

International conference

Philosophy and Social Science

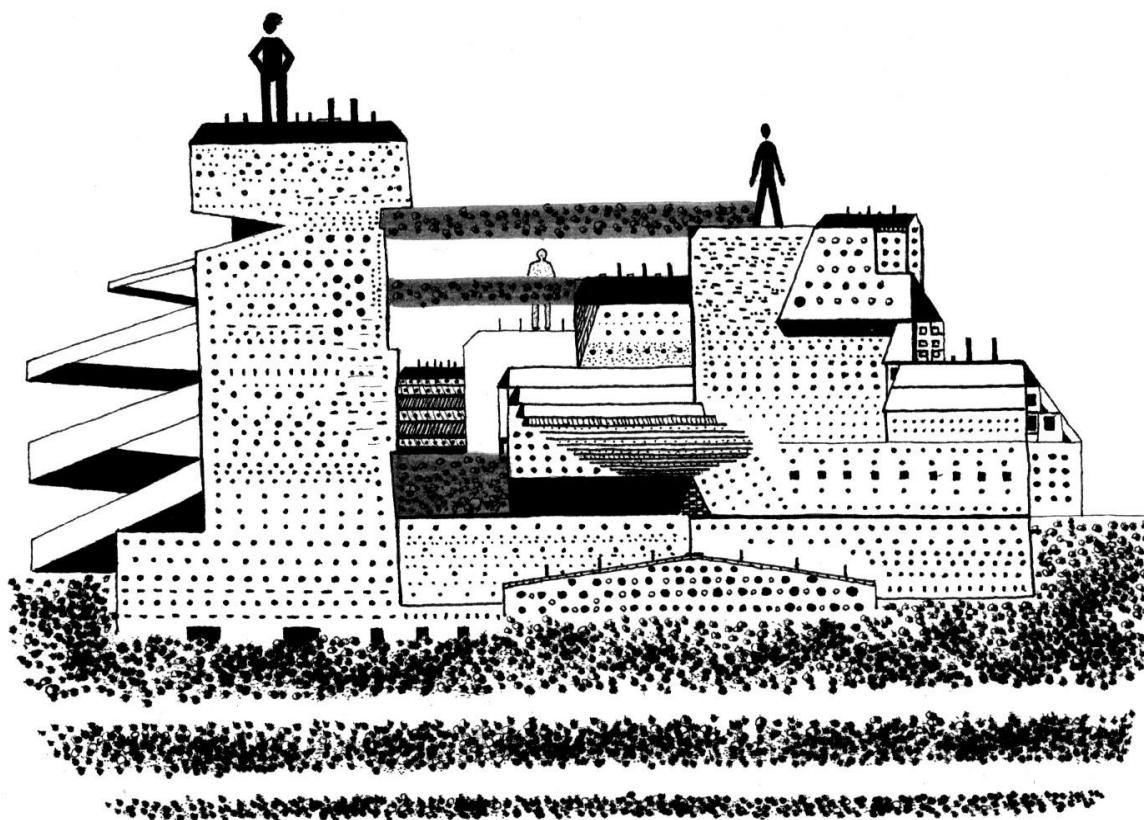
Wednesday May 13– Sunday, May 17, 2026

Vila Lanna, V Sadech 1, Prague

Conference Organizers:

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

Program Director 2026: Hartmut Rosa



Philosophy and Social Science

13th – 17th of May, 2026 · Vila Lanna, V Sadech 1, Prague 6

Wednesday, May 13th, 2026

9.00 – 9.30

Opening Remarks and Welcome

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9:30 – 11:00

Authoritarianism and (Neo)Fascism

Plenary · Albenaz 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

<i>A: Imagining, Imaginaries and Ideologies</i> Lois McNay: Ordinary Imagination and Critical Theory Asger Sørensen: Habermas, Discourse Ethics and the Postmodern Condition Joaquin Valdivielso: Can the classical view of alienation still deliver? Discussing Asger Sørensen's approach Lara Leporati: Beyond singularities back to art as experience: recovering a normative concept of authenticity <i>Chair:</i>	<i>B: Authoritarianism and (Neo)Fascism</i> Noëlle McAfee: Authoritarianism's Annihilation Anxieties Katie Ebner-Landy: The Fascist Unconscious Sarah Bufkin: "Racism plays a pivotal role in sustaining the contradiction": Angela Davis, Stuart Hall, and the Critique of Authoritarian Populisms Manuela Santamaría-Moncada: The End of Nature: Natural History and the Dialectics of Progress and Regression Today <i>Chair:</i>	<i>C: Politics of Knowledge</i> 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 Regina Schidel: The power of the epistemic: trust relations as worldmaking <i>Chair:</i>
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Lunch Break (90 min.)

