



International Social Theory Consortium

16th Annual Conference

The Future between Progress and Regression:
From Philosophy to Critical Social Science and Back

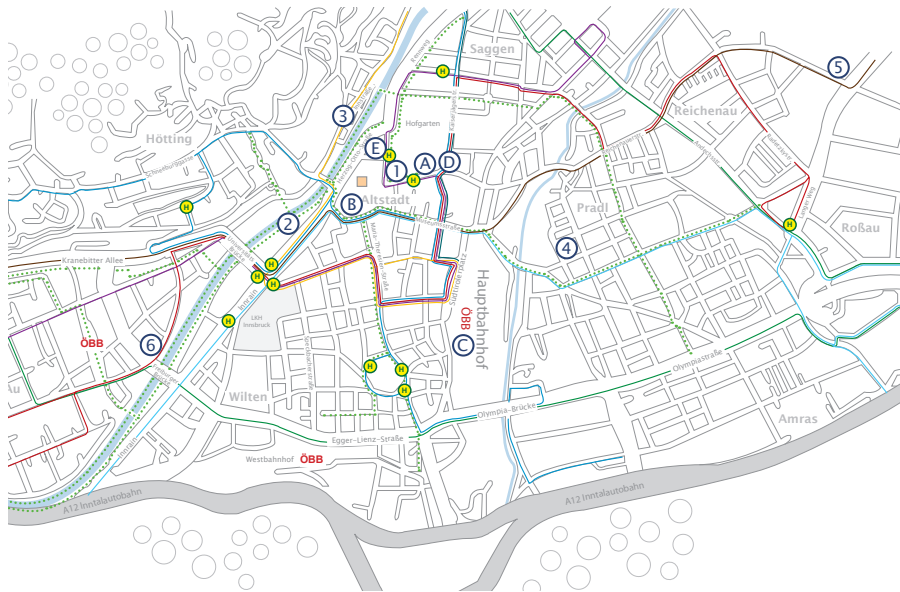
www.socialtheory.org

May 24-26, 2017

Social Theory Centre

University of Innsbruck, Austria

City Map of Innsbruck



- 1) Hotel Grauer Bär (Universitätsstraße 5-7; Sowi Campus)
 - 2) Basic Hotel Innsbruck (Innrain 16)
 - 3) Hotel Engl (Innstraße 22)
 - 4) Hotel Leipziger Hof (Defreggerstraße 13)
 - 5) Jugendherberge Innsbruck / Youth Hostel Innsbruck (Reichenauerstraße 147)
 - 6) Garni-Technikerstraße (Fischnallerstraße 26-28)
- A) SOWI-Campus (Universitätsstraße 15): conference venue
 - B) "Altstadt": Innsbruck's old town
 - C) Main railway station
 - D) Bus stop "Polizeidirektion" (Route 4, R, 502, 504, 502N)
 - E) funicular stop Hungerburgbahn (to Seegrube)

16th Annual Conference The Future between Progress and Regression International Social Theory Consortium (ISTC)



By the beginning of the twenty-first century, it has become "second nature" of sorts for social theorists to be reluctant to address explicitly the future of western societies, capitalism, modern democracy, and human civilization. After postmodernist critics in the social sciences and the humanities had highlighted the affinity between utopianism and forms of totalitarianism, social theorists began to refrain from recognizing as part of their distinguishing responsibility efforts to refine existing and to delineate new perspectives on the future. The emphasis shifted to avoiding the kind of ideations that could be construed to be conducive to the types of socially, politically and economically induced catastrophes as they characterized social, political, and economic change during the twentieth century, in different parts of the world, at different times.

Today, however, under conditions of globalization and neoliberalism, the imminence of change has pushed itself aggressively to the forefront of social-theoretical concerns. The inevitability of change is undeniable, and its centrality to modern civilization increasingly disconcerting. Many working assumptions that informed concerns of social theorists during the twentieth century, and especially since the 1950, have become questionable. Totalitarianism is rearing its ugly head again, on all continents. Popular support for democracy has been on the decline for decades, especially among younger people. Ecological and climate crises demand strategies for addressing intended and unintended consequences that democratic processes and institutions do not appear to be able to develop, not to mention implement. Another wave of automation is taking shape threatening to lead to mass unemployment. The list goes on and on. Thus, the imperative to engage in informed and critically reflexive discourses about the kind of world we will, should, or might live in, continues to intensify rapidly. At the same time, proliferating economic and financial crises appear to lead to greater public and critical awareness. While some interpret these crises as indications of the prospects of revolutionary change „improving society“ (e.g., Occupy Wall Street), many more appear to be drawn to authoritarian "solutions" to imminent problems.

