

S-3: Christian Fuchs

(Professor, University of Westminster, London)

Saturday 15 October, 13.15–14.15, Z-salen

“Marxism and Communication: Reflections on Capitalism and Post-Capitalism”

This talk is a comment on some issues in contemporary Marxist theory. It argues that much Marxist theory has not taken issues of communication serious enough. Within this theory tradition, there has been a strong tendency to reduce communication and to treat it as a secondary and derivable phenomenon. The approach advanced in this talk argues for a Marxist theory of communication and the critique of the political economy of communication as approach for understanding and criticising capitalism and advancing post-capitalism.

The talk takes issue with and opposes two popular companions to Marx’s *Capital*, David Harvey’s *A Companion to Marx’s Capital* and Michael Heinrich’s *An Introduction to the Three Volumes of Karl Marx’s “Capital”*. It is time to read Marx from a media and communications perspective.

The presentation also engages with how Marxist theory can today best understand and analyse digital labour, fetishism, ideology, nationalism, fascism, and crisis. It comments on Paul Mason’s recent book *Postcapitalism: A Guide to Our Future* and argues that Paul Mason is Henryk Grossman 2.0. The conclusion comments on how to think about the commons and communism today.

With introduction by Arwid Lund.

Christian Fuchs is a professor at the University of Westminster, where he is the Director of the Communication and Media Research Institute and the Westminster Institute for Advanced Studies. He is co-editor of the Marxist journal *tripleC: Communication, Capitalism & Critique* (<http://www.triple-c.at>) and a member of the European Sociological Association’s Executive Committee. He is author of books such as “Reading Marx in the Information Age: A Media and Communication Studies Perspective on Capital Volume 1” (2016), “Digital Labour and Karl Marx”, “Culture and Economy in the Age of OSocial Media” (2015), “Critical Theory of Communication: New Readings of Lukács, Adorno, Marcuse, Honneth and Habermas in the Age of the Internet” (2016), “Social Media: A Critical Introduction” (2nd edition 2017), “OccupyMedia! The Occupy Movement and Social Media in Crisis Capitalism” (2014), *Foundations of Critical Media and Information Studies* (2011), “Internet and Society: Social Theory in the Information Age” (2008). Together with Vincent Mosco, he co-edited the collected volumes “Marx and the Political Economy of the Media” (2016) and “Marx in the Age of Digital Capitalism” (2016).
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