

ISTC 2015



14th Annual Conference of the
International Social Theory Consortium
Cambridge, UK, June 17-19, 2015

RECONSTRUCTING SOCIAL THEORY, HISTORY AND PRACTICE


Welcome to the 2015 meeting of the International Social Theory Consortium at the University of Cambridge, June 17-19, 2015. The central theme of this year's meeting is 'Reconstruction', dedicated to interrogating the contributions and limits of 'deconstruction' and the possibilities of a return of history.

Are there limits to the deconstruction project, and have these limits been reached? What are the possibilities for the 'reconstruction' of narratives of long-term historical change? Is it possible to include and integrate the insights and contributions of critiques of knowledge, while at the same time developing new forms of knowledge? Can we submit the project of deconstruction itself to deconstruction?

In addition, we continue the ISTC's tradition of encouraging discussion across the entire range of topics under the general heading of social theory across disciplines in the humanities and social sciences.

Conference hosts:

ISTC
International Social
Theory Consortium

 **UNIVERSITY OF
CAMBRIDGE**
Faculty of Human, Social
and Political Science

Supporters:

Cambridge Political Economy
Society Trust
www.cpes.org.uk

Current Perspectives
in Social Theory

British Sociological Association
*Theory Study Group &
Hist-Comp Study Group*

Cambridge Society for
Economic Pluralism
www.pluralism.org

The King's Review
www.kingsreview.co.uk

Wednesday 17 June 2015

9:30-10:00 – Registration, Mill Lane Lecture Rooms

Wednesday 17 June – 10:00-11:30

A Social Theory and the History of Social Thought

- Joel Crombez *The Radically Uncertain Subject: Psychoanalysis and the Method of Theory*
Arya Priya *It is Time to Revisit the Past: Exploring the Significance of Theory Building and Meta-Narratives in Sociology*
Daniel Fairbrother *Niche construction theory for social theorists: an evolutionary argument for the historicity of social explanation*

B Theorizing Beyond Boundaries

- Roxanne Burke *Race in Modernity: The Dialectic of Possession and Dispossession*
Jasmine Wallace *Border Thinking Power: Reconstructing Genealogy Beyond the Border*
Sakin Erin *The Dialectic of Settlers and Aliens: Understanding the Perception of Islam in the United States*

C Interpretation and Critique in Social Theory

- Eraldo Souza dos Santos *Critical models and normative priorities – The Crypto-normativity Contest in the Critical Theory*
Eric Sons *Post social Reconstruction by a Grounded Theory of Sculpting*
Roderick Condon *Suggestions for a Reconstruction of Habermas' Colonization Thesis from the Perspective of Cognitive Social Theory*

[Coffee break]

Wednesday 17 June – 11:45-1:15

A Social Theory in the Neoliberal Age

- Jaanika Erne *On Alternative(s) to Neoliberal Globalization*
Steven Panageotou *Nobody can hear you. Nobody cares about you. Nothing will come of this': Understanding the Legislative Process through House of Cards and Fiction*
Sam Han *Between Democracy and Civility: Dialogue, Media and the "new" Cultural Sociology*

B Social Theory and Transgression

- Kyle Letteney *Reconceptualizing Criminality through Depersonalized Superego: Marcusean Notions of Repressive Civilizations*
Yuki Nakamura *A Reformulation of Nonautonomous and Autonomous Evil*
Heidi Rademacher *Reconstructing Theories of Global Interaction: Transnational Flows & Travels of Cultural Ideologies, Policy, & Praxis*

C International and Alternative Perspectives in Social Theory

- Rosie Barron *Advocating with ambivalence: using alternative stories to speak about the 'alternative'*
Katy Harsant *Reconstructing Histories of the United Nations*
Zonghai Chen *What China Wants and How China Does: The Political Pursuits and Knowing-and-Doing Mode of China's Struggle*

1:30-2:30 Lunch at the University Centre

Wednesday 17 June – 2:30-3:45**A Welcome Address and Keynote**

Harry F. Dahms *Reconstructing the Artifice: Social Theory between Modern Society and the Logic of Capital*

[Coffee break]

Wednesday 17 June – 4:00-5:45**A Social Theory between Deconstruction and Reconstruction**

