



– International Conference –
Critical and Radical Humanist Work and Organizational Psychology
2nd –3rd October 2020, University of Innsbruck, Austria

Call for Participation

Critical theoretical and radical humanist approaches in Work and Organizational Psychology (WOP) integrate psychological, sociological, and social philosophical constructs into theoretical frameworks to better understand the intertwined developments of the individual psyche, social subsystems, and the economic and cultural-societal system. This implies an emancipatory epistemological interest, inspired, for example, by the Frankfurt School of Social Philosophy, Analytical Social Psychology in the tradition of Erich Fromm, and approaches of dialectical materialist psychology (e.g. Activity Theory, German Critical Psychology). Critical theoretical and radical humanist WOP advocates that human rights, human dignity, the social and psychological well-being and care for all human beings, and the protection of the natural foundations of life should represent the guiding principles for economic activity and work. This means opposition and resistance to the economic exploitation and oppression, to the instrumentalization of employees, in the name of a self-reproducing and, eventually, self-destructive system, advancing the particular interests of a small wealthy minority. Additionally, these approaches share the effort to explore human development potentials within their social and historical context and to examine forms of self-actualization at and through work and other economic contexts. Activities of critical and radical humanist WOP researchers, in cooperation with scholars from other disciplines, endeavor to develop methods, concepts, and procedures that are useful for challenging, reducing, or removing work-, organization-, and management-related factors, as well as technological aspects that impede human dignity, self-actualization, solidarity, freedom, democracy and health.

Conference Scope

Contributions from a plurality of theoretical approaches, their variations and extensions will be discussed and ideas or examples for their application, development, and integration in research, practice, and academic teaching in WOP will be exchanged. This includes but is not limited to:

Critical Psychology based on the Frankfurt School of Critical Theory, Radical Humanism and Analytical Social Psychology (Erich Fromm), Critical Management Studies / Critical Sociology, Critical Psychology / Psychology from the Perspective of the Subject, Activity Theory and Cultural Historical Psychology, Critical traditions in Action Regulation Theory, Self Determination Theory and Critique of Corporate Capitalism

Keynote Speakers

- Dr. Rainer Funk (Founder of the International Erich Fromm Society, Erich Fromm Institute Tübingen)
- N. N. (*second keynote speaker not yet confirmed*)
- Prof. Dr. Dr. Manfred Moldaschl (Chair of Socio-Economics, Zeppelin University Friedrichshafen)
- Prof. Dr. Thomas Teo (Historical, Theoretical, and Critical Studies of Psychology, Department of Psychology, York University, Toronto)

Types of Contributions

The conference will feature different types of contributions, including invited keynote speeches, regular full-length oral presentations, panel discussions, workshops, posters, and short research statements.



Preliminary Schedule

The conference will take place from Friday October 2nd (around 9:00 am) until Saturday October 3rd 2020 (around 7:00 pm) at the University of Innsbruck, Innrain 52, Innsbruck 6020, Austria. A *Pre-conference Workshop* on critical foundations in WOP will be held Thursday October 1st; details will be announced later.

Program Preview

Conference highlights include an interactive workshop session on “*What can we learn from Critical Management Studies?*” with Prof. Dr. Martin Parker (University of Bristol; Professor of Organisation Studies, Lead for the Bristol Inclusive Economy Initiative). A publication workshop for submissions to the *Special Issue on Critical Perspectives in Work and Organizational Psychology* in *Applied Psychology: An International Review* ([link SI CFP](#)) will be held by the special issue editors, as part of the Future of Work and Organizational Psychology ([link FOWOP](#)) initiative.

Submission of Abstracts

Encouraged are contributions with critical and radical humanistic content and reference to the topics and spirit of this call. **Abstracts of around 250 words** should be submitted for: *individual presentations* (15-20 minutes, plus 5-10 minutes discussion), *themed sessions or symposia* (75-90 minutes, 3-4 contributions), *panel discussions* (75-90 minutes, 3-5 discussants), and *workshops* (75-90 minutes, free format, moderated by the submitter). For sessions with several speakers (symposia, panels) abstracts should also be provided for each individual contribution. These should be submitted in one document by the session organizer(s). Contributors are welcome to suggest alternative formats (e.g., posters, short presentations).

Submission deadline is Monday **January 20th 2020**. Abstract authors will be informed about acceptance of their submission until March 1st 2020.

Submission to: christine.unterrainer@uibk.ac.at

Conference Registration

In the spirit of inclusiveness and anti-economism, the event will be free of charge and open to all.

Please contact the organizers to register your attendance by **April 15th 2020**.

Registration to: christine.unterrainer@uibk.ac.at

Further Information

The full-length version of this call can be downloaded from our website ([link Conference CFP](#)).

Organizing Committee

University of Innsbruck, Institute of Psychology, Applied Psychology Unit:

- Univ.-Prof. Dr. Wolfgang G. Weber (wolfgang.weber@uibk.ac.at)
- PD Dr. Thomas Höge (thomas.hoege@uibk.ac.at)
- PD Dr. Severin Hornung (severin.hornung@uibk.ac.at)
- Dr. Christine Unterrainer (christine.unterrainer@uibk.ac.at)

In cooperation with the *Erich Fromm Study Center at the International Psychoanalytic University Berlin* (Prof. Dr. Thomas Kühn; Dr. Rainer Funk) and the *Erich Fromm Institute Tübingen* (Dr. Rainer Funk). Supported by the *University of Innsbruck's Institute of Psychology* (Head: Univ.-Prof. Dr. Jürgen Glaser).



I-CROP Innsbruck Group on Critical Research in Work and Organizational Psychology