

## **The Crisis of Freedom. Hegel's *Elements of the Philosophy of Right* After 200 Years**

International Conference (online) | Hosted by: Goethe University Frankfurt, Department of Philosophy | January 13<sup>th</sup> –15<sup>th</sup> 2022

Conference Organizers: Simon Gurisch, Jonas Heller, Marina Martinez Mateo, Christoph Menke, Benno Zabel

Originally planned for the occasion of the 200th anniversary of the first publication of Hegel's *Elements of the Philosophy of Right*, the international and interdisciplinary conference "*The Crisis of Freedom. Hegel's Elements of the Philosophy of Right after 200 Years*" will be held online, January 13-15 2022.

The object of Hegel's *Elements* is "das Recht". Hegel understands *Recht* to be nothing else (and nothing less) than the actuality of freedom: freedom that has become actual, that is, freedom that has actualized itself. In this sense, *Recht* comprises all of (social) actuality which can in turn be understood as the medium and presentation of freedom. Hegel's *Elements* is a theory of freedom and a theory of social actuality in one.

Since the publication of Hegel's *Elements*, this unity of theory of freedom and theory of (social) actuality has been understood as an apologetic program. This understanding was decisively influenced by Hegel's positioning in the political struggles of his time. After Hegel, the critique of this reactionary positioning has fueled the program to go back behind Hegel. Hence, a (normative) theory of freedom was played off against a (realistic) theory of social and political reality in order to thereby regain the possibility of critique. Yet this reaction forfeits the specific form of critique that Hegel's program of a conceptual unity of freedom and social actuality opens up. For Hegel's program is critical not because it asserts the claims of freedom against (bad) actuality or the claims of actuality against (false) freedom but rather through the mode in which it *demonstrates* the unity of freedom and actuality: it is critical through the mode of its presentation (*Darstellung*). Since it shows that the unity of freedom and actuality only exists as a process – and that this process consists in the bringing forth of the tensions and contradictions in which the attempts to actualize this unity become necessarily entangled. Hegel's *Elements* is thus critical as an exposition of crises: Its argument moves from one to the next form of right by showing and exacerbating the crisis in which every form of law is caught up precisely because (or insofar as) it is a step in the actualization of freedom. The exposition of crises does thus not only have a diagnostic but a strategic, argumentative significance in Hegel's philosophy of right.

The conference brings together distinguished experts and early career scholars from philosophy, law, sociology, political science and history as well as other disciplines, focusing on the crises developed in Hegel's *Elements*: the crises of abstract right, morality, family, civil society, and the state that are each crises of the attempt to actualize freedom in these specific forms. In doing so, the conference aims at the investigation of a twofold problem: on the one hand, the question of the conceptual, logical structure of Hegel's theory of freedom and, on the other, the question of the diagnostic, social theoretical content of his analyses of the respective forms of right.

Further information, the full program and links to all Zoom-sessions can be also be found here: <https://bit.ly/3sHohQo>

Contact address: [hegel frankfurt2021@gmail.com](mailto:hegel frankfurt2021@gmail.com)

## Conference Program (with links)

<b><u>Thursday, January 13th</u></b>	
<b>Zoom access for the whole day:</b>  <a href="https://uni-frankfurt.zoom.us/j/95072557055?pwd=dWtPVHEExK3IrMC95a2pSQTE0UWZ5UT09">https://uni-frankfurt.zoom.us/j/95072557055?pwd=dWtPVHEExK3IrMC95a2pSQTE0UWZ5UT09</a>  Meeting-ID: 950 7255 7055 Kenncode: 351022	
15:00-15:15	Welcome Notes
15:15-17:45	<b>1. Violence and <i>Recht</i></b>  Jean-Francois Kervegan (Paris) Christian Schmidt (Berlin)  Chair: Daniel Loick (Amsterdam)
18:00-19:45	<b>2. Subjectivity and Irony</b>  Thomas Dworschak: „The Right and the Nature of Individuality” Jan Müller: „Committed Irony: ‚Sittlichkeit‘ and the Crisis of Morality” Charlotte Szász: „Eternal Irony: Femininity in Hegel’s Elements of the Philosophy of Right”  Chair: Juliane Rebentisch (Offenbach)

<b><u>Friday, January 14th</u></b>	
15:00-16:15	<b>3. Family</b>  Susanne Lettow (Berlin)  Chair: Thomas Khurana (Potsdam)
<b>Zoom access:</b>  <a href="https://uni-frankfurt.zoom.us/j/99692415633?pwd=YVF1NjdVdVpIOEZnaGM3cmIPNWg0QT09">https://uni-frankfurt.zoom.us/j/99692415633?pwd=YVF1NjdVdVpIOEZnaGM3cmIPNWg0QT09</a>  Meeting-ID: 996 9241 5633 Kenncode: 284646	
16:30-18:15	<b>3. Family</b>  Ana Maria Miranda Mora: “Love and Law: The Paradox of Marriage” Tijana Okić: “A Leftover Life No Other: Hegel’s Conception of the Family and the Crisis of the Welfare State” Lorenzo Rustighi: “Hegel’s Family and the Crisis of the Sexual Contract: Towards a Critique of Patriarchy”  Chair: Thomas Khurana (Potsdam)

