



**International Social Theory Consortium**  
**INSECURITY AND THE ECLIPSE OF ENLIGHTENMENT**

# **PROGRAM**



**Faculty of Education of the Free University of Bolzano-Bozen**  
**Campus Brixen**  
**Viale Ratisbona, 16 - Regensburger Allee 16**  
**39042 Bressanone-Brixen (BZ)**  
**Room 2.04**

Thursday October 26

**12:00-1:00 WELCOMING KEYNOTES: PROLIFERATING INSECURITIES**

Artificial Intelligence, Planetary Sociology, Insecurity, and Social Theory

*Harry F. Dahms, University of Tennessee-Knoxville*

Insecurity, Images and Experience: The Impact of Neoliberal Society on Imaginaries

*Ilaria Riccioni, Free University of Bolzano*

**1:00-2:45 SESSION 1: ONTOLOGICAL UNCERTAINTY**

Chair: Frank Welz, University of Innsbruck

Ontological uncertainty in the Social Domain

*Ludger Jansen, Philosophical-Theological University Brixen*

The Non-Liberal Subject: Challenging 'Ontological Security' in Refugee and Displacement Studies

*Lara E. Farah, York University*

Towards Rethinking the Civilizing Process

*Robert Garot, City University of New York*

**2:45-3:00 Break**

**3:00-5:00 SESSION 2: HABERMAS' *LEGITIMATION CRISIS*: 50 YEARS LATER**

Chair: Patrick Mahoney, University College Cork

Legitimation Crisis and Ecological Crisis

*Roderick Condon, Trinity College Dublin, the University of Dublin*

The Crisis of Legitimate Expertise

*Stephen Turner, University of South Florida*

Legitimation Crises Today

*William Outhwaite, Newcastle University*

Late Capitalism in Adorno and Habermas

*Harry F. Dahms, University of Tennessee - Knoxville*

**Thursday October 26 (continued)**

**5:00-5:30      SESSION 3: SOCIAL THEORY, POLITICS, AND MEDIA**

Chair: Harry F. Dahms, University of Tennessee - Knoxville

Manufacturing Consent in Germany

*Philipp Seeber, University of Innsbruck*

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**Friday October 27**

**8:30-10:15      SESSION 4: THE ECLIPSE OF ENLIGHTENMENT AND EPISTEMIC INSECURITY**

Chair: Krešimir Žažar, University of Zagreb

Authenticity, and Artificial Intelligence: Queer Critique and Epistemic Instability

*Kevin Amidon, Fort Hays State University*

Epistemic Insecurity, Critical Theory, and Communicative Reasoning

*Patrick O'Mahony, University College Cork*

Eclipse of Enlightenment and Decivilization: The Case of Work

*Adele Bianco, University "G. d'Annunzio" Chieti-Pescara*

**10:15-10:30      Break**

**10:30-11:45      SESSION 5: REVISITING FRANKFURT SCHOOL CRITICAL THEORY**

Chair: Stephen Turner, University of South Florida

From Class Structure to Ontological Insecurities: Toward the Phenomenologization of Critical Theory

*Frank Welz*

Toward a 'Better' Society?

*Lauren Langman, Loyola University, Chicago*

**Friday October 27 (continued)**

**11:45-12:45 Lunch**

**12:45-2:30 SESSION 6: TECHNICAL SYSTEMS, RATIONALITY, AND LUHMANN**

Chair: Daniel Krier, Iowa State University

Insecurity and Social Complexity

*Dániel Havrančík, Eötvös Loránd University*

Insecurity and Niklas Luhmann's Concept of Career

*Bettina Mahlert, University of Innsbruck*

Freedom of Scientific Inquiry and Democracy – In the Search for Proper Balance

*Krešimir Žažar, University of Zagreb*

**2:30-2:45 Break**

**2:45-4:30 SESSION 7: INSECURITY BETWEEN PHILOSOPHY AND POLITICS**

Chair: Ilaria Riccioni, Free University of Bolzano

On Moral Ambiguity in Humanitarianism

*Egor Novikov, Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies*

The State, Normativity, Experts and the Political

*Rafal Pawel Wierzchoslawski, Adam Mickiewicz University Poznań*

Raymond Aron's Concept of Liberty

*Christopher Adair-Toteff, University of South Florida*

**4:30-4:45 Break**

**Friday October 27 (continued)**

**5:00-6:30      SESSION 8: EDUCATION, ENVIRONMENT, AND HISTORY**

Chair: Harry F. Dahms, University of Tennessee - Knoxville

Sociopsychological Dynamics of the Higher Education Crisis

*Joel Crombez, Kennesaw State University*

Climate Change in the Anthropocene: A Problem of and for Higher Education

*Alex Stoner, Northern Michigan University*

“Where Are We in History?” – Theology, “Transcendence” and Critical Ontology of Representations in the 21st Century

*Reha Kadakal, California State University – Channel Islands*

A Constellation for Political Ecology

*Thomas Bechtold, Onondaga Community College*

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**Saturday October 28**

**8:30-10:15      SESSION 9: REASON, RATIONALITY, AND THE ECLIPSE OF ENLIGHTENMENT**

Chair: Christopher Adair-Toteff, University of South Florida

Liminality, States of Exception, and the Problem of Enlightenment

*Arpad Szakolczai, University College Cork*

Rationalism in Here to Stay

*Jean-Louis Fabiani, Central European University*

Meta-Modeling of Techno-Social Routines as (In)Security Praxes: From 'Entitarian' Participation to 'Plural Performativity,'

*Patrizia Sergio, University of Tartu (Estonia)*

**10:15-10:30      Break**

**Saturday October 28**

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**10:30-12:30 SESSION 10: AUTHOR MEETS CRITICS – STEPHEN TURNER’S *MAD HAZARD: A LIFE IN SOCIAL THEORY***

Chair: Daniel Krier, Iowa State University

The Observant Observer: Stephen Turner Writing about Himself  
*Matteo Bortolini, University of Padua*

Three Takes on Mad Hazard: Classical Sociologists as a Life Project, the Historiography of Sociology, and the Democratic Rule of Law  
*Álvaro Morcillo Laiz, Central European University*

The silver lining in the clouds: Stephen Turner's life experience in social research  
*Iliaria Riccioni, Free University of Bolzano*

Per ardua ad Florida  
*William Outhwaite, Newcastle University*

Reply  
*Stephen Turner, University of South Florida*

**12:30-1:30 CLOSING KEYNOTE AND FINAL DISCUSSION: TAKING ACCOUNT**

**Security, Reason and Theology**  
*Daniel Krier, Iowa State University*

**1:15 Buffet**