

Justice, Feminism, and the Critique of Capitalism, Workshop mit Nancy Fraser im Rahmen des Projekts
Ordnung durch Bewegung vom 18. bis 17. Oktober

Nancy Fraser has developed a multi-faceted conception of capitalism that comprehends both its “official” story of the market economy and Marx’s “hidden abode of production” as well as its background conditions of social reproduction, public power and natural environment. According to Fraser, not only the official economy, but these very conditions of capitalism’s possibility are today in crisis and give rise to conflicting normativities of care, collective autonomy and ecological responsibility, which might also fuel a renewed critique of capitalism.

The workshop with Nancy Fraser on her more recent work was facilitated by the research group “Ordering Dynamics”. Organized by several junior researchers from Max-Weber-Kolleg in collaboration with Stefanie Hammer from the Staatswissenschaftliche Fakultät, it included three different formats. The first day started in the morning with debating together with Nancy Fraser the topic of “Women in Science”. This was part of peer mentoring activities of University of Erfurt and thus exclusively reserved for female and genderqueer researchers. The afternoon, by contrast, was organized around a discussion of two chapters from Fraser’s book *Fortunes of Feminism: From State Managed Capitalism to Neoliberal Crisis*: “Reframing Justice in a Globalizing World”, which was originally published in 2005 arguing for an extension of the participatory parity framework by political representation, and “Feminism, Capitalism and the Cunning of History” published in 2009, which critically elaborates on resonances between certain feminist demands and neo-liberalism.

The second day evolved around comments by junior researchers from Max-Weber-Kolleg on Nancy Fraser’s recent “institutional” conception of capitalism. These comments engaged its theoretical framing, the topics of care and ecology as well as questions of politics and were responded by Fraser in her well-known communicative-inclusive manner. Arthur Bueno drew out two different concepts of contradiction in Fraser’s work whereas Urs Lindner challenged the equivalence of the three institutional divisions suggested by Fraser between economy and politics, production and reproduction as well as the social and the natural. Tanja Visic, in her comment, elaborated on the idea of not only considering care relations with regard to north-south-differentials, as Fraser does, but of also including the particularities of Eastern Europe. Petra Gümplöva raised the issue of nature’s exploitation in capitalism and socialism, both of which turned “nature” into “natural resources”, available for appropriation, while Christoph Henning argued for a “naturalist” conception of humans as being part of nature. Finally, David Strecker highlighted Habermasian themes in Frasers recent work on political legitimation crisis, followed by Emiliano Urcioli who compared Fraser’s and Honneth’s ideas of a contemporary socialism. As Ben Gook wrote in his report of the workshop, published in *Zeitschrift für Politische Theorie*, 2016, Volume 2, pp. 260–264: “Throughout the workshop’s two days, the emancipatory aims of critical theory were in plain sight. Fraser stressed she had in view a ‘transnational feminist socialism’ or, in a variation, an ‘anti-imperial feminist socialism’, or, in another, a ‘postcolonial feminist socialism’ – she also added ‘ecological’ and ‘democratic’ at other points, with the phrase growing unwieldy in its admirable attempt to be comprehensive.”

Urs Lindner