

Born out of the spirit of 'old' historical materialism, Critical Theory has often – and paradoxically – been viewed as taking an excessive distance towards the materiality of the world. By understanding itself as a post-metaphysical continuation of the incomplete project of enlightened modernity, it has largely anchored its emancipatory horizon in intersubjective practices of rational communication, recognition and justification. Yet this view is being challenged today. Via the foregrounding of concepts such as resonance, affect, life and force, questions of materiality and ontology have regained prominence. Traditional conceptions of human and non-human nature have been rethought, with significant implications for political practice and critique. But Critical Theory is not alone in this. A similar shift towards ontologies of nature, matter, life, and affect has taken place in recent post-structuralist debates. In a parallel move, 'new materialist' theories have argued against restrictive and hierarchical dualisms which largely shaped modern thought: matter versus life, biological versus symbolic life, or affectivity versus rationality. Acknowledging their similarities as well as their differences, this conference aims at establishing a dialogue between these intellectual currents which so far have developed in a safe distance from one another, exploring their implications for ecological, political, aesthetic and gender issues.

If you are interested, please register with  
Ilona.Bode@uni-erfurt.de.

#### ORGANIZERS

Prof. Hartmut Rosa, Max Weber Kolleg, Erfurt  
Dr. Arthur Bueno, Max Weber Kolleg, Erfurt /  
Nanterre University, Paris  
Dr. Joris Anja Gregor, Friedrich Schiller University Jena  
Dr. Christoph Henning, Max Weber Kolleg, Erfurt

Funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG) and  
the State of Thuringia (OdB: Ordering Dynamics)

University of Erfurt  
Max Weber Centre  
for Advanced Cultural and Social Studies



International Conference

# Critical Theory and New Materialisms

November 23–24, 2017 | Erfurt,  
Steinplatz 2, room 805



Bild: Emily Carr, commons.wikimedia.org/wiki,  
Above\_the\_Gravel\_Pit\_by\_Emily\_Carr\_1937\_oil\_on\_canvas.jpg

EMILY CARR

## PROGRAM

## Thursday, Nov 23

- 9:30 – 10:00 | **Welcome & Opening Speech**  
Rosa, Bueno, Gregor, Henning
- 10:00 – 10:30 | **Hartmut Rosa (Erfurt/Jena):**  
*The Theory of Resonance as Critical Theory*
- 10:30 – 11:00 | **Lenny Moss (Exeter):**  
*Natural Detachment, Normativity and the Anthropology of Resonance*
- 11:00 – 11:45 | **Discussion**
- 13:00 – 13:30 | **Rick Dolphijn (Utrecht):**  
*What Keeps on Mattering*
- 13:30 – 14:00 | **Kai Merten (Erfurt):**  
*Diffraction: Reading after Barad*
- 14:00 – 14:45 | **Discussion**
- 15:00 – 15:30 | **Petra Gūmplová (Duisburg):**  
*Domination over Nature: History, Critique, Emancipation*
- 15:30 – 16:00 | **Arne Johan Vetlesen (Oslo):**  
*The Nature Deficit in Critical Theory. Causes and Consequences*

- 16:00 – 16:45 | **Discussion**
- 17:00 – 17:30 | **Jocelyn Maclure (Montreal):**  
*Renewed Rationalism and the Discipline of Reason. Contributions to the Debate Between the Rationalist and Romantic Strands of Critical Theory*
- 17:30 – 17:50 | **Discussion**
- 18:00 – 19:00 | **Charles Taylor (Montreal):**  
*Agency, Patience and Critical Theory (room 606)*

## Friday, Nov 24

- 09:00 – 09:30 | **Frédéric Lordon (Paris):**  
*Affects, Institutions and Crises. A Spinozist View on Historical Change*
- 09:30 – 10:00 | **Martin Saar (Leipzig):**  
*Power, Affect, Matter, Spinoza and contemporary Social Theory*
- 10:00 – 10:45 | **Discussion**
- 11:00 – 11:30 | **Heike Delitz (Bamberg):**  
*Life as Subject of Society: Critical Vitalism as Critical Social Theory*

- 11:30 – 12:00 | **Arthur Bueno (Erfurt/Paris):**  
*After Apathy: Political Affects and the Struggle for Resonance*
- 12:00 – 12:45 | **Discussion**
- 14:00 – 14:30 | **Claire Blencowe (Warwick):**  
*Ecological Attunement in a Theological Key: Adventures in Antifascist Aesthetics*
- 14:30 – 15:00 | **Ute Tellmann (Erfurt):**  
*Critical Matters: New Materialism and Economy*
- 15:00 – 15:45 | **Discussion**
- 16:00 – 16:30 | **Christoph Henning (Erfurt):**  
*New Materialism in Practice: Visiting Artists at Work with Latour*
- 16:30 – 17:00 | **Elmar Flatschart (Wien):**  
*New Materialism, Critical Realism and Negative Dialectics. A Critical Comparison*
- 17:00 – 17:45 | **Final discussion**