



Forschungsgespräch / Research Meeting

mit

Prof. Dr. Eduardo Mendieta
(Penn State University, USA)

Zeit: Montag, 8. Mai 2023, 17:00-20:00 Uhr

Ort: Universität Hauptgebäude, Seminarraum 7, Universitätsstraße 1, Tiefparterre Stiege 9 Hof 5, 1010 Wien

Begrüßung: Prof. DDr. Hans Schelkshorn

(Institut für Interkulturelle Religionsphilosophie/Universität Wien)

First Lecture: “The Dialectics of Coloniality/Modernity: Rewriting a Classic”

Abstract: This paper sets out from two premises: first, that Adorno and Horkheimer’s *Dialectics of Enlightenment* is a classic of both philosophy in general, and critical theory in particular; second, that the book merits rethinking/rewriting, not only because it was written at the darkest hours of the Twentieth Century, but also because some of its key themes have not aged well. In this paper, I propose how I would rewrite this classic, and I would do so with this table of contents: first, instead of beginning with Homer, I would begin with the *Gilgamesh*, an even more ancient text than Homer’s *Odyssey*. This ancient text is amazingly contemporary, as it raises questions about ecology, sexuality, mortality, and friendship. Then, I would turn to the *Odyssey*, but would instead focus on three themes: misrecognition, conjugal love, and Penelope’s cunning, which is the other background of the story of the quest to return home (*Heimkehr*). Then, I would turn to Augustine and Boethius to profile what I will call theophagy, the eating of God, which births the soul/conscience, i.e. an internal panopticon. The next chapter in my re-writing of the classic would be on “the divinification of the human: *Picco de la Mirandola* and *Juan Luis Vives*,” which mark a major pivot in the constitution of the modern subject. This aspirational ToC then would turn to the debate between *Juan Gines de Sepulveda* and *Bartolomé de las Casas* on the humanity and rights of Amerindians. Another chapter would be devoted to “The Invention of the White/Aryan Race and Herrenvolk Ethics of Extermination.” This “fragment” would include notes towards a deconstruction of the “Anthropocenic Anthropological Machine.” This paper contributes to the theme of “Decolonial Critical Theory.”

Discussion (in englisch/deutsch möglich)

Second Lecture: “Poverty and Latin American Philosophy”

In this chapter I focus on the “development of underdevelopment,” “the theology of liberation,” and “the philosophy of liberation,” because combined they provided the most sustained and in-depth analysis, study, and critique of the problem of poverty with a distinct focus. In addition, given the number of figures that contributed to these current, we will focus on a handful of thinkers who have most consistently and originally contributed to the philosophical discussion of “poverty” not only in Latin America but also in our contemporary world. By studying at least these three movements of liberation within Latin American we will understand how collectively they contributed to at least five ways of making sense of poverty: anthropologically, culturally, ecclesiologically, eschatologically, and soteriologically.

Discussion (in english/deutsch möglich)

Anmeldung erbeten an agnes.leyrer@univie.ac.at bis Mittwoch 3.5.2023.

Eduardo Mendieta ist Professor für Philosophy and Latina/o Studies an der Penn State University (USA); seine Forschungsschwerpunkte liegen vor allem in der Philosophie Lateinamerikas, der Kritischen Theorie und der Frankfurter Diskurstheorie. Eduardo Mendieta ist einer der führenden Denker des de-kolonialen Denkens, 2017 erhielt er den Frantz Fanon Outstanding Achievement Award.

Publikationen:

The Adventures of Transcendental Philosophy (Rowman & Littlefield 2002);

Global Fragments. Globalizations, Latinoamericanisms, and Critical Theorie (SUNY PRESS 2017);

Herausgeber: mit Enrique Dussel und Carmen Bohórques, El pensamiento filosófico latinoamericano, del Caribe y “latino”. 1300-2000. Historia. Corrientes, Temas. Filósofos (Siglo XXI 2009);

mit Jonathan VanAntwerpen, The Power of Religion in the Public Sphere (Columbia University Press 2011);

The Cambridge Habermas Lexicon (Cambridge University Press 2019);

mit Amy Allen, Decolonizing Ethics. The Critical Theory of Enrique Dussel (Pennsylvania State University Press 2021).