



**Call for Applications**  
**International Critical Theory Summer School 2023**  
**JULY 3–7,**  
**Centre for Social Critique/  
Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin**

**Radical Social Transformation**

Classical Critical Theory was characterized by a dichotomy. On the one hand, only fundamental change could overcome the wrongs of existing society. Yet, on the other hand, the social revolution predicted by Marxist thinkers failed to materialize. In our time, multiple crises again intensify the need for social transformation; but in many fields, capitalist societies seem far too slow in their ability to change, despite their inherent dynamic. Against this background, the summer school will explore the drivers of and obstacles to radical social transformation today with a focus on the role of social activism and the material preconditions of change.

The summer school will involve plenary lectures and discussions, reading sessions, small group discussions and panel debates. Only the panel debates will be open to the broader public. We will explore classical approaches, such as Karl Marx's and Walter Benjamin's conception of historical change and Herbert Marcuse's analysis of new revolutionary subjects while also engaging with the work of leading contemporary theorists: Sally Haslanger, Verónica Gago, Gianfranco Casuso and Alex Demirović will participate and discuss their work. On the occasion of Marcuse's 125th birthday, the public round table with Gago, Demirović, Eva von Redecker, and Rahel Jaeggi on Wednesday evening (July 5th, 2023) will be dedicated to actualizing his quest for alternative revolutionary subjectivities.

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 social transformation 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. Please submit your application in a single PDF document and make sure that the title of your précis summarizes its content.

**Deadline for applications:** March 12th, 2023,

**Please apply by using the form provided on our website.**

Participation in the Summer School is free of charge. Please note that there is no funding available for this year's summer school. Unfortunately, we are therefore not able to provide any travel funds for international students, but recommend to get in touch with your home institutions about possible financial support for attending the summer school. Participants are responsible for independently organizing their travel and accommodation.

Please check our FAQs for further information:

[http://criticaltheoryinberlin.de/summer\\_school/#faq](http://criticaltheoryinberlin.de/summer_school/#faq)

**Instructors:**

Sally Haslanger (Massachusetts Institute of Technology)

Verónica Gago (University of Buenos Aires, Universidad Nacional de San Martín)

Alex Demirović (Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main)

Gianfranco Casuso (Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú)

and

Rahel Jaeggi (Humboldt Universität zu Berlin)

Robin Celikates (Freie Universität Berlin)

Christian Schmidt (Humboldt Universität zu Berlin)

**Organizers:** Rahel Jaeggi, Robin Celikates, Christian Schmidt, Zveta Pauly (Centre for Social Critique Berlin, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin) and Alice Crary (The New School for Social Research)

For updates and information see also:

<http://criticaltheoryinberlin.de/summer-school/>