Dave Elder-Vass *Reconstructing Social Construction*
 Colm J. Kelly *After Deconstruction: Derrida and Social Theory*
 Niamh Mulcahy *Reconstructing Real Consequences From Consumer Credit Risk Models*

B Modes of Theorizing

Doran, Nob *Beyond Phenomenological Anti-sociologies: Foucault's "Care of his Self" as Standpoint Sociology*
 Vrettos *Reconstructing Social Theory through Institutions and Cognition*
 Konstantinos
 Daniel Krier *Reconstructing Economic Theologies of Capitalism: Agamben and Weber*

C Social Theory and the Persistence of Hierarchies and Inequality

Rafał *Milieu Analysis and the Experts Studies*
 Wierzbosławski
 Ryne Clos *Deconstruction, Peace Building and Social Justice*
 Morteza Hashemi *Revision of Ulrich Beck's Risk Society after Charlie Hebdo*

Wednesday 17 June – 6:00-7:00**A Keynote address**

Tony Smith *The Political Economy of Debt and the Present Moment of World History*

Supper at the University Centre – Drinks to follow at The Mill.**Thursday 18 June 2015****Thursday 18 June – 9:00-10:30****A Reconstructing Social Theory and Social Inquiry**

Justin Cruickshank *Reconstruction and the Problem of Dialogue*
 Stephen Kemp *Reconstructing Social Inquiry: Moving Beyond the Objective/Subjective Division*
 Martin Savransky *The Care of Knowledge: Social Theory and Ethical Reconstruction*

B Identity and History

Rajesh Misra *Interjection of 'History' in Narratives of Political Struggles vis-à-vis the State*
 Behrooz Moazami *Can We Reconstruct Identities?*
 Tony O'Connor *Historicity, Liminality and the Constitution of the Public Sphere*

C Returning to the Sources of Social Critique

John Abromeit *Reconsidering the Critical Historicism of the Early Max Horkheimer*
 Andrew Buchwalter *Rational Reconstruction in Hegel's Social Theory*
 Tobias *Reconstructing the Founding Figures of Sociology*
 Schlechtriemen

[Coffee Break]

Thursday 18 June – 10:45-12:15**A Social Theory and the Disciplines**

John Holmwood *Economics and Sociology as mutually constituted disciplines; a problem in reconstruction*
 Véronique Mottier *Disciplining and Un-Disciplining Feminist Theory*
 Eric Royal Lybeck *Reconstructing the Origins of Sociology in Law*

B With Sociology, Beyond Sociology

Zohreh Bayatrizi *Committing Sociology in a Fragmented World*
 Natalie Byfield *Lyrical Sociology: A New Turn in the Field? Can it Provide a Third Way Beyond the Meta-Narratives in Sociology?*
 Pedro Martins *The Sociologist and the Labyrinth: what happens when objects of study become analytical perspectives?*
 De Menezes

C Social Theory, Science, and Knowledge

A. Akintunde *E-waste Merchandise and the Reconstruction of the Throwaway Society*
 & A. O. Omobowale *Theory*
 Gennaro Ascione *Reconstructing the Global: History of Science and the Sociological Imagination*
 Vijay Kumar Mehra *Idea, Matter, and Society. A synthesis of physics & social science*

Thursday 18 June – 12:15-1:15**A Keynote address**

Bhambra, Gurinder *Theory for a Global Age: Postcolonial and Decolonial Reconstructions*

1:30-2:30 Lunch at the University Centre**Thursday 18 June – 2:30-4:00****A Social Theory and Philosophy**

Daniel Chernilo *The idea of philosophical sociology*
 Matteo Bortolini *"Whoever goes in search of humans will find acrobats." Reconstructing a Theory of Practice Beyond Pierre Bourdieu*
 and Martina Visentin
 Juan-Pablo *Missing the social: Rancière and the reconstruction of critique beyond the logic of inversion*
 Rodriguez

B Capitalism between Alienation, Bureaucracy, and the World System

Matthew Flynn *Bureaucratic Capitalism and the Immigration Detention Complex*
 Chun Felix Huang *World System, State, and Japan's Modern History--Karatani, Wallerstein, and Reconstruction of Marxism*
 Sarah Demart *Academia and "postcolonial debate" -- social construction of Belgian research on Congo and Congolese*

C The Future of Critical Theory -- A Discussion

James Block
 Harry F. Dahms
 Lauren Langman
 Michael Thompson

[Coffee Break]

