

# ISTC 2025 --PROGRAM

THURSDAY, 19 JUNE, 2025

<b>Welcome</b> 9:00-9:30	<b>Reality Lost? How to (Re)Capture an Increasingly Elusive World</b> Harry F. Dahms
<b>Session 1</b> 9:30-10:45	<b>Civilization &amp; Enlightenment</b> <i>Moderator:</i> Harry F. Dahms Adele Bianco                      Sociological basic concepts lost? How to reformulate West, Civilization, and Rationality in the 21st Century Charles Gattone                      Seeking Wisdom in the Shadow of the Enlightenment Anthony L. Haynor                      Productive Theorizing About Civilizational Change: In Search of a Method
<b>Session 2</b> 11:00-12:15	<b>Complexity &amp; Relationality</b> <i>Moderator:</i> Daniel Krier James Dowd                      Gerontophobia: Aging as a Complex Cultural Object Christian Morgner                      Reality Refigured: Relational Meaning-Making and the Elusiveness of Society Richard Weiner                      Starting from Multiple Equilibria: Studying Emergent Complexity in Liquid Modernity
<b>Session 3</b> 12:30-1:45	<b>Environment I</b> <i>Moderator:</i> Krešimir Žažar Thomas Burns                      Re-Grounding Theory & Some Implications for Reconnecting with the Natural Environment in Late Modernity Eugene Halton                      Aliveness Surpasses Reflection: Biophilia and the Balance of Affirmative Mind and Rational Mind Nadya Vera                      Vitacide via Food: The Overt and Covert Effects of Industrial Animal Agriculture
<b>Session 4</b> 2:00-3:45	<b>Artificial Intelligence</b> <i>Moderator:</i> Stelios Panageotou Joel Crombez                      Algorithmic Atrophy: A Theory of Post-Ingenuity Society C. Shane Elliott                      Towards Fixed Points for Relative Sociology Reha Kadakal                      AI and the Ontology of Social Being: Toward a Phenomenology of Digitally Mediated Consciousness Hugo Neri/Veridiana Cordeiro                      The Algorithmic Leviathan: AI as the New Social Contract for Common Sense*

FRIDAY, 20 JUNE, 2025

<b>Session 5</b> <b>9:00-10:45</b>	<b>Reality, Research, and Theory</b> Oliver Kozlarek Ilaria Riccioni Arpad Szokolczai Rafal Pawel Wierzchostawski	<i>Moderator:</i> Harry F. Dahms The strange reality of contemporary Social Theory Borders, qualitative research and recapturing social reality Secular Gnostic Eschatology: The loss of reality in the contemporary Reality Lost? Lost Paradise and How to reclaim it? Magic Realism in Politics and the Broken Nation Notes from the presidential electoral battle field in Poland.
<b>Session 6</b> <b>11:00-12:15</b>	<b>Art &amp; Imaginary</b> Albert L. C. de Farias Patrick O'Mahony C. Schlembach/S. Ungersböck	<i>Moderator:</i> Ilaria Riccioni On the Epistemic Genesis of Social Theory from Aesthetics in the Context of Theoretical Philosophy* The Social Imaginary and Imagined Future: Critical Hermeneutics and Critical Theory Time, Work, and Art: Reconstructing the Relationship between Modes of Consciousness by the Multiple Realities Framework of Alfred Schütz
<b>Session 7</b> <b>12:30-1:45</b>	<b>Constructs</b> Anthony J. Knowles Daniel Krier Stelios Panageotou	<i>Moderator:</i> Krešimir Žažar Assessing the “Lost Realities” of Globalization and the Green Economy Spectacle, Simulacra, Anti-Semitism: Theories of False Society Political Sabotage: Subversive Power in Purportedly Existing Democracy
<b>Session 8</b> <b>2:00-3:15</b>	<b>Constructonism, etc.</b> Thomas Bechtold Dean Curran Daniel Fanta	<i>Moderator:</i> Daniel Krier Veracity to Mendacity: the socio-medical construction of ‘care’ Constructionism as a necessary means to critique or a self-defeating strategy? A proposal for representation as intervention as an alternative means of critiquing the impact of the social sciences Interpretive Sociology and the War
<b>Session 9</b> <b>3:30-4:45</b>	<b>Culture</b> Chasidy Harris Christian Schlaerth WenYi Shen	<i>Moderator:</i> Reha Kadakal From Mutation to Marginalization: The Fear of the Other in Teenage Sci-Fi Films C3: Capitalism, Class, and Community The Repression of Social Theory

**SATURDAY, 21 JUNE, 2025**

<b>Session 10</b>	<b>Environment II</b>	<i>Moderator:</i> Harry F. Dahms
<b>9:00-10:15</b>	Roderick Condon	The Dialectic of Science in the Anthropocene
	Zhoyia Iman	Water challenges in the UK: responsibility & accountability in government-private sector relations
	Alexander Stoner/A.J. Knowles	Understanding Perverse Climate Disavowal: A Directed Qualitative Content Analysis of Technological Fetishism in U.S. Newspaper Articles on A.I. and Climate Change
<b>Session 11</b>	<b>Politics</b>	<i>Moderator:</i> Daniel Krier
<b>10:30-11:45</b>	Tony Allen Feldmann	Conspiracism and Modernity
	Lauren Langman	Right-wing Authoritarianism: The Morbid Symptoms of Today
	Krešimir Žažar	Bridging the Gap of Polarisation: Rebuilding Public Sphere in the Digital Environment of the 21st Century
<b>Session 12</b>	<b>Rorty, MacIntyre, and Beyond</b>	<i>Moderator:</i> Ilaria Riccioni
<b>12:00-1:15</b>	Jerome Braun	Review of Richard Rorty. Pragmatism as Anti-Authoritarianism
	Reiss Kruger	Noble Goals, Broken Tools: Using MacIntyre to Redirect Sociology
	Eric R. Lybeck	Toward a Civic-Process Approach to Civilizational Analysis: from Hegel to Geddes to MacIntyre to Abbott
<b>1:30-3:00</b>	<b>National Conservatism &amp; Concluding Discussion</b>	
<b>Session 13</b>	Robert Antonio	National Conservatism: Our Post-liberal Future?
	Daniel Krier	Closing Comments
	Krešimir Žažar	Closing Comments
	Harry F. Dahms	Closing Comments

\* Accepted but not presented.