14:15 – 15:45

<i>A: Imagining, Imaginaries and Ideologies</i> Italo Testa: Who Gets to Reuse What? Art, Reuse, and Critical Theory Katia Genel: Imaginaries of Work and the Invisibility of Labor. Rethinking Social Contribution through Arendt and Critical Theory Pablo Gilabert: Why we should support working artists <i>Chair:</i>	<i>B: Mourning and Loss (and change and renewal)</i> Pieter Duvenage: Moving Thinking: Judgment, Normativity, and the Politics of Knowledge Steen Lybke: Dianthropocene – Energy Sources of Critical Excess as the Missing Sparks to Social Change Philipp Wagenhals: Exploring Critical Theory's Experimentalism: A Meta-Critical Intervention with Adorno and Dewey <i>Chair: Ondřej Lánský ?</i>	<i>C: War; Peace and Borders</i> 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 <i>Chair:</i>
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16.00 – 17.30

<i>A: Imagining, Imaginaries and Ideologies</i> Emil Sobottka: What moves social movements? Reflections on social energy and re-framing dynamics 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 <i>Chair:</i>	<i>B: Authoritarianism and (Neo)Fascism</i> Debora Spini: Does neo-authoritarianism have a political theology? Isette Schuhmacher: On resentment and regression Heiko Stubenrauch: Regressing to Nature: The Dialectic of Enlightenment in Times of Climate Barbarism Tobias Heinze: When Nature Fuels Fascism: A Blind Spot in Horkheimer and Adorno's "Dialectic of Enlightenment" <i>Chair:</i>	<i>C: Politics of Knowledge</i> Jan-Philipp Kruse: The Mumbling Machine. Towards a Critical Theory of Generative AI 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 Lambek: Assessing the Threat of Generative AI to Democracy <i>Chair:</i>
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17:45 – 19:00

Authoritarianism and (Neo)Fascism

Plenary · William B. Scheuerman: Why not violent resistance?

Chair:

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Thursday, May 14th, 2026

9:30 – 11:00

Room A	Room B	Room C
Panel · Spectres of Future War: Algorithmic Anticipation and the Militarization of Time · Stephanie Graf, Laurin Mackowitz, Andreas Oberprantacher	Panel · Family and Gender Relations in Contemporary Ideological Images · Marina Martinez Mateo, Franziska Haug, Alexandra Coligs	Panel · Archaeology, Speculation, Politics · Leonhard Riep, Miriam Schröder, Simon Clemens
<i>Chair:</i>	<i>Chair:</i>	<i>Chair:</i>

11:15 – 12:45

<i>A: Imagining, Imaginaries and Ideologies</i> Alessandro Ferrara: “Yes We Can”: Ideology as symbolic violence Alexis Gros: What is it like to have a false consciousness? Toward a Phenomenological Ideology Critique Michael Räber: False Needs after Ideology Critique. Genealogical and Functional Strategies of Critique Matteo Bianchin: Ideology vs Collective Action? <i>Chair:</i>	<i>B: 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 <i>Chair:</i>	<i>C: 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 Greta Favara: Normative Orientation in Times of Rupture: On Political Judgment Fernanda Felix de Oliveira: Reclaiming Disagreement in times of acceleration and polarization <i>Chair:</i>
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Lunch Break (90 min.)

