Andreas Folkers** Residual Reification: Material Powers after the Commodity  
*Chair: Jan Overwijk*

4:30–6:30 pm **Panel 6**

**Kellan Anfinson** The Critical Composition of Class amid Ecological Collapse  
**Katharina Hoppe** Materialisms Old and New: Dependency as a Key Concept for Contemporary Critical Theory  
**Barbara Muraca** Making Kin in the Anthropocene? The Colonial and Neoliberal Afterlives of Relational Ontologies  
*Chair: Johannes Röß*

7:00–8:30 pm **Evening Conversation**

Futuring Critical Theory – Critical Social Research in Prospect  
**Stephan Lessenich** in conversation with **Athena Athanasiou, Robin Celikates** and **Poulomi Saha**

8:30 pm **Reception**

## Section 4 – Recomposing Critical Theory

9:30 – 11:00 am **Keynote**

**Verónica Gago** Feminist Transnational: How to Change Everything  
*Comment: Sarah Speck – Chair: Robin Celikates*

11:30 am – 1:30 pm **Panel 7**

**Bruna Della Torre** The New Organization: Digital Culture Industry, Social Networks and Right-Wing Propaganda  
**Agustín Lucas Prestifilippo** Political Limits and Explanatory Potentials of the Critical Theory of Authoritarian Subjectivity. Perspectives from Latin America  
**Frieder Vogelmann** The Form of Critical Theories, or Why Political Epistemology Matters  
*Chair: Juana de Oliveira Lorena*

11:30 am – 1:30 pm **Panel 8**

**Mareike Gebhardt** Deconstructing Solidarity: Towards a New Critical Theory of the Common  
**Marina Martinez Mateo** Critical Theory and Family Abolition: On the Relation of Family and Emancipation  
**Jörg Schaub** Towards a Critical Theory of Aesthetics (and a Critique of Aesthetic Injustices)  
*Chair: Sarah Mühlbacher*

2:00 – 3:30 pm **Keynote 5**

**Didier Fassin** The Force of Order: How to Change What Can Be Changed  
*Comment: Klaus Günther – Chair: Doris Schweitzer*

3:30 pm **Closure**

## International conference »Futuring Critical Theory« at Goethe University Frankfurt

The aim of the conference is to determine where Critical Theory stands and to reorient it in the light of the existential challenges of our times. In the course of recent academic and political debates on, for example, post- and de-colonialism, queer feminism and new materialism, several supposed certainties of Frankfurt School Critical Theory have in part been fundamentally challenged.

Critical Theory has been put to the test on two fronts: On the one hand, the explanatory power of an approach that in its interpretation of crises has so far neither focused on the global interconnectedness of social phenomena nor on the material dimension of social reproduction has been called into question. On the other hand, it is debatable whether classical Critical Theory's normative tools are still appropriate for theorizing contemporary social relations.

To mark the IfS's 100th anniversary, »Futuring Critical Theory« will be the place where the process of developing a new research program for the IfS comes to a preliminary conclusion and the program will be presented to a wider public for the first time.