

Identity of Europe
Changing Concepts in a Changing World

IUC Dubrovnik, Sept 14-18, 2020

Course directors:

Goran Gretić, University of Zagreb, Croatia

Wolfgang Heuer, Free University of Berlin, Germany

Vlasta Jalušič, Peace Institute, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Zoran Kurelić, University of Zagreb, Croatia

Waltraud Meints-Stender, University of Applied Sciences Niederrhein, Germany

Cristina Sánchez, Autonomous University of Madrid, Spain

Course description:

This course aims to strengthen the awareness of how the use and changes of political concepts affect our ability to comprehend some of the main contemporary social and political challenges. Researching basic concepts in politics requires epistemological perspective facilitating access to political phenomena and experience on which these concepts are based.

The course program and lecturers will work on building such epistemological framework, while critically engaging with clusters of concepts that are crucial for the development of critical political thinking in the 21st century and for understanding of contemporary post-totalitarian processes. Among these might be: the break with socialism/communism and its consequences, the emergence and decline of revolutionary and emancipatory movements at the end of millennium, the withdrawal of the liberal-democratic political model, the return of totalitarian tendencies in Europe and elsewhere, the burning issues of truth in/and politics, the rise of new racism and new global divisions, the problems of nation-states and sovereignty, the increased numbers of refugees, the criminalization of migration, and the rise of the global climate justice movements.

Papers and presentations will also be dedicated to specific authors or conceptual schools while addressing their similarities, differences and explanatory perspectives. Moreover, the idea is to discuss, reframe and re-describe some selected political concepts in an original theoretical and for political practice relevant way. Single concepts will be addressed along the ways of their forming, situating and translating in various discursive practices and also in multilingual contexts.

Program

MON 14/9

10.00 – 12.00

Zoran Kurelić, University of Zagreb, Croatia

How Much (Post-)Truth does a Democracy Need? - Science in the Corona EU

Lana Zdravkovic, Peace Institute, Ljubljana, Slovenia

The concept of emancipation as political action

TUE 15/9

10.00 – 12.00

Toni Čerkez, PhD candidate, Aberystwyth University / **Martin Gramc**, Peace Institute, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Virus and Biopolitics: A View from the Body

Gorazd Kovačič, University of Ljubljana, Slovenia - **online**

Arendt's intervention in the liberal tradition of the concept of society

WED 16/9

10.00 – 12.00

Vlasta Jalušič, Peace Institute, Ljubljana, Slovenia

Arendt, Koselleck and »begreifen«: thinking political concepts in times of »crisis«

Jerneja Brumen, PhD candidate, Slovenian Academy of Sciences. Scientific Research Centre - **online**

Could “the banality of the ecocide” be an Arendtian concept? A discussion

THU 17/9

10.00 – 12.00

Waltraud Meints-Stender, University of Applied Sciences Niederrhein, Germany - **online**
Rethinking the Concept of “The People”

Ringo Rösener, University of Leipzig, Germany - **online**

Understanding Isolation and Conspiracy Theories with Hannah Arendt's "Ideology and Terror”

FRI 18/9

10.00 – 13.00

Wolfgang Heuer, Free University of Berlin, Germany - **online**

“Tianxia / All Under Heaven” or “To be in the world”? - China and the Crisis of Liberalism

Iana Lepetiukhina, RWTH Aachen, Germany

Indignant spectator and angry actor. Hannah Arendt’s reflections on rage, indignation and anger

Mirt Komel, University of Ljubljana, Peace Institute – **online**

“To act or not to act”: Arendt, Hegel, and Shakespeare