



Call for Applications

International Critical Theory Summer School 2021

JULY 5th – JULY 9th,
Humanities and Social Change Center Berlin/
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin

Foundations of Solidarity

Despite a widespread diagnosis that solidarity is in crisis, appeals to solidarity are ubiquitous today. We encounter them on the level of personal and professional relations, but also with regard to institutions and systems of social security and welfare. They gain a dramatic character when human lives are in danger, e.g. when refugees have to cross the Mediterranean in extremely dangerous conditions or when climate change is devastating the livelihood of whole populations. In all these cases, appeals to solidarity are invoking a 'we': we, the family or friends; we, the co-workers or professionals of our branch; we, the members of a national community or a social collective; we, leftists or members of a political movement; we, human beings; ...

How can the materialist foundations of actual solidarity be rethought without falling back into tacit assumptions of social homogeneity? Class, gender, race, nation, and even humanity have all lost their status as matters of course. Given the effects of sexism and racism, theories of solidarity have to take into account the complex contradictions of capitalist societies which divide subaltern and exploited groups on the domestic level as well as globally. Appeals to solidarity hence run into an uncertainty concerning the foundations of solidarity. Is solidarity the result of a shared form of life or of collective practices? Does it stem from similar experiences or a common situation? Is it marked by adversity or a common enemy? Or is it the effect of a shared devotion to a common cause?

The summer school will involve plenary lectures and discussions, reading sessions, smaller group discussions and panel debates. Only the panel debates will be open to the broader public. We will explore classical approaches such as Émile Durkheim's analysis of the modern division of labour, Karl Marx's claim that the proletariat is a universal class that will refigure society on new relations of solidarity, and Iris Marion Young's concept of seriality. Besides such classics, we will discuss with leading contemporary theorists of solidarity (several of which will be

present as instructors) whether or not current approaches of solidarity open up new perspectives for universalism.

To apply for participation, graduate students and junior scholars are invited to submit a précis of their take on core issues in the debate on solidarity and a CV (each document 1 page max.). The précis should show which particular background knowledge and systematic positions the applicants would contribute to our joint discussions.

Deadline for applications: March 8th, 2021,
by e-mail to: CTsummerschool@hu-berlin.de

We are committed that the summer school will take place. However, at this point, it is unclear what the situation will be regarding travel restrictions and other measures in Berlin this July. Since we want to make sure our international participants can take part in the Summer School, we may conduct it in a hybrid format, which allows for online participation.

If you are an international participant, we kindly ask you to apply first, and then we can look for individual solutions if necessary.

There is a fee of 300€ for the Summer School. For participants who will not be able to take part in person due to travel restrictions, no fee will be charged. Participants have to fund their own travel, accommodation and food. There will be funds available for international students without access to institutional reimbursement; those who qualify can apply for travel and accommodation subsidies.

Please check our FAQs for further information:
http://criticaltheoryinberlin.de/summer_school/#faq

Instructors:

Hauke Brunkhorst (Europa-Universität Flensburg)
Asad Haider (New School for Social Research)
Rahel Jaeggi (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)
Serene Khader (City University of New York)
Frederick Neuhouser (Banard College, Columbia University)
and
Robin Celikates (Freie Universität Berlin)
Regina Kreide (Universität Gießen)
Lea-Riccarda Prix (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)
Christian Schmidt (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin)

Participants at Round Table:

Stefan Gosepath (Freie Universität Berlin)
Sabine Hark (Technische Universität Berlin)
Stefan Lessenich (LMU Munich)

Organizers: Robin Celikates, Rahel Jaeggi, Susann Schmeißer, Christian Schmidt (Humanities and Social Change Center Berlin, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin), in cooperation with the Frankfurt Institute for Social Research and the New School for Social Research (Alice Crary).

For updates and information see also:
<http://criticaltheoryinberlin.de/summer-school/>