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.

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 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 16 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: Marcusian 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
A Welcome Address and Keynote
Harry F. Dahms
Reconstructing the Artifice: Social Theory between Modern Society and the Logic of Capital

[Coffee break]

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
Daniel Krier
Reconstructing Economic Theologies of Capitalism: Agamben and Weber

C Social Theory and the Persistence of Hierarchies and Inequality
Rafal
Milieu Analysis and the Experts Studies
Wierzchoslawski
Deconstruction, Peace Building and Social Justice
Ryne Clos
Revision of Ulrich Beck’s Risk Society after Charlie Hebdo
Mortezah Hashemi

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
Stephan 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
Behroz Moazami
Can We Reconstruct Identities?
Tony O’Connor
Historicity, Liminality and the Constitution of the Public Sphere

A Social Theory and Philosophy
Daniel Chernilo
The idea of philosophical sociology
Matteo Borolini
“Whoever goes in search of humans will find acrobats.” Reflecting a Theory of Practice Beyond Pierre Bourdieu
Juan-Pablo Rodriguez
Missing the social: Rancière and the reconstruction of critique beyond the logic of inversion

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 Lentin 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 19 June 2015

Friday 19 June – 9:00-10:30

A Theorizing the Past and Present Role of the State... and its Future
Viviane Brachet- The Reconstruction of State Formation as State and Society Formation
Márquez
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 – 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.