



## Theories of Society - 2018/19

Weekly sessions: Tuesdays, 5 p.m. till 8 p.m.

1. November 6, 2018, Location: Classroom 21 (1<sup>st</sup> floor, section D)

**Andrew Calabrese** (University of Boulder, Colorado, ZDA)

Professor and Associate Dean of Graduate Programs and Research Andrew Calabrese's research emphasizes the relevance of critical social and political theory in explaining issues of media and citizenship. His publications focus on the role of media in 20th- and 21st-century concepts of civil society and the public sphere; the politics and activism related to media reform, communication rights and social justice. His recent research is about the relationship between media and food politics and activism, and related issues of public knowledge, welfare, safety and risk.

### The Enlightenment Roots of Classical Social Theory

#### **Summary:**

The classical social theories of 19th century Europe, manifested notably in the work of Marx, Weber, Durkheim, Tönnies, and Simmel, represent a sustained inquiry into and critique of the core values of the European Enlightenment tradition. Faith in the Enlightenment ideals of reason and progress became the subject of systematic interrogation by classical social theorists, particularly Marx and Weber. In distinct ways, both men embraced the promise of Enlightenment ideals while each offered distinct reason for their disenchantment. In this seminar, we will examine the ambivalence in the thought of Marx and Weber toward the Enlightenment tradition, which in turn served as the foundation for many of core preoccupations of 20th century critical theory.

#### **Required reading:**

Immanuel Kant, "What is Enlightenment?" (1784); Karl Marx, Excerpts from the Economic and Philosophic Manuscripts of 1844; and Max Weber, "The Spirit of Capitalism and the Iron Cage" and "The Bureaucratic Machine."

2. November 13, 2018, Location: Classroom 11 (ground floor, section D)

**Igor Lukšič** (University of Ljubljana)

Igor Lukšič is professor of political science at the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana. He is a head of the department of political theory at the Faculty of Social Sciences. His research includes political theory, political anthropology and history of political ideas.

### Apolitical democracy

#### **Summary:**

Democracy has always been a political project with a great goal to widen emancipation of the individual and of the people. Neoliberalism transformed that project in a-political or even anti-political with making democracy just a formal technique. Lecture would present contradictions of the democratic project in a modern period through ideas of Kant, Hegel and Marx. The process of concentration of capital has from the introduction of capitalism always required concentration of political power: at the beginning in the level of nation-state, in some cases in form of state-capitalism and dictatorship, today more and more in the hands of different institution of "international community". Can democracy as emancipatory and political project survive?

#### **Required reading:**

Charles S. Maier: Democracy since the French Revolution. In: Dunn, John. 1992. (ed.) The Unfinished Journey 508 BC ad 1993. Oxford University Press, Oxford, New York, Cape Town. (125-151)

3. November 20, 2018, Location: Classroom 21 (ground floor, section D)

#### **Chris Weedon** (prof emeritus Cardiff University, Wales)

Professor Chris Weedon is the chair of the Centre for Critical and Cultural Theory at the University of Cardiff and for the past two decades her work has engaged with cultural theories of feminism, class and race. Her teaching and writing is underpinned by an understanding of the importance of our society not just tolerating, but also being inclusive of difference and diversity. Further to this, her seminal work, *Feminist Practice and Poststructuralist Theory* (1987), is still, 20 years after its original publication, one of the most accessible yet complex works in this field.

### The Multicultural Question in the UK

#### **Summary:**

This lecture will outline key moments in the development of multiculturalism in UK since 1945 and the hard fought and ongoing struggle against ethnocentrism, racism and Islamophobia that this has entailed. It will analyse some of the key contemporary challenges facing multi-ethnic Britain today, looking in particular at questions of subjectivity, identity, ethnicity, race and gender in the context of Brexit and increasing xenophobia throughout Europe.

#### **Required reading:**

Chris Weedon: Stuart Hall, the British multicultural question and the case of western jihadi brides (pdf article at web of course)

4. November 27, 2018, Location: Classroom 11 (ground floor, section D)

**Tihomir Cipek** (University of Zagreb)

He is a political scientist, is a full time professor at the Faculty of Political Science in Zagreb. In 2006, he won the Croatian National Award for Science. He is the Head of the Croatian Politics Department of the Faculty of Political Sciences in Zagreb. He was a visiting professor and researcher at the University of Göttingen, Marburg an der Lahn, Vienna, Bonn, Bratislava, London, Ljubljana and at the Institute for the Science of Man in Vienna. He is a member of the International Editorial Board of "The International Encyclopedia of Political Science" published by APSA. He is also a member of the editorial board of the journal "Annals - Croatian Political Science Association," and "Journal of Contemporary History", is also a member of the Editorial Council of the "Yearbook-Faculty of Political Science-University of Belgrade" and "Yearbook-Faculty of Political Science-University of Sarajevo." The subject of his research interests are political ideologies, comparative politics and European studies. He has written two books and is the editor and co-editor of seven books. Apart from Croatian, he also publishes texts in German, English and Polish.

### Political Change and the Right Wing Populism

#### **Summary:**

Politics has moved from parties of mass integration, through catch all parties, to cartel parties, to increasing fragmentation. Markets have moved from capital controls and embedded liberalism, to free capital movements and macroeconomic imbalances. These two movements seem to run in parallel even if they are not connected. Globalization and European integration, combined with new opportunities opened up by the digital revolution, have led to a radical questioning of the legitimacy of the institutions of representative democracy, and sharpened tensions between national democracies and the global market, and between the principles of democratic majoritarianism and those of liberal constitutionalism. Political elites have lost control over their supporters and economic elites have lost control over market forces. Now a different group of Right-Wing Populist Parties is promising to take back that control. As part of that promise, they vow to strengthen political and economic institutions. The question is whether the program they offer is consistent with democratic norms and values. There is strong reason to believe that the control these new elites promise and the procedures for democratic accountability are incompatible. This lecture explores that potential incompatibility through case studies of Germany, Austria and Poland. The goal is to show how similar developments are taking place in very different institutional environments and to consider the implications for democratic performance. What, then, are the causes of the current disappointment with democracy, and how will they affect the capacity of democratic societies to remain self-correcting? This lecture will discuss some of these fundamental questions which democratic societies face today.

#### **Required reading:**

Ruth Wodak: "Anything goes": Haiderization of Europe. (In PDF version)

5. December 4, 2018, Location: Classroom 11 (ground floor, section D)

**Peter Stanković** (University of Ljubljana)

Peter Stanković (1970) is Professor at Department of Cultural Studies, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia. He specializes in cultural studies, film studies, popular music, food studies and identity politics. His recent publications include a monograph on the history of Slovenian cinematography and several articles on popular music heritage, food as a medium of cultural exchange, and mechanisms of symbolic exclusion of immigrants from the other former Yugoslav republics in Slovenia.

### Rancière and the Politics of Aesthetics

#### **Summary:**

After Bourdieu's critique of art as a mechanism of reproduction of class differences, art has become almost something like an opponent in the critical project of cultural studies. In recent years, however, there is a notable surge of voices that argue that art could be understood as an important tool of emancipatory politics as well. One of the most important theorists, who think in this way, is Jacques Rancière. His work is based on a synchronic and diachronic analysis of three different regimes of art that constitute three different relationships toward society. These regimes are ethical, representative in aesthetic. According to Rancière, it is only the aesthetic regime that is connected to life and therefore capable of changing it (together with wider social circumstances).

#### **Required reading:**

Jacques Rancière (2006): *The Politics of Aesthetics: The Distribution of the Sensible*. London: Continuum. Str. 20–30. <https://selforganizedseminar.files.wordpress.com/2012/10/rancic3a8re-jacques-politics-aesthetics-distribution-sensible-new-scan.pdf>

7. December 11, 2018, Location: Classroom 11 (ground floor, section D)

**Rudi Rizman** (Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Bologna,)

Rudi Rizman holds a Ph.D. from Harvard and Ljubljana University and is a professor of political sociology at Bologna University. His books and articles, published at home and abroad cover topics on globalization, democracy, nation(alism), geopolitics, liberalism, anarchism, intellectuals, identity, human rights.

### Explaining Globalisation: Mapping Its Challenges and Risks

#### **Summary:**

The lecture will focus on the implications of globalization for nation-state, global governance, (post)democracy, nationalism, nation and identity. Special attention will be paid also to those core concepts and available theoretical strategies which are empowering scholars to move beyond previously dominant methodological nationalism toward methodological globalism.

#### **Required reading:**

Beck, Ulrich. 2000. *What is Globalization?*. Cambridge: Polity. (Also in Slovene Translation)  
Sassen, Saskia. 2007. *A Sociology of Globalization*. New York and London: W. W. Norton & Company.

7. December 18, 2018, Location: Classroom 11 (ground floor, section D)

**Dejan Verčič** (University of Ljubljana)

Dejan Verčič is Professor and Head of Centre for Marketing and Public Relations at the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia. He received his PhD from the London School of Economics and Political Science, UK, and he was a Fulbright scholar at the Sand Diego State University, USA. He specializes in strategic and global communication.

Strategization of public communication: a paradox

**Summary:**

At the beginning of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, in an emergent network society, communication itself became the public sphere. In an attempt to retain monopoly over power, governments, among other things, started to weaponize communication and there is a clear and present danger that communication itself might trigger a future economic or military conflict. While propaganda is not new, it was largely contained by national organization of media systems until the last decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Political, economic, social and technological changes (the end of the Cold War, privatization and deregulation of media, globalization and digitalization) denationalized media systems, with the emergence of new media monopolies (Amazon, Apple, Facebook and Google) on one side, and an abundance of smaller media and mass self-communication (by many to many) on the other side. Mutual accusations between the EU and Russia on information warfare against each other raise a need for a communication détente, a de-escalation of tensions in communication as the public sphere.

**Required reading:**

Manuel Castells (2007). Communication, power and counter-power in the network society. *International Journal of Communication* 1, 238-266 <https://ijoc.org/index.php/ijoc/article/download/46/35>

8. January 8, 2019, Location: Classroom 11 (ground floor, section D)

**Ivan Bernik** (University of Ljubljana)

He is a former professor of sociology at the Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Ljubljana. His research interests are in the areas of social modernization and globalization and of social organization of human sexuality.

Uses of sociological theory(-ies): The case of social organization of human sexuality

**Summary:**

A declared aim of sociological theories is to explain “the social dimension of human existence”. But in actual practice ambitions of sociological theorizing vary significantly and they can be placed on a continuum stretching from studies providing basic conceptual tools for describing social phenomena to grand attempts to explain the ontology of social reality. The multifaceted character of sociological theorizing can be well exemplified by sociological approaches to the study of human sexuality. The lecture will focus on contributions of various sociological perspectives to the explanation of social

organization of sexuality and their ability to provide theoretical frameworks for empirical studies of sexual conduct and attitudes.

**Required reading:**

Bernik, Ivan. 2010. Spolnost v času individualizma in racionalnosti. Družboslovne razprave, 26, 65: 7-24. /Dostopno na: Available at:

<http://www.dlib.si/stream/URN:NBN:SI:doc-ZKGQ495I/12acd0e5-eb2e-4cf7-abb6-44c637183e35/PDF> OR

Laumann, Edward O. et al. 2010. The social organization of sexuality: Theoretical background. V/In: Speaking of sexuality. Interdisciplinary reading. Moore, Nelwyn B. et al. Ur. 23-38. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

9. January 15, 2019, Location: Classroom 21 (first floor, section D)

**Hang Yuan** (Sichuan University, China)

He is an associate professor of International Relations at the School of International Studies, Sichuan University, China, and the Deputy Director of Sichuan University-University of Warsaw Joint Center for International Relations Research. He holds a PhD in EU Studies from Ghent University, Belgium where he completed the research project in 2015 on the social dimension of the EU-China relationship, with the scholarship of Erasmus Mondus from the European Commission. His research interests include the EU-China relations, European Studies, China's foreign policy, international order as well as global governance. He has published academic and policy papers and presented his research work at academic conferences including the UACES, EISA, ECPR, and WISC. He is leading a national research project on the EU in global social governance, funded with support from Chinese National Social Science Fund (CNSSF).

