

International Conference

Philosophy and Social Science

Wednesday, May 13 – Sunday, May 17, 2026
Vila Lanna, V Sadech 1, Prague



Philosophy and Social Science
Wednesday, May 13 – Sunday, May 17, 2026.
Vila Lanna, V Sadech 1, Prague 6

Conference Organizers:

Simone Chambers, Maeve Cooke, Alessandro Ferrara, Ondřej Lánský, María Pía Lara, Eduardo Mendieta
(†), Hartmut Rosa, Martin Saar

Program Director 2026: Hartmut Rosa

Wednesday, May 13th, 2026

9:15 – 9:45

Opening Remarks and Welcome
Hartmut Rosa, Ondřej Lánský and Martin Ritter

9:45 – 11:00

Authoritarianism and (Neo)Fascism
Plenary · Albená Azmanova: Victimhood Olympics: Precarity Capitalism and the Competition for Patronage as Engines of the Autocratic Turn in Liberal Democracies
Chair: **Hartmut Rosa**

11:15 – 12:45

Room A: *Imagining, Imaginaries and Ideologies*
Lois McNay: Ordinary Imagination and Critical Theory
Asger Sørensen: Habermas, Discourse Ethics and the Postmodern Condition
Joaquín Valdivielso: Can the classical view of alienation still deliver? Discussing Asger Sørensen's approach

Chair: **Maeve Cooke**

Room B: *Authoritarianism and (Neo)Fascism*
Noëlle McAfee: Authoritarianism's Annihilation Anxieties
Katie Ebner-Landy: The Fascist Unconscious
Arthur Bueno: Infinite Regress: The Dialectic of Narcissism in New Authoritarianism

Chair: **Hugh Miller**

Room C: *Politics of Knowledge*
Max Priebe: Does it matter what we know – or: which social theory does a politics of knowledge presuppose?
Tomas Stølen: Against Halbbildung: Competence and the Reification of Knowledge
Lara Leporati: Beyond singularities back to art as experience: recovering a normative concept of authenticity

Chair: **Alessandro Ferrara**

Lunch Break (90 min.)

14:15–15:45

Room A: *Imagining, Imaginaries and Ideologies*
Emil Sobotta: What moves social movements? Reflections on social energy and re-framing dynamics
Alexis Gros: What is it like to have a false consciousness? Toward a Phenomenological Ideology Critique
Marcus Döller: Imagination of Ideology and ideological Imagination

Chair: **María Pía Lara**

Room B: *Politics of Knowledge*
Steen Lybke: Can Critical Impulses Emanate from Life Itself? Sources of Critical Excess as the Missing Sparks to Social Change
Christian F. Rostbøll: Holding Others Responsible for Structural Injustice and Moralizing Politics
Philipp Wagenhals: Exploring Critical Theory's Experimentalism: A Meta-Critical Intervention with Adorno and Dewey

Chair: **Ondřej Lánský**

Room C: *War, Peace and Borders*
Kevin Gray: A Lost Emancipatory Potential: Critical Theory's Postcolonial Turn
Raissa Ventura: Borders Within Borders: Racialized Immobilization in Brazil
Samu/elle Striewski: Critical Theory and Palestine Solidarity

Chair: **Simone Chambers**

16:00 – 17:30

Room A: *Imagining, Imaginaries and Ideologies*
Pablo Gilabert: Why we should support working artists
Laurencia Benavides: What gives narrative practices their emancipatory power?
Karolina Källgren: Against autonomous spontaneity: on the creativity of financial capital and the question of the sources of emancipatory critique

Chair: **Hartmut Rosa**

Room B: *Authoritarianism and (Neo)Fascism*
Isette Schuhmacher: The Destructive Turn: Fascization in a Blocked Crisis-Society
Manuela Santamaría-Moncada: The End of Nature: Natural History and the Dialectics of Progress and Regression Today
Tobias Heinze: When Nature Fuels Fascism: A Blind Spot in Horkheimer and Adorno's "Dialectic of Enlightenment"

Chair: **Maeve Cooke**

Room C: *Politics of Knowledge*
Giovanni Russo: Can social media foster solidarity?
Øjvind Larsen: From Deliberative Public Spheres into Autopoietic & Artificial Intelligence driven Social Systemic Public Spheres? Habermas' & Luhmann's perspectives on Deliberative Democracy in a Digital Age
Simon Laumann Jørgensen: Knowing Perspectives: The Political Problems of Perspective-Sharing

Chair: **Alessandro Ferrara**

17:45 – 19:00

Special Session in Memory of Jürgen Habermas

With Rainer Forst, Simone Chambers, Alessandro Ferrara, María Pía Lara, Hartmut Rosa, Martin Saar, Amy Allen, Peter Dews and William Scheuerman