14:15 – 15:45

<i>A: Imagining, Imaginaries and Ideologies</i> Abigail Ittura: The Imaginal as Spectacle: An Aristotelian Interpretation of Contemporary Politics 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 <i>Chair:</i>	<i>B: Authoritarianism and (Neo)Fascism</i> Olivier Voirol: Eight Theses on Critical Theory and Authoritarianism Arthur Bueno: Infinite Regress: The Dialectic of Narcissism in New Authoritarianism Lea Gekle: Conceptualizing Authoritarianism and (Neo)Fascism: Thinking the Subjective and Objective Sides of Fascization Marina Calloni: From Escape to Ego. Freedom Against Itself in the Age of Hyper-Liberalism, Authoritarian Populism, and Algorithmic Control <i>Chair:</i>	<i>C: Politics of Knowledge</i> Simon Laumann Jørgensen: Knowing Perspectives: The Political Problems of Perspective-Sharing Rik Ouwerkerk: Critical theory and social epistemology: defending the critique of ideology David Martinez: Authoritarianism and colonization in the contemporary University <i>Chair:</i>
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16.00 – 17.30

Room A	Room B
Panel · The Place of Sociology within Critical Theory · Patrick O’Mahony, Ina Kerner, Laura Gherardi, Hartmut Rosa (reply)	Panel · The revival of constituent power · Simone Chambers, Eva Erman, David Rasmussen, Ben Schupmann, Steven Winter, Peter Niesen
<i>Chair:</i> Max Priebe	<i>Chair:</i>

17:45 – 19:00

Imagining, Imaginaries and Ideologies
Plenary · **Rainer Forst:** Ideology Critique in Dark Times

Chair:

Optional & Voluntary Pastime, e.g. Football Game

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Friday, May 15th, 2026

9:30 – 11:00

Panel · Foucault @100 · Martin Saar, Bernard Harcourt, Nythamar Fernandes de Oliveira, Elena Agatensi, Judith Revel

Chair:

11:15 – 12:45

A: Imagining, Imaginaries and Ideologies
Yann Allard-Tremblay: On Being Repeatedly Gobsmacked or Normalizing Western Civilization's Death Path
Robson Loureiro: Yanomani Shamans and the Anthropocene
Lena Nowak-Laird: Who Is Afraid of Metaphysics? The First Generation's Views

Chair:

B: Authoritarianism and (Neo)Fascism
Nikolai Repenning-Janssen: How Sadocapitalism fuels the vibe shift towards the authoritarian moment
John McGuire: The Depoliticising Dynamics of Spite
Marina Barreto: Ambiguity as a fundamental trait of authoritarianisms
Just Serrano-Zamora: Disembodied constructivism: tracking expression in the new extreme right

Chair:

C: Abolitionism
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

Chair:

Lunch Break (90 min.)

14:15 – 15:45

A: Imagining, Imaginaries and Ideologies
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

Chair:

B: Authoritarianism and (Neo)Fascism
Krassimir Stojanov: Systemic Indoctrination as Instrument of Authoritarianism
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- Berard Lewisan Debate on Islam and Liberalism
Marco Solinas: Hitler and the subalterns. Political conspiracism as an epistemic dimension of authoritarianism

Chair:

C: Abolitionism
Ranier Abengana: Haunted Futures in an Administered Present: Temporal Domination and Refusal in the Work Society
Steven Klein: Freedom Beyond the Colour Line: Labour Unions, Strikes, and Decolonization
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

Chair:

16.00 – 17.30

A: Imagining, Imaginaries and Ideologies
Marcus Döller: Imagination of Ideology and ideological Imagination
Craig Browne: Political Imaginaries and Ideological Metamorphoses: Towards a Critique of the Contemporary Contradictory Constellation
Melanie Erspamer: On Speculation

Chair:

B: Authoritarianism and (Neo)Fascism
Tatjana Sheplyakova: Attention Authoritarianism
Carmen Dege: Vital Frontiers: Peter Thiel, Myth, and the New Right in Silicon Valley
Afsoun Afsahi: To Engage or Disengage: Enclaves, Counter-publics, and the Democratic System
Kelly Agra: 'Intelligent Technologies of Ignorance' (ITI): Knowledge, Political Agency, and Authoritarian Democracy

Chair:

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:

17:45 – 19:00

Abolitionism

Plenary · Amy Allen: Reimagining Critical Theory through Abolition Feminism

Chair:

19: 15 – 19:45 · Memorial for Eduardo Mendieta · **María Pía Lara, Alessandro Ferrara, Simone Chambers, et al.**

