

MARCH 29 • 9:00AM – 6:30PM • FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
HUMANITIES CENTER • CONFERENCE ROOM D •
RUSH RHEES LIBRARY • UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER

THE CLIMATE OF CRITICAL THEORY: ECONOMIES AND ECOLOGIES TODAY

Occasioned by the centennial of the Institute for Social Research, this interdisciplinary symposium will reassess the legacy of the Frankfurt School of Critical Theory and its ongoing relevance for addressing issues ranging from the future of work to the politics of climate catastrophe.

Sponsored by the Humanities Center, the Susan B. Anthony Institute for Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies, the Departments of English, History, Modern Languages and Cultures, Anthropology, the Graduate Program in Visual Cultural Studies, and the Film and Media Studies Program.

Scan QR code to view the full program:



Please contact Jonathon Catlin (@jcatlin4@ur.rochester.edu) with any questions.

Symposium: “The Climate of Critical Theory: Economies and Ecologies Today”

March 29, 2024

Location: Conference Room D, Humanities Center, Rush Rhees Library, University of Rochester

2023 marked the centennial of the founding of the Institute for Social Research, also known as the Frankfurt School of Critical Theory. This multidisciplinary day-long symposium will bring together scholars working across different traditions of critical theory, broadly conceived, to discuss the history and legacy of the Frankfurt School and its relevance for ongoing social issues ranging from the future of work to the politics of climate catastrophe.

8:30 – Light breakfast served

9–9:15 – Welcome and Introduction on “The Frankfurt School at 101”

Jonathon Catlin (Rochester)

9:15–11 – Panel 1 – Historical climates: Critical theory in its time, and ours

Chair: Jonathon Catlin

John Abromeit (Buffalo State) – Frankfurt School Critical Theory and the Resurgence of Right-Wing Populism

Katie Terezakis (RIT) – The Budapest School on Liberal Democracy and other Critical Illusions

Paul Fleming (Cornell) – Marcuse and Us

11–11:30 – Coffee break

11:30–1:15 – Panel 2 – Theoretical climates: Critical theory today

Chair: Joel Burges

Jeta Mulaj (Toronto Metropolitan) – Immanent Critique: Marxism and Critical Theory

Lisa Cerami (Rochester) – The Frankfurt School and Campus Activism

Chris O’Kane (St. John’s University) – The Critical Theory of Social Domination and the Critique of Political Economy

1:15–2:15 – Lunch break

2:15–4:00 – Panel 3 – Economic climates: Labor and social reproduction

Chair: Lisa Cerami

Kirstin Munro (The New School – presenting virtually) – Lost Insights of the Domestic Labour Debates for a Critical Theory of Capitalist Social Reproduction

Joel Burges (Rochester) – The Horror of Stagnation: At Work in *Atlantics* and *Magic Mike*

Aaron Benanav (Syracuse) – Work, Workers, and the Future of Technological Change

4–4:30 – Coffee break

4:30–6:30 – **Keynote roundtable: Critical theory in the face of ecological catastrophe**

Chair: Jonathon Catlin

Matt Huber (Syracuse) – Climate Change as Class War

Jodi Dean (Hobart and William Smith) – Climate Leninism and Economic Transition

Caroline Levine (Cornell) – The Activist Humanist: Form and Method in the Climate Crisis

In dialogue with Holly Watkins (Rochester)

Sponsors: Humanities Center, Department of English, Department of History, Department of Modern Languages and Cultures, Department of Anthropology, Graduate Program in Visual & Cultural Studies, Film and Media Studies Program, Susan B. Anthony Institute for Gender, Sexuality, and Women's Studies

Organizers: Jonathon Catlin (Humanities Center) and Joel Burges (English and VCS).

Please contact Jonathon Catlin with any questions or (optionally) to RSVP at jcatlin4@ur.rochester.edu