Chair: **Maeve Cooke**

Thursday, May 14th, 2026

9:30 – 11:00

<p>Room A Panel: Critical Theory for the End Times: Günther Anders Today Jacob Blumenfeld, Hugh Miller, Kieran Aarons</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Chair: Simone Chambers</i></p>	<p>Room B Panel: On Materialist theories of Knowledge – Archaeology, Speculation, Politics Leonhard Riep, Miriam Schröder</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Chair: Martin Saar</i></p>	<p>Room C Panel: Family and Gender Relations in Contemporary Ideological Images Franziska Haug, Alexandra Colligs</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Chair: Hartmut Rosa</i></p>
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11:15 – 12:45

<p>Room A: <i>Imagining, Imaginaries and Ideologies</i> Alessandro Ferrara: “Yes We Can”: Ideology as symbolic violence Michael Räber: False Needs after Ideology Critique. Genealogical and Functional Strategies of Critique Matteo Bianchin: Ideology vs Collective Action?</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Chair: Hugh Miller</i></p>	<p>Room B: <i>Authoritarianism and (Neo)Fascism</i> Gordon Finlayson: Education Towards Empathy: A Reconstructed Adornian Theory of Coldness Peter Dews: Negative and Positive Moral Knowledge in Adorno Mariá Pía Lara: Fascism Reloaded: Why conceptual battles matter</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Chair: Hartmut Rosa</i></p>	<p>Room C: <i>Politics of Knowledge</i> David Peritz: A Self-Regulating Democratic Public Sphere in the Era of Digital Technology Tobias Albrecht: Enabling (for) Democracy? Democratic Education in an Age of Deep Pluralization and Individualization Andrew Buchwalter: Habermas and the (Mis)Adventures of the Dialectic</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Chair: Maeve Cooke</i></p>
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Lunch break (90 min.)

14:15 – 15:45

<p>Room A: <i>Imagining, Imaginaries and Ideologies</i> Pierre-François Noppen: Hollywood’s Realism: Adorno on Film, Imagination and the Workings of Propaganda Clémence Saintemarie: ‘The Sound and the Cacophony: (Re-)imagining the emancipatory potential of Noise Danika Harju: Counter-Struggles of Recognition: Opposing identity claims in the way of social progress</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Chair: Maria Pía Lara</i></p>	<p>Room B: <i>Authoritarianism and (Neo)Fascism</i> Olivier Voirol: Eight Theses on Critical Theory and Authoritarianism Sarah Bufkin: “Racism plays a pivotal role in sustaining the contradiction”: Angela Davis, Stuart Hall, and the Critique of Authoritarian Populisms Sarah Bianchi: Democracy, Transnational Justice, and Human Rights</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Chair: Alessandro Ferrara</i></p>	<p>Room C: <i>Politics of Knowledge</i> Rik Ouwerkerk: Critical theory and social epistemology: defending the critique of ideology David Martinez: Authoritarianism and colonization in the contemporary University Fernanda Felix de Oliveira: Reclaiming Disagreement in times of acceleration and polarization Jan-Philipp Kruse: The Mumbling Machine. Towards a Critical Theory of Generative AI</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Chair: Leonardo Fiorepino</i></p>
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16.00 – 17.30

<p>Room A Panel: The Place of Sociology within Critical Theory Patrick O’Mahony, Ina Kerner, Laura Gherardi, Hartmut Rosa (reply)</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Chair: Max Priebe</i></p>	<p>Room B Panel: The revival of constituent power Simone Chambers, Eva Erman, David Rasmussen, Ben Schupmann, Steven Winter, Peter Niesen</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Chair: Martin Saar</i></p>
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17:45 – 19:00

<p><i>Imagining, Imaginaries and Ideologies</i> Plenary · Rainer Forst: Ideology Critique in Dark Times</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Chair: Alessandro Ferrara</i></p>

Optional & Voluntary Pastime, e.g. Football Game

Friday, May 15th, 2026

9.30 – 11.00

<p>Panel: Foucault @100 Martin Saar, Bernard Harcourt, Elena Agatensi, Judith Revel</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Chair: Maria Pía Lara</i></p>
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11.15 – 12.45

