

Towards a New Type of Human Being?

Conceptualizing Anthropological Deformation

Workshop
27–29 July 2023

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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«,
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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.tranckle@fu-berlin.de).

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

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