Thursday 18 June – 4:15-5:45**A Plenary Panel - Chair: Gurminder Bhambra****Black Reconstruction: Thinking through DuBois for our Contemporary Times**

Kehinde Andrews *Black reconstruction in Britain: The centrality of Black agency in reconstructing historical narratives*
 Les Back *W.E.B. Du Bois and De-Segregating the Sociological Imagination*
 Alana Lentini *Thinking blackly about antiracism and the white left after Charlie Hebdo*

Thursday 18 June – 6:00-7:00**A Keynote Address**

Lois McNay *Feminism as Critique*

Supper and drinks at The Castle Inn, 8 Castle Street, City Centre, Cambridge CB3 0AJ**Friday June 19 2015****Friday 19 June – 9:00-10:30****A Theorizing the Past and Present Role of the State . . . and its Future**

Viviane Brachet-
 Márquez *The Reconstruction of State Formation as State and Society Formation*
 E. Stina Lyon *Theoretical Reconstruction for Welfare State Democracy: “Third Way”
 Sociology as the Art of the Possible.*
 William Outhwaite *Reconstructive Science and the European Constitution*

B Humans, Hierarchies, Humanism

Francois Debrix *Dismantling Bodies, Severing Heads: Deconstruction Hors Texte and the
 Question of Humanity*
 Kieran Durkin *Reclaiming Humanism: Radical Humanism and the Dialectical Supersession
 of the Anti-Humanist Paradigm*
 Brian C. J. Singer *Michel Freitag: The Last Hierarchical Thinker?*

C Mediation, Reconstruction, and Ontology

Kevin Amidon *Reconstructing the Risk-Pooled Subject: Politics after the Vanishing Sacrifice*
 Stephen Shirlaw *The three micro-dynamics of sociocultural life : a hypothesis for bridge
 building and reconstruction in social theory*
 Raymond Aaron
 Younis *On the Limits, Horizons and Possibilities of Critique (On Reconstruction)*

[Coffee Break]

Friday 19 June – 10:45-12:15**A Critique in Rousseau to Marcuse**

Jim Block *Rousseau and History as the Unfolding of Eros*
 Lauren Langman *Domination and Subjectivity: From One Dimensional Man to Multi
 Dimensional Humanity*
 Michael Thompson *Creating Post-Liberal Man: Rousseau’s Contribution to Critical Theory*

B The Persistence of Critique in Social Theory

Charlie Masquelier *Unity in diversity: Narrating critique and resistance in a neoliberal age*
 Simon Susen *Critical Theory and Time: Towards a New Historiography?*
 Frank Welz *The Matter of Critique: From Deconstruction to Reconstruction*

C Colonialism and Resistance

Athanasia Chalari *Reconsidering Resistance: Mediating between Resistance and Internal
 Conversation about resistance*
 Clive Gabay *Recovering a decolonial genealogy: The Anarchism of Gustav Landauer
 (1870-1919)*
 Jack Palmer *“Connected Sociologies”, Colonialism and Genocide*

Friday 19 June – 12:15-1:15**A Keynote Address**

Sarah Franklin *The Academy as a Means of Reproduction*

1:30-2:30 Lunch at the University Centre**Friday 19 June – 2:45-4:15****A Author-Meets-Critics: Patrick Baert's *The Existentialist Moment: The Rise of Sartre as a Public Intellectual***

Matteo Bortolini David Inglis Simon Susen Stephen Turner Patrick Baert

B Environment and Capitalism: Life and Death

Stan Knapp *Weber & Levinas on Modernity & Prob. of Suffering: Reconstr. Social Theory
 via Exploring Temporality of Rationality*
 Sean Dunne *Deconstructing Natural Death: Reconstructing Death as a Socioecological
 Outcome*
 Alex Stoner *Toward an Immanent Critique of Contemporary Environmentalism:
 Reconstructing Theory and Practice in an Age of Helplessness*

C Modern Societies between Luhmann and Complexity Theory

Ralf Rogowski *Law in the social theory of Niklas Luhmann*
 John Rundell *Multiple modernities or modernities in tension? Theorising the complexity of
 modern societies*
 Kosuke Sakai *Luhmann, Sociological semantic analysis, and historical study of the welfare
 state*

