

THE FORCE OF HABITS AND THEIR ROLES IN CRITICAL THEORIES

June, 14th-15th, Freie Universität Berlin

Habits have been repeatedly targeted by critical theories as the medium of domination and of voluntary servitude. “Habit is a great deadener”, to use Samuel Becketts words for Theodor W. Adorno’s position, because it embodies the patterns of social unfreedom and blocks transformation from the bottom. “Second nature”, in György Lukács understanding, appears to be the most pernicious form of domination, making bodies functioning and able to fulfill the needs of capitalist society by a reification of their capacities.

The critique of habituated forms of domination continues to be a crucial task in face of new, but also of perpetuated forms of oppression. At the same time the conference would like to broaden the perspective and ask for a more nuanced approach to habits as a topic for critical theories. Are habits, precisely because of their embodied dimension, not also contested places of domination, in which more or less visible forms of resistance emerge or break in? What about habits that are considered “bad” by society, could they not also bear subversive potential? Isn't social transformation itself a process of (different) habitualization? Are there not different forms of habit? And, finally, does capitalism not also exert domination by making it impossible to build up habits, as forms of involuntary servitude in (post-)colonial and racist contexts or precarization for example show? In these different perspectives the conference aims at deepening the understanding of the roles of habits for critical theories and recalibrating their importance for a radical critique of capitalism and the question of liberation.

Organization: Prof. Dr. Raimondi and the Arbeitsbereich

Registration: linus.aigner@fu-berlin.de

Venue: Altensteinstr. 15, K001, 14195 Berlin

(online: <https://fu-berlin.webex.com/meet/linuaoo>)



Friday June, 14th

13:15-13:30 Introduction

13:30-15:00 **Francesca Raimondi** (FU Berlin): „Labour as a Modern Form of Habit and its Practical Critique”

Chair: Jan van Dick

15:00-16:30 **Estelle Ferrarese** (Picardie-Jules-Verne University): “Digressions on intensity. Inhabiting one's own powerlessness”

Chair: Lilja Walliser

Coffee Break

17:00-18:30 **Susanne Lettow** (FU Berlin): “Emancipation and the Dialectics of Habituation”

Chair: Ben Seel

18:30-19:00 Wrap Up

Saturday June, 15th

10:00-11:30 **Federica Gregoratto** (FU Berlin): “Transforming habits of social reproduction”

Chair: Noah Grossmann

11:30-13:00 **Jamila Mascat** (Utrecht University): “The Ethos of Partisanship”

Chair: Niccolò Izzi

Lunch Break

14:00-15:30 **Henrike Kohpeiß** (FU Berlin): „Respect for Reality – Ecological Crisis and ‚Habits of Affluence“

Chair: Douglas Costa

Coffee Break

16:00-17:30 **Rocío Zambrana** (University of Puerto Rico): “Framing habits: Hegel and the fetish”

Chair: Tobias Wieland

17:30-18:00 Wrap Up