

In a sketch for a broad interdisciplinary research project, Theodor W. Adorno aimed at investigating the rise of a *new type of human being* (1941). The project conceived of a socially determined human subjectivity as the imminent result of intensified processes of anthropological deformation. For Adorno, the figure of the individual appeared no longer as relatively autonomous in its aims and initiatives. Obligated to conform to an overwhelming social reality, its very constitution had become increasingly swallowed by socializing agencies.

The workshop will take up the specifically interdisciplinary research focus sketched in Adorno's project. The participants will reconsider this program from their theoretical or methodological point of view. Our aim is to conceptualize such processes of deformation and their contemporary pertinence. Just as in Adorno's agenda, we want to discuss how social deformation of various human faculties – social, intellectual, psychic, sensual, reflective and affective in nature – can be analyzed.

By exploring such interdisciplinary questions while anchoring the discussions in Adorno's research proposal, the workshop will ask for both the historical trajectory and the contemporary relevance of a multi-layered critique of anthropological deformation.

Organization

Eric-John Russell and Sebastian Tränkle

EXC 2020 »Temporal Communities: Doing Literature in a Global Perspective«, Research Area 3 »Future Perfect« in cooperation with »A Theory of Opinion«, European Commission Project ID: 101067829

Registration

Registration is required as seating is limited. To register your attendance, please email either Eric-John Russell (eric-john.russell@uni-potsdam.de) or Sebastian Tränkle (s.traenkle@fu-berlin.de).

Venue

Villa of the EXC 2020 »Temporal Communities«
Otto-von-Simson Straße 15
14195 Berlin
Room 00.05

www.temporal-communities.de



EXC 2020 »Temporal Communities:
Doing Literature in a Global Perspective«

Towards a New Type of Human Being?

Conceptualizing Anthropological Deformation

Workshop
27–29 July 2023



**TEMPORAL
COMMUNITIES**

DOING LITERATURE IN A GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE
CLUSTER OF EXCELLENCE

Thursday, 27 July 2023

13:00

Arrival

13:30

Opening Remarks / Introduction

14:15–15:30

»The Organic Composition of Man is Growing«.
Adorno's Diagnosis on Anthropological Transformation,
80 Years Later

Jordi Maiso (Universidad Complutense de Madrid)

Chair: Anne Eusterschulte

15:45–17:00

Atrophied Images: Childhood and
the Deformative Gaze

Antonia Hofstätter (University of Warwick)

Chair: Theodora Becker

Coffeebreak

17:30–18:45

G.

Robert Hullot-Kentor (Emeritus, School of Visual Arts
New York)

Chair: Christoph Hesse

20:00

Dinner

Friday, 28 July 2023

10:00–11:15

An Insect who Has the Jitters: On the Dialectic
of Aesthetic Self-Formation

Sebastian Tränkle (Freie Universität Berlin)

Chair: Alexandra Colligs

11:30–12:45

Formation and Deformation: On the Contemporary
Nature of Subjectivity

Christine Kirchhoff (International Psychoanalytical University
Berlin)

Chair: Steen Thorsson

Lunch

14:15–15:30

When what Is Known no Longer Has Any Meaning:
Opinion as Epistemological Regression

Eric-John Russell (Universität Potsdam)

Chair: Frank Engster

15:45–17:00

On the Inability to Suffer

Philip Hogh (Universität Kassel)

Chair: Isolda Mac Liam

Coffeebreak

17:30–18:45

Constitution or Distortion? Remarks on a Problematic
Motif in Critical Theory

Peter E. Gordon (Harvard University)

Chair: Sebastian Tränkle

20:00

Dinner

Saturday, 29 July 2023

10:00–11:15

Damaged Goods: »Kulturgüter« and the End of
»Bildung« in Higher Education

Christine Achinger (University of Warwick)

Chair: Eric-John Russell

11:30–12:45

Reconfigurations of Modern Authoritarianism:
On the Politics of Conformist Desublimation and the
Dissociation of the Self on New Social Media

Lars Rensmann (Universität Passau)

Chair: Sebastian Tränkle

Coffee Break

13.15–14:30

The Anthropological Deformations of Identity

Samir Gandesha (Simon Fraser University)

Chair: Antonia Hofstätter

14:30

Roundtable

15:00

End