	<p><b>Zoom access:</b></p> <p><a href="https://uni-frankfurt.zoom.us/j/97597489856?pwd=MTcySnlvcjVhTTFhTmMk5kUnoyaGJoUT09">https://uni-frankfurt.zoom.us/j/97597489856?pwd=MTcySnlvcjVhTTFhTmMk5kUnoyaGJoUT09</a></p> <p>Meeting-ID: 975 9748 9856 Kenncode: 511803</p>
	<p><b>4. Civil Society</b></p> <p>Paul Giladi: “The Dragon Seed Project of Hegelianism: Between Liberal Reform and Total Revolution”</p> <p>Tatiana Llaguno Nieves: “Freedom-in-Dependence: With, Against, and Beyond Hegel”</p> <p>Manuel Tangorra: “At the border of juridical world: Barbarism as constitutive trouble of Hegel’s Elements of Philosophy of Right”</p> <p>Chair: Frank Ruda (Dundee)</p>
	<p><b>Zoom access:</b></p> <p><a href="https://uni-frankfurt.zoom.us/j/94899535966?pwd=S1pVT3FjYU5vblB0bkFXUElibzRZZz09">https://uni-frankfurt.zoom.us/j/94899535966?pwd=S1pVT3FjYU5vblB0bkFXUElibzRZZz09</a></p> <p>Meeting-ID: 948 9953 5966 Kenncode: 609494</p>
18:30-19:45	<p><b>4. Civil Society</b></p> <p>Axel Honneth (New York)</p> <p>Chair: Frank Ruda (Dundee)</p>
	<p><b>Zoom access:</b></p> <p><a href="https://uni-frankfurt.zoom.us/j/99692415633?pwd=YVF1NjdVdVpIOEZnaGM3cmlPNWg0QT09">https://uni-frankfurt.zoom.us/j/99692415633?pwd=YVF1NjdVdVpIOEZnaGM3cmlPNWg0QT09</a></p> <p>Meeting-ID: 996 9241 5633 Kenncode: 284646</p>

<b>Saturday, January 15th</b>	
15:00-16:15	<p><b>5. World History</b></p> <p>Rocío Zambrana (Emory)</p> <p>Chair: Dirk Quadflieg (Leipzig)</p>
	<p><b>Zoom access:</b></p> <p><a href="https://uni-frankfurt.zoom.us/j/96723074695?pwd=NzA3WEZrL3cxYkZ0a3ROaXZhbFA1Zz09">https://uni-frankfurt.zoom.us/j/96723074695?pwd=NzA3WEZrL3cxYkZ0a3ROaXZhbFA1Zz09</a></p> <p>Meeting-ID: 967 2307 4695</p>

	Kenncode: 124725
16:30-18:15	<p><b>5a. The Dialectic of History: Time and Normativity</b></p> <p>Kevin Thompson: “Time, Right, Providence: Hegel on World History as the World Court” Tilo Wesche: “The Dialectics of Genesis and Validity: On Hegel’s Concept of Progress”</p> <p>Chair: Dirk Quadflieg (Leipzig)</p> <p><b>Zoom access:</b></p> <p><a href="https://uni-frankfurt.zoom.us/j/99221523040?pwd=S2JoZDR3NlFQTEpjaVBIREJQMjh2dz09">https://uni-frankfurt.zoom.us/j/99221523040?pwd=S2JoZDR3NlFQTEpjaVBIREJQMjh2dz09</a></p> <p>Meeting-ID: 992 2152 3040 Kenncode: 521278</p> <p><b>5b. World History: Hegel and Colonialism</b></p> <p>Stefan Bird-Pollan: “Thinking with Hegel’s Preface to the Philosophy of Right: An Immanent Critique of Recognition and Sittlichkeit” Louis Carré, Frédéric Monferrand: “Dialectics of (de-)colonization: A materialist reading of Hegel’s world history” Jenny Kneis: “What is the Result of the World History and ,its Innermost‘, the History of Philosophy?”</p> <p>Chair: NN</p> <p><b>Zoom access:</b></p> <p><a href="https://uni-frankfurt.zoom.us/j/95196324748?pwd=cG9ONDMzbHB2dTNSSWNpbCtLK3duUT09">https://uni-frankfurt.zoom.us/j/95196324748?pwd=cG9ONDMzbHB2dTNSSWNpbCtLK3duUT09</a></p> <p>Meeting-ID: 951 9632 4748 Kenncode: 579892</p>
18:45-20:15	<p><b>6. Closing Panel: What does it mean to “comprehend one’s own time in thoughts?”</b></p> <p>Angelica Nuzzo (New York) Dina Emundts (Berlin)</p> <p>Chair: Pirmin Stekeler-Weithofer (Leipzig)</p> <p><b>Zoom access:</b></p> <p><a href="https://uni-frankfurt.zoom.us/j/96723074695?pwd=NzA3WEZrL3cxYkZ0a3ROaXZhbFA1Zz09">https://uni-frankfurt.zoom.us/j/96723074695?pwd=NzA3WEZrL3cxYkZ0a3ROaXZhbFA1Zz09</a></p> <p>Meeting-ID: 967 2307 4695 Kenncode: 124725</p>