Postcolonial and poststructural theory finds itself today acutely challenged by a remarkable reversal of political fortunes. Much of what for fifty years had been the target of emancipatory, left-wing critique is now (with even more popular resonance) also the object of attack by nationalist-authoritarian movements: liberalism, capitalism, globalization, the principle of political representation, and the hegemonic character of claims to reason and truth. Leading key words of French Theory like "deconstruction" and "simulation" have suddenly been adapted to the political power strategies of right-wing populism. Cultural theorists who specialized in recognizing and affirming alterity and diversity find themselves in the unexpected role of insisting on fact checking; they are now in a position that argues against the relativization of universally accepted scientific findings. They must, therefore, ask themselves with urgency how the achievements of poststructuralism in successfully questioning the nature of hegemonic truth claims can be defended in the face of this "hostile takeover."

\_This conference addresses various aspects of this cultural and political turn of events in four thematic sections:

- Revisiting the Near Past.
- Questions of Identity. Poststructuralists and Populists.
- Contested Values: Facts, Truth, and Social Media.
- How to Dig In.



INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE PROGRAM —

CONCERNING
MATTERS AND
TRUTHS.

POSTMODERNISM'S
SHIFT AND THE
LEFT-RIGHTDIVIDE

BERLIN
HAUS DER
KULTUREN
DER WELT

4.-6. Oct. 2018

# THURSDAY OCTOBER 4

(LECTURE HALL)

19.00 **Keynote 1** 

#### **Chantal Mouffe**

Agonistic Democracy and LeftPopulism: An Hegemonic Approach

## Nikolaus Gansterer

Translecture

Moderation:

Albrecht Koschorke

Panel Discussion with Chantal Mouffe, Boris Buden, Oliver Marchart and Guillaume Paoli

# FRIDAY OCTOBER 5

(CONFERENCE ROOM 1)

9.00 Introduction

Albrecht Koschorke

13.00

#### **SECTION 1: REVISITING THE NEAR PAST**

### **Oliver Marchart**

Zombie Deconstruction?

On the Afterlife of Poststructuralism

### Guillaume Paoli

Die Rückkehr der Entfremdung (The Return of Alienation)

# Philipp Felsch / Andreas Bernard

Die Aktualität der Spätromantik (The Currency of Late Romanticism)

#### Omer Fast

No more ghosts

Moderation:

Sasha Rossman and Alexander Zons

# SECTION 2: QUESTIONS OF IDENTITY POSTSTRUCTURALISTS AND POPULISTS

#### Joel Golb

17.30

Post-Structuralist Theory in the Age of Trump. Some Social-Historical Observations

#### Sabine Hark

Eine Frage an und für unsere Zeit. Verstörende Gender Studies und symptomatische Missverständnisse

(A Question to and for our Times. Distrubing Gender Studies and Symptomatic Misunderstandings)

### Anna Mendelssohn

Free Speech!?

#### **Helmut Lethen**

Das Reale der Identität (The Real of Identity)

Moderation:

Anna Christen and Manfred Pfaffenthaler

#### 18.15 HIRSCHFELD BAR

Panel Discussion with Thomas Wagner on the new right-wing intellectual scene with Jule Govrin and Andreas Gehrlach

# SATURDAY OCTOBER 6

9.30

12.00

(CONFERENCE ROOM 1)

SECTION 3: CONTESTED VALUES: FACTS, TRUTH, AND SOCIAL MEDIA

# **Anton Shekhovtsov**

The European Far Right, Russian Media, and Disinformation

# Panel Discussion with Till Krause and Burcu Gültekin Punsmann:

Deleting content, disturbing messages:
Inside Facebook's content moderation team

### Felix Hamborg

(Semi-)Automated Methods to Identify and Analyze Media Bias: Slanted News Coverage Through the Eyes of a Computer Scientist

Moderation:

Albert Dikovich and Philipp Lammers

#### 13.30 **SECTION 4: HOW TO DIG IN**

Boris Buden15.30 On vernacular address. A political perspective

Ilan Zvi Baron

How to Save Politics in a Post-Truth Era

Moderation:

Caroline Haupt and Andreas Lipowsky

#### 15.30 FINAL DISCUSSION/CONCLUDING REMARKS

17.00

18.00 (Lecture Hall)

Janez Janša, Janez Janša, Janez Janša

Name Readymade

19.00 Kevnote 2

## Eyal Weizman

Soldiers reading Derrida and Deleuze, activists doing forensics

Moderation

Karin Harrasser

