

WORKSHOP

SOCIOLOGICAL MARXISM

Date: Wednesday 28th November 2018, 09:00 – 17:00 h
Organizers: Klaus Dörre (FSU), Frank Ettrich (Uni Erfurt), DFG Research Group "Landnahme, Acceleration, Activation. Dynamics and (De)stabilisation of Modern Growth Societies"
Location: Kolleg Postwachstumsgesellschaften, Humboldtstr. 34

Program:

09:00-09:30

Welcome and introduction

09:30-10:30

1. What is democratic Marxism?

Vishwas Satgar, Frank Ettrich

11:30-11:45

Coffee break

11:45-13:45

2. Democracy's uneasy marriage to capitalism

Michelle Williams, Klaus Dörre

13:45-15:00

Lunch Break

15:00-17:00

3. Democracy against capitalism

Eric Pineault, Esteban Torres

There is not one Marxism, but a certain plurality of conceptions that refer in different ways to Marx's theory. This plurality is inherent in Marx's – unfinished – work itself: there is no homogeneous, coherent Marxism. From today's perspective, it is the breaks and inconsistencies in Marx's thinking that are stimulating. To ignore this would be to promote a lazy Marxism (Stuart Hall). Claiming to be the opposite of a lazy Marxism is a *Sociological Marxism* (Michael Burawoy) or *Democratic Marxism* (Vishwas Satgar/Michelle Williams), though in Germany, unlike in the Anglo-Saxon world, these have neither an academic tradition nor an institutional anchoring. Their followers understand themselves as "Marxian", not as "Marxist". They argue for a – never-ending – reinterpretation of classical texts, taking into account contemporary social-scientific knowledge. The pragmatic realism (Erik O. Wright) of theory formation thus understood involves filling key concepts of Marxist theory with new content on the basis of today's sociological knowledge. The workshop deals with Marx's conception of democracy and discusses whether and how this conception can be made fruitful in times of authoritarian capitalism and right-wing populist revolt. The participants are researchers from Argentina, Germany, Canada and South Africa. With two inputs per thematic block, there will be sufficient time for intensive discussion.

Participants can register at the following address:

ilka.scheibe@uni-jena.de

As space is limited, we kindly ask you to contact us as soon as possible.



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