<p>Room A: <i>Imagining, Imaginaries and Ideologies</i> Yann Allard-Tremblay, Elaine Coburn: On Being Repeatedly Gobsmailed or Normalizing Western Civilization’s Death Path Robson Loureiro: Yanomani Shamans and the Anthropocene Lena Nowak-Laird: Nature Defending Itself? On Land’s Underdetermination and Unintelligibility in Critical Theory</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Chair: Maeve Cooke</i></p>	<p>Room B: <i>Authoritarianism and (Neo)Fascism</i> Nikolai Repenning-Janssen: How Sadocapitalism fuels the vice shift towards the authoritarian moment John McGuire: The Depoliticising Dynamics of Spite Just Serrano-Zamora: Disembodied constructivism: tracking expression in the new extreme right</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Chair: James Ingram</i></p>	<p>Room C: <i>Abolitionism</i> Melissa S. Williams: What is Abolition-Democracy? Polina Whitehouse: What is Abolition? The Positive Moment and the Societal Niche Gianfranco Casuso: Critical Theory Reflections on Abolition and Social Change</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Chair: Hartmut Rosa</i></p>
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Lunch Break (90 min.)

14:15 – 15:45

<p>Room A: <i>Imagining, Imaginaries and Ideologies</i> Luca Hemmerich: Imagining Sustainable Workplace Democracy Through Councils for the Voiceless : A (Realistic) Utopian Proposal Guilhem Mével: Marx, Bonapartism and the Farewell to Jacobinism: Hegemony and History in Class Struggle David Álvarez: The Articulation of Social Despair: Deliberative Democracy, Hermeneutic Injustice, and Authoritarian Identification</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Chair: Ondřej Lánský</i></p>	<p>Room B: <i>Authoritarianism and (Neo)Fascism</i> Devrim Badamchi: Authoritarian Legitimation through Political Discourse: Debating the Constitution in Turkey Meysam Badamchi: Post-Orientalism and the Rawlsian Idea of Conjecture: A Reflection on Edward Saidian- Bernard Lewisian Debate on Islam and Liberalism Marco Solinas: Hitler and the subalterns. Political conspiracism as an epistemic dimension of authoritarianism</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Chair: Alessandro Ferrara</i></p>	<p>Room C: <i>Abolitionism</i> Ranier Abengana: Haunted Futures in an Administered Present: Temporal Domination and Refusal in the Work Society Onni Hirvonen: Abolition of Wealth? Three Historical Arguments Nunzio Ali: Why We Should Not Abandon the Critique of Wealth Inequality: Insecurity, Precarity and Democratic Discontent</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><i>Chair: Martin Saar</i></p>
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Friday, May 15th, 2026

16:00 – 17:30

Room A: *Imagining, Imaginaries and Ideologies*
Craig Browne: Political Imaginaries and Ideological Metamorphoses: Towards a Critique of the Contemporary Contradictory Constellation
Melanie Erspamer: On Speculation
Italo Testa: Who Gets to Reuse What? Art, Reuse, and Critical Theory

Chair: **Hartmut Rosa**

Room B: *Authoritarianism and (Neo)Fascism*
Carmen Dege: Vital Frontiers: Peter Thiel, Myth, and the New Right in Silicon Valley
Kelly Agra: ‘Intelligent Technologies of Ignorance’ (ITI): Knowledge, Political Agency, and Authoritarian Democracy
Marina Calloni: From Escape to Ego. Freedom Against Itself in the Age of Hyper-Liberalism, Authoritarian Populism, and Algorithmic Control

Chair: **María Pía Lara**

Room C: *Politics of Knowledge*
John Holmwood: In search of socialism? Oliver Cromwell Cox and Talcott Parsons on race and citizenship, alternative sociologies for critical theory
Sam Ferns: Knowledge and Critique: An Epistemological Genealogy of Critical Theory
Kurt Mertel: Expanding the Terrain of Critical Theory: Massimo Cacciari and Left-Heideggerianism

Chair: **Maeve Cooke**

17:45 – 19:00

Politics of Knowledge

Plenary · **Gurminder Bhambra:** Empires of Incorporation, Empires of Extraction: A Necessary Distinction

Chair: **Simone Chambers**

19:15 – 19:45

Memorial for Eduardo Mendieta · **Amy Allen, María Pía Lara, et al.**

20:00 · Conference Dinner

Saturday, May 16th, 2026

9:30 – 11:00

Room A
Panel: The Elgar Companion to Jürgen Habermas
William Outhwaite, Larry Ray, Simon Susen, Darrow Schecter, Hauke Brunkhorst, Hans-Herbert Kögler

Chair: **Marina Calloni, William Outhwaite**

Room B
Panel: Spectres of Future War: Algorithmic Anticipation and the Militarization of Time
Stephanie Graf, Laurin Mackowitz, Andreas Oberprantacher

Chair: **Ondřej Lánský**

11:15 – 12:45

Room A: *Imagining, Imaginaries and Ideologies*
Thomas P. Crocker: A Constitution of Norms and the Democratic Form of Life
Martin Müller: Imagination Rather Than Reason: Richard Rorty on Moral Progress
Jeff Flynn: Any Progress in the Progress Debates? Allen, Forst, and Jaeggi on Normativity and Progress

Chair: **María Pía Lara**

Room B: *Authoritarianism and (Neo)Fascism*
Valerio Fabbrizi: Between Ideology and Rhetoric: A Theoretical Definition of Populism
Leonardo Fiorespino: Populism as a multi-faceted concept
Giuseppe Ballacci, Thomás Zicman de Barros: Rhetoric and manipulation in populism: Some normative considerations

Chair: **Alessandro Ferrara**

Room C: *War, Peace and Borders*
Simon Gurisch: Necessary War?
Gabriele De Angelis: Populist Foreign Policy within and outside Europe: Continental Responses to the Decline of the Liberal World Order
Lukas Meisner: On capitalistic-nihilistic death drives

Chair: **Maeve Cooke**

Lunch Break (90 min.)

14:15 – 15:45

Room A: *Imagining, Imaginaries and Ideologies*
James Santos, João Tziminadis: A critique of frictionlessness
Roderick Condon: Reconceptualizing the critique of technocracy
Julian Culp: Digital Citizenship as Ideology

Chair: **Maeve Cooke**

Room B: *Authoritarianism and (Neo)Fascism*
Tatjana Sheplyakova: Attention Authoritarianism
Krassimir Stojanov: Systemic Indoctrination as Instrument of Authoritarianism
Marina Barreto: Ambiguity as a fundamental trait of authoritarianisms

Chair: **Martin Saar**

Room C: *Mourning and Loss*
Federica Gregoratto: Deranged Habits – A Hegelian Critical Theory of Depression
Giorgio Fazio: What does a motivation crisis mean today? And why is it important to answer this question in the age of Trump?
Yik Leung: From Social Positioning to Bodily Agency – re-examine the role of suffering in social criticism

Chair: **Jan Biba**

16:00 – 17:30

Room A: *Imagining, Imaginaries and Ideologies*
Vojtěch Ondráček: Sport as the ideological state apparatus
Brian Milstein: “Polycrisis” as Ideology
Stefan Rohrhirsch: Ecology is not a Metaphor. Towards a Critical Theory of Ecology.

Chair: **Alessandro Ferrara**

Room B: *Authoritarianism and (Neo)Fascism*
Michael Hauser: Why liberal anti-fascism is failing?
Amadeus Ulrich: Rule of Rackets – Toward a Critical Theory of Authoritarianism
Ben Brissou: F. A. Hayek; A Critical Theorist?

Chair: **María Pía Lara**

Room C: *War, Peace and Borders*
Ľubomír Dunaj: Cosmopolitanism and Tianxia: Toward the Shared Grounds of Mutually Beneficial and Respectful Understanding in Global Political Thought
Ivo Eichhorn: Democratic Erosion and Bordering the Multitude: Thinking with Spinoza
Richard Stahel: The current technological power constellation from the perspective of the environmental democracy concept

Chair: **Simone Chambers**

17:45 – 19:00

Abolitionism

Plenary · **Amy Allen:** Reimagining Critical Theory through Abolition Feminism

Chair: **Ondřej Lánský**

Sunday, May 17th, 2026

9:30 – 11:00

Room A: *Imagining, Imaginaries and Ideologies*
Marjan Ivković: Social Mediation and Negativity – Post-Capitalism as a Conceptual and Political Challenge
Manuela Peitz: Marx’s Critique of Utopia and the Problem of Mediation
Ana van Liedekerke: The American Constitutional Imagination and the Rule of Text

Chair: **Brian Milstein**

Room B: *Politics of Knowledge*
Carla Rivera Blanco: The Architectonic of Normativity in Critical Social Theory
Simon Laumann Jørgensen: Knowing Perspectives: The Political Problems of Perspective-Sharing
Ebru Kizilkaya Unal: Theorizing Social Temporalities

Chair: **Maeve Cooke**

Room C: *Mourning and Loss*
Jack Wearing: Grief as a Political Emotion
Ethan Gettes: Mourning the Earth with Adorno and Rose
Roxane Pret Théodore: Critically Rethinking Vulnerability in Collective Times of Loss and Mourning.

Chair: **Marina Barreto**

11:15–12:30

Mourning and Loss

Plenary · **Ondřej Lánský, Jan Biba:** Mourning as an Affective Infrastructure of Post-Democratic Resilience

Chair: **Martin Saar**