

- CALL FOR PAPERS -

Resistance. Subjects, Representations, Contexts

International and Interdisciplinary Conference, 6-8 November 2014, Oldenburg

Organized by Martin Butler and Paul Mecheril

Speakers include:

Maria do Mar Castro Varela (Berlin), Alex Demirovic (Berlin), Nikita Dhawan (Frankfurt a.M.), David Gillborn (Birmingham), Jens Martin Gurr (Duisburg-Essen), Sabine Hess (Göttingen), Kemal Inal (Ankara), Kaspar Maase (Tübingen), Peter McLaren (Los Angeles), Diana Mulinar (Lund), Anders Neergaard (Linköping), Ann Phoenix (London), Peter Steinbach (Mannheim), Rainer Winter (Klagenfurt), Stephanie Wodianka (Rostock)

Opening Lecture by Gayatri C. Spivak (New York)

Conference Topic

A number of recent events in different parts of the world, such as the uprisings in Ukraine, Occupy Gezi, and the protests in Northern Africa, have brought back the issue of 'resistance' to both public and scholarly attention. As manifold as the *forms* that resistance takes at the beginning of the 21st century are the *explanations* for these phenomena: In western societies, the crisis of global capitalism, along with a general loss of trust in institutionalized politics, is often made responsible for the recent emergence of new movements of protests and resistance. By contrast, in regions such as Northern Africa, political uprisings have commonly been regarded as a reaction long overdue to totalitarian regimes and their infrastructures of oppression and control. With the disclosure of practices of surveillance through national secret services such as the NSA, then, similar mechanisms of power have been made visible in western societies, which, in turn, are said to have enhanced tendencies towards civil disobedience and resistance.

Not least because of its 40th anniversary and the commemoration of the host University's name patron, Carl von Ossietzky, the conference takes these developments as a starting point to explore phenomena of resistance in different historical and contemporary contexts from an interdisciplinary and transcultural perspective in order to add to a theoretical debate on the term and concept(s) of resistance. The conference will be framed by three major questions: 1. What is 'resistance'? 2. On which normative grounds do forms of resistance work, how are they legitimized? 3. Who uses the term/concept of 'resistance'? When, where, and for what purposes? In order to approach these questions, the conference takes a distinctly comparative view on the various notions of resistance in different disciplinary as well as social and/or cultural contexts in order to discuss whether 'resistance' is an exclusively 'western' concept, or whether there are concepts of resistance that are not based on or refer to western intellectual, political, or ideological traditions.

Central thematic clusters of the conference, which allow for the discussion of the major questions outlined above, are:

1. Subjects of resistance
2. Representations of resistance, and
3. Contexts of resistance.

Presentations in the cluster on 'subjects of resistance' are particularly concerned with the question of who, under what circumstances, and with what purposes, is willing and/or able to articulate protest and

resistance, and/or to engage with and contribute to movements of protests and resistance. Moreover, contributions may ask if/in how far movements of protest and resistance can be understood as sites of subjectivation, i.e. if/in how far both practices of 'doing' resistance and discourses on resistance contribute to the formation of subjects (what subjects?) and to the emergence of subjectivities. Also, papers in this cluster discuss when and why (and by whom) specific subjects and their practices are labeled 'resistant,' and which political consequences and implications this 'labeling' might have or actually has.

In the cluster on 'representations of resistance,' the focus will primarily be on mediatization of resistance, i.e. on the different forms and functions of 'staging' resistance in different media in different historical and cultural contexts. Central questions include (but are not limited to): How is resistance presented/discussed/imagined/remembered in different media? In what ways? By whom? And for what purposes? Particular attention will be given to processes of mythologization and iconization of resistance in both historical and contemporary contexts.

The cluster on 'contexts of resistance,' finally, examines different historical, political, and cultural fields in which specific practices of resistance are embedded, but which, at the same time, also contribute to shaping the very concept of resistance (among other things, as a mode of subjectivization). Moreover, what is at stake here are different theoretical (and hence historically, culturally, and disciplinarily situated) approaches to the phenomenon of resistance, a discussion of which may shed new light on disciplinary conceptualizations and problematizations of resistance as well as on the role and responsibility of scholarly research *on* resistance.

Paper Proposals

We invite proposals for papers (max. 20 min.), which, either through the presentation of empirical research on phenomena of resistance or through theoretical/terminological discussion, address the conference's major questions – ideally, the conference may contribute to correlating both kinds of contributions and put them into a fruitful dialogue. In your proposal, please indicate in which of the three clusters („subjects“, „representations“, „contexts“) you would situate your paper. As every cluster is further subdivided into four sections, you are also supposed to indicate what you consider the most appropