

PUBLIC LECTURE BY SUSAN BUCK-MORSS

A PHILOSOPHICAL DISSOLUTION OF HISTORY: THE MYTH OF YEAR 1

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21, 2023
6 PM, CENTRAL BUILDING, C40.256

Dissolving the history of 'origin' stories means unravelling of modernity's myth about itself. National/religious/cultural traditions are exclusionary histories. Against these conventions of the ownership of slices of historical time, I argue for a communist inheritance of the past.

Hosted by the DFG Research Training Group 'Cultures of Critique', the Center for Critical Studies (CCS), and the Research Initiative 'The Disruptive Condition', Leuphana University Lüneburg

Leuphana University Lüneburg
Universitätsallee 1
21335 Lüneburg

ORGANIZATION

LECTURE

Anne Gräfe, Erich Hörl, Susanne Leeb,
Liza Mattutat, Ben Trott

INTERNAL WORKSHOPS

'The Disruptive Condition': Anne Gräfe, Erich Hörl
DFG Research Training Group 'Cultures of Critique':
Susanne Leeb, Liza Mattutat

COORDINATION

Catharina Berents Kemp



DFG Deutsche
Forschungsgemeinschaft

LEUPHANA
UNIVERSITY OF LÜNEBURG

CENTER FOR CRITICAL
STUDIES (CCS)

+ RESEARCH INITIATIVE
'THE DISRUPTIVE CONDITION' +

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SUSAN BUCK- MORSS

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HOSTED BY THE DFG RESEARCH TRAINING GROUP 'CULTURES OF CRITIQUE', THE CENTER FOR CRITICAL STUDIES (CCS), AND THE RESEARCH INITIATIVE 'THE DISRUPTIVE CONDITION', LEUPHANA UNIVERSITY LÜNEBURG

JUNE 21 – 22, 2023

LECTURE + INTERNAL WORKSHOPS

INTERNAL WORKSHOP THE DISRUPTIVE CONDITION

Wednesday, June 21, 2023

With Erich Hörl and the members of the Research Initiative 'The Disruptive Condition' in dialogue with Susan Buck-Morss

Unconstrained by the profit-seeking relations of capitalism, university research is transformed by the internet. Capitalist relations produce frightening scenarios of cyber-control of populations. The university is not under its spell. Here the freedom for knowledge is (and must remain) protected, while the ethics of our work is (and must remain) of the highest standard. The capacity for individual and collective work has expanded globally, providing equal access to information and liberating knowledge from the confines of disciplines and national traditions. The 'Disruptive Condition' understood positively is a dissolution of bounded knowledge in both space and time, and it portends the liberation of the *Geisteswissenschaften*. This is a most exciting time. Opposed to the 'amputation' of the past (and the future) as practiced by the 'feed-forward' loops of AI, we are free to take a tiger's leap into other, discontinuous times/spaces. The situation calls on us to rejuvenate our mimetic capacities of translation of non-similarities. What is the planetary future for the *Geisteswissenschaften* when *Kultur* is not bounded by time or space, by language or identity? What would Walter Benjamin have done with a personal computer as his means of production, and the internet as his Bibliothèque nationale?

INTERNAL WORKSHOP HEGEL AND HAITI: CRITIQUE OF ENLIGHTENMENT PHILOSOPHY BEYOND APOLOGIA AND CONDEMNATION

Thursday, June 22, 2023

With PhD candidates of the DFG Research Training Group 'Cultures of Critique' and Susan Buck-Morss

When Susan Buck-Morss's essay 'Hegel and Haiti' appeared in *Critical Inquiry* in 2000, it stirred public excitement far beyond academia. In retrospect, this essay turns out to be a starting point for a broad discussion of the hidden historical influences on enlightenment philosophy, on the one hand, and its highly problematic racist and colonial legacy, on the other. While contemporary discussions are often polarizing, Buck-Morss proposes in her essay an ambivalent assessment of Hegel and his philosophical contributions. Hegel, she argues, achieved at least glimpses of a truly global perspective, by interpreting the Saint-Domingue slave revolt as a manifestation of universal freedom, but he nevertheless remained wedded to racist patterns of thought. In the workshop, we will reread the essay 'Hegel and Haiti' against the backdrop of debates on cancel culture in academia. With Susan Buck-Morss we will discuss different critical approaches to the contested legacy of the Enlightenment. How should we deal with this heritage? How can we take the historical situatedness of philosophy and theory into account without completing them of any responsibility? What hermeneutical strategies can help us in our critical assessments?

SUSAN BUCK-MORSS

is Distinguished Professor of Political Theory at the CUNY Graduate Center, NYC, where she is a core faculty member of the Committee on Globalization and Social Change. She is Professor Emeritus in the Government Department of Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. She is the author of numerous books including *Year 1: A Philosophical Recounting* (2021), *Revolution Today* (2019), *Hegel, Haiti, and Universal History* (2009), *The Dialectics of Seeing: Walter Benjamin and the Arcades Project* (1989) and *The Origin of Negative Dialectics: Theodor W. Adorno, Walter Benjamin, and the Frankfurt Institute* (1977).