This conference will provide a venue for engaging in interdisciplinary constructive and critical exchange regarding the future – in a field of tensions defined by conflicting forces pushing and pulling for and against progress and regression, utopia and dystopia, social justice and proliferating inequalities.

Important dates & deadlines

Deadline for abstract submission	31.03.2017
Online registration for conference attendance via ConfTool (https://webapp.uibk.ac.at/istc2017/)	21.03.2017-17.05.2017 <i>Early bird:</i> 21.03.2017-17.04.2017
Deadline for hotel reservation	Campus hotel "Grauer Bär": 28.03.2017 Other hotels: 12.04.2017 We highly recommend using the following link https://www.innsbruck.info/en/congress/istc.html , where you can find a list of pre-booked hotels in close vicinity to the conference venue.

Arrival at Innsbruck Airport

Innsbruck Airport offers direct flights to Amsterdam, Frankfurt, London and many more! For further information please see <https://www.innsbruck-airport.com/en>. Bus shuttles or taxis (8 €) take you to the city center within minutes.

Arrival at Munich Airport

How to get from Munich Airport to Innsbruck and back

Bus Transfer

bus shuttle service "Hellö"	https://www.helloe.com/en/	search for "Munich Airport" → "Innsbruck"	final stop: Innsbruck, main railway station (address: Südtiroler Platz 7)
bus shuttle service "FlixBus"	https://www.flixbus.com	search for "Munich Airport" → "Innsbruck Südbahnstraße"	final stop: Innsbruck, main railway station (address: Südtiroler Platz 7)

Shuttle Bus Taxi Transfer

- If you want to book a taxi from Munich Airport to Innsbruck (and back) please see "Tirol Taxi": <https://www.tirol-taxi.at/index.php?hlD=1&lID=1&p=1>.

Train connection

- For further information about the train connection "Munich Airport" → "Innsbruck Hbf" (main railway station; address: Südtiroler Platz 7, 6020 Innsbruck) please check <http://fahrplan.oebb.at/bin/query.exe/en>.

Fr, 26th of May 2017, 6pm-10pm (optional)

ISTC 2017 Closing Event: Social Theory Summit - Conference Dinner at „Seegrube“

To conclude this year's meeting of the International Social Theory Consortium, this event will take place in the mountains high above Innsbruck at „Restaurant Seegrube“, located in the center of the alpine Karwendel Nature Park, at an altitude of 6,250 ft (1920m).

We will be enjoying authentic Tyrolean cuisine, a magnificent view over the picturesque city of Innsbruck, and the stunning alpine scenery surrounding it. Riding the beautiful Hungerburg funicular (designed by star-architect Zaha Hadid) and then taking the Seegrube cable car (built in 1927/1928), we will reach Seegrube. At the request of numerous prospective conference participants, we have organized this shared event.

Please see <http://www.nordkette.com/en/restaurant-seegrube.html> for further information.

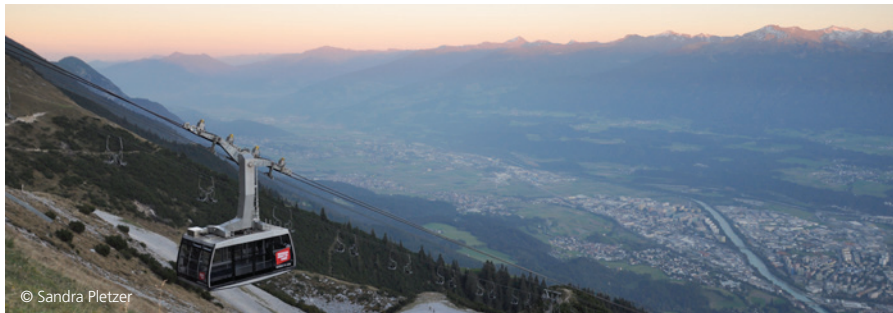
To participate in this amazing experience, select **option A – 24-26 May (complete)** when registering via ConfTool (<https://webapp.uibk.ac.at/istc2017/>). This option includes *conference attendance, funicular/cable car rides, as well as dinner at "Restaurant Seegrube"* (beverages excluded).



Conference fee

Regular	early registrant	normal registrant
option A	100,00 €	120,00 €
option B	50,00 €	70,00 €

Student / Ph.D. Student	early registrant	normal registrant
option A	78,00 €	90,00 €
option B	25,00 €	35,00 €



Contact

Social Theory Centre

School of Social and Political Sciences

Leopold-Franzens University of Innsbruck, Universitätsstr. 15, A-6020 Innsbruck, Austria

phone: +43-512-507 -73405, -73420 (secretary), email: frank.welz@uibk.ac.at

Looking forward to meeting you in the Alps!



Harry F. Dahms
ISTC director, Knoxville



Anna Larl
Conference assistant, Innsbruck



Frank Welz
Conference host, Innsbruck