20:00

Conference Dinner

Philosophy and Social Science

13th – 17th of May, 2026 · Vila Lanna, V Sadech 1, Prague 6

Saturday, May 16th, 2026		
9:30 – 11:00		
<i>Room A</i> Panel · The Elgar Companion on Habermas · William Outhwaite, Larry Ray, Simon Susen, Darrow Schecter, Regina Kreide <i>Chair:</i>	<i>Room B</i> Panel · Critical Theory for the End Times: Günther Anders Today · Jacob Blumenfeld, Hugh Miller, Kieran Aarons <i>Chair:</i>	
11:15 – 12:45		
<i>A: Imagining, Imaginaries and Ideologies</i> 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 <i>Chair:</i>	<i>B: Authoritarianism and (Neo)Fascism</i> Valerio Fabbrizi: Between Ideology and Rhetoric: A Theoretical Definition of Populism Sarah Bianchi: Democracy, Transnational Justice, and Human Rights Leonardo Fiorepino: Populism as a multi-faceted concept Giuseppe Ballacci: Rhetoric and manipulation in populism: Some normative considerations <i>Chair:</i>	<i>C: B: War, Peace, Borders</i> Danika Harju: Counter-Struggles of Recognition: Opposing identity claims in the way of social progress Ivo Eichhorn: Democratic Erosion and Bordering the Multitude: Thinking with Spinoza Raissa Ventura: Borders Within Borders: Racialized Immobilization in Brazil <i>Chair:</i>
Lunch Break (90 min.)		
14:15 – 15:45		
<i>A: Imagining, Imaginaries and Ideologies</i> Vojtěch Ondráček: Sport as the ideological state apparatus Julian Culp: Digital Citizenship as Ideology Brian Milstein: “Polycrisis” as Ideology Luiz Repa: System as Lifeworld: The Post-Habermasian Critical Theory and the Thesis of Systemic Neutrality of Capitalism <i>Chair:</i>	<i>B: Authoritarianism and (Neo)Fascism</i> Michael Hauser: Why liberal anti-fascism is failing? Amadeus Ulrich: Rule of Rackets – Toward a Critical Theory of Authoritarianism Ben Brisson: F. A. Hayek; A Critical Theorist? Giorgio Fazio: What does a motivation crisis mean today? And why is it important to answer this question in the age of Trump? <i>Chair:</i>	<i>C: Mourning and Loss</i> Federica Gregoratto: Deranged Habits – A Hegelian Critical Theory of Depression Pamela Capistrano: Woman, motherhood, and home – grappling with gendered dwelling Yik Leung: From Social Positioning to Bodily Agency – re-examine the role of suffering in social criticism <i>Chair:</i>
16:00 – 17:30		
<i>A: Imagining, Imaginaries and Ideologies</i> James Santos, João Tziminadis: A critique of frictionlessness Roderick Condon: Reconceptualizing the critique of technocracy Stefan Rohrhirsch: Ecology is not a Metaphor. Why we need a Critical Theory of Ecology <i>Chair:</i>	<i>B: War, Peace, Borders</i> Ľubomír Dunaj: Cosmopolitanism and Tianxia: Toward the Shared Grounds of Mutually Beneficial and Respectful Understanding in Global Political Thought Peter Schulz: Material Basis of Ideologies. Reading the <i>Dialectic of Enlightenment</i> with Wittfogel Richard Stáhel: The current technological power constellation from the perspective of the environmental democracy concept <i>Chair:</i>	<i>C: Mourning and Loss</i> 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. <i>Chair:</i>
17:45 – 19:00		
<i>Mourning and Loss</i>		
Plenary · Ondřej Lánský, Jan Bíba: Mourning as an Affective Infrastructure of Post-Democratic Resilience		<i>Chair:</i>

Philosophy and Social Science

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Sunday, May 17th, 2026

9:30 – 11:15

<i>A: Imagining, Imaginaries and Ideologies</i> 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 Ebru Unal: Theorizing Social Temporalities Ana van Liedekerke: The American Constitutional Imagination and the Rule of Text <i>Chair:</i>	<i>B. Politics of Knowledge</i> Andrew Buchwalter: Habermas and the (Mis)Adventures of the Dialectic Carla Rivera Blanco: The Architectonic of Normativity in Critical Social Theory Jeniel Dasig: Critical Theory as 'Ideal Theory' <i>Chair:</i>	<i>C: War, Peace and Borders</i> Christian F. Rostbøll: Solidarity and Compromise Kevin Gray: A Lost Emancipatory Potential: Critical Theory's Postcolonial Turn Samu/elle Striewski: Critical Theory and Palestine Solidarity <i>Chair:</i>
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11:15 – 12:45

Politics of Knowledge

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

Chair:

Farewell