China as an International Player: B&R Initiative

**Summary:**

Since the beginning of the 21st century, the international structure has witnessed in-depth and historic adjustment and transition. There were four landmark events affecting the process of international relations at the beginning of the new century: the terrorist attacks on the United States on Sept 11, 2001, the rise of emerging nations, the 2008/09 global financial crisis, and the adjustment of the United States' international strategy. At the same time, four characteristics have been outstanding in international relations: cooperation and conflicts coexist in international political relations; interdependence and competition coexist in international economic relations; non-traditional security issues have become prominent; and national "soft power" has become more significant in the information age. And in this context B&R initiative has been placed which strengthen China as international player.

**Required reading:**

Su Ge, The Belt and Road Initiative in Global Perspectives, 57 China Int'l Stud. 5 (2016) (pdf at the web of course)

**Seminar 1**, January 22, 2019, Location: Classroom 21 (first floor, section D),

Igor Lukšič

Pierre Rosanvallon. 2008. Counter-Democracy. Politics in an Age of Distrust. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

**Seminar 2**, January 29, 2019, Location: Classroom 11 (ground, section D)

Ivan Bernik

Jones, Pip; Liz Bradbury. 2018. Introducing social theory. Third Edition. Cambridge: Polity Press.

10. February 5, 2019, Location: Classroom 21 (first floor, section D)

**Dejan Jović** (Sichuan University, China)

Wars and National Identities: the case of contemporary Croatia

**Seminar 3**, February 12, 2019, Location: Classroom 11 (ground, section D)

Peter Stanković

Chris Barker (2002): Making Sense of Cultural Studies. Central Problems and Critical Debates. London, Sage, str. 45–85 in 108–175. Smith, Philip in Riley, Alexander (2009): Cultural Theory: An introduction (Second Edition). Malden: Blackwell, str. 195–206 in 262–279

**Seminar 4**, February 19, 2019, Location: Classroom 11 (ground, section D)

Dejan Verčič

Ralph Tench, Dejan Verčič, Ansgar Zerfass, Ángeles Moreno & Piet Verhoeven. 2017. Communication Excellence: How to Develop, Manage and Lead Exceptional Communication. London: Palgrave Macmillan.

**Required readings:**

1. Chris Barker (2002): Making Sense of Cultural Studies. Central Problems and Critical Debates. London, Sage, str. 45–85 in 108–175. Smith, Philip in Riley, Alexander (2009): Cultural Theory: An introduction (Second Edition). Malden: Blackwell, str. 195–206 in 262–279.
2. Pierre Rosanvallon. 2008. Counter-Democracy. Politics in an Age of Distrust. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
3. Jones, Pip; Liz Bradbury. 2018. Introducing social theory. Third Edition. Cambridge: Polity Press.
4. Ralph Tench, Dejan Verčič, Ansgar Zerfass, Ángeles Moreno & Piet Verhoeven. 2017. Communication Excellence: How to Develop, Manage and Lead Exceptional Communication. London: Palgrave Macmillan.

**Required activities:**

Student should attend on all lectures and seminars. For each lecture should read required literature and prepare a position paper on one page. For each seminar should read a required literature from the field and discuss main topics.

**Final exam - guidelines:**

The four-hour essay exam consists of four questions focusing on the sources on the required reading list. Students will be expected not only to show a command of information contained in the required reading, but also to articulate their own comments on and interpretations of this information.

Each of the four essays is graded separately. To pass the exam the students must answer all four questions satisfactorily (receiving at least 6 points on the 10-point grading scale). If the answers to three of the four essays are graded 8 points or above, students will be allowed to retake the exam only on the essay that was graded as unsatisfactory (5 points or below).

The final grade is calculated as the average of the four individual grades.