

UC-1: "Intersectionality in working on socio-ecological transformation" [in English]

Sunday 16 October, 13.00–14.15, Sandler

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Analysing the different crises – humanitarian, ecological, financial, economic, food, energy, resources, EU crises –, on the one hand, and the reactive struggles of different emancipatory social movements, on the other hand, we – as critical scientists dealing with these crises – are facing a special type of intersectionality problem constellation: A complexity of crises met by an intersectionality of societal agencies. This constitutes a major challenge for the political left wing: How to help and to foster intersectional struggles to converge into political power capable of transforming states and societies. This will neither be achieved by a mere „pluralism“ of separate issues and movements, nor by a reductionist politics attempting to reduce all struggles to one “main contradiction” or issue that has to be fought out by all.

In order to meet this challenge, we are using the critique of political economy in a Marxian tradition, although in a specific way which avoids economic or class struggle reductionism. Specifically, we identify the role of capitalist oligarchies with their societal alliances as a real connecting factor behind the multiplicity of societal power as production and consumption structures – and begin to reconstruct the ways in which emancipatory agencies are, in turn, interconnected and interdependent in strategically significant ways, at least potentially. For this purpose we address three areas of common struggles which provide a basis for understanding the modalities of political convergence:

(1) the area of political struggles for defining and implementing binding standards for economic and processes and societal life, with regard to democratic, social and ecological concerns;

(2) the area of defending the public sphere and of struggling, in this very process of struggle, for its radical democratization, with a particular emphasis upon solving debt issues, stabilizing public finance; and

(3) the area of active struggles against destructive “development projects” (TTIP, TISA etc.) and in favour of a socio-ecologically constructive development, which have already begun to unfold in a local and in a regional dimension.

As an over-arching idea for politically integrating these struggles we are taking up and developing the conception of socio-ecological transformation: In a process of action-reflection-research we invite agencies – presenting own ideas and conceptions – to elaborate together with us a specific type of political program based on common interests and activities, marking the beginning and the progressive development of a co-operation in solidarity consistently dealing with social and global problems while minimizing the pressure on the biosphere. This will contribute, in turn, to the debate on sustainability “from below” aiming to strengthen the agencies of socially and ecologically sustainable development for realizing it.