[Coffee Break]

Friday 19 June – 4:30-5:30

A Keynote address

Timothy Luke

*Swirling Skies, Sunk in the Seas, Stirring Soils, Set in the Stones:
Reconstructing Social Theory around the Anthropocene?*

Friday 19 June – 5:30-6:30

A Keynote address

Stephen Turner

The Method of Antinomies: Weber, Mouffe, and others

Friday 19 June – 6:30-7:00

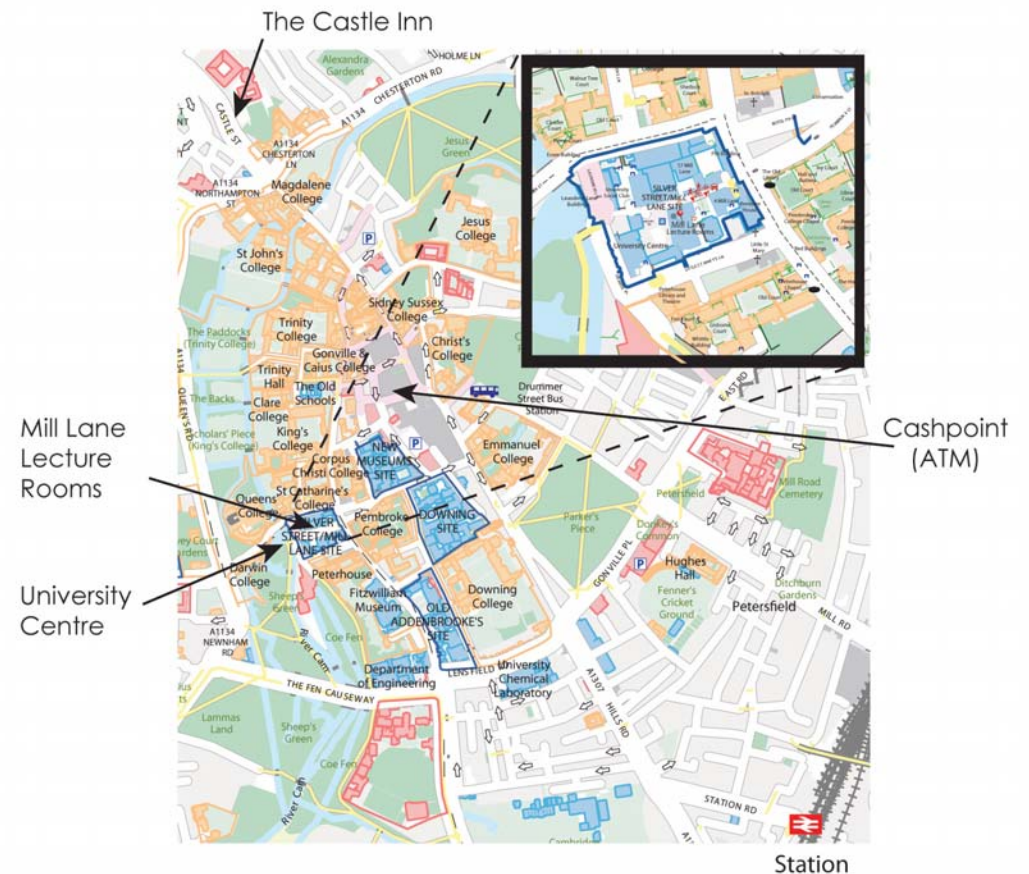
A Closing Discussion

Saturday 20 June 2015

Saturday 20 June – 11:00-3:00

Walk through Grantchester Meadows to The Orchard for tea, coffee, scones, etc.

Meet in front of the University Centre at 11:00.



- The conference will take place at the **Mill Lane Lecture Rooms**.
- Lecture Room A - Room 9
- Lecture Room B - Room 5
- Lecture Room C - Room 6
- Coffee and Tea will be served in Room 7
- We will have lunch all three dates and supper on 17 June at **The University Centre**, which accepts cash or card
- On 17 June we will go to The Mill next to the University Centre for drinks
- On 18 June we will go to The Castle Inn for supper and drinks
- On Saturday, 20 June we will walk from the University Centre to Grantchester at 11am for lunch around 1pm.

Please call, or better, text Eric Lybeck if you have questions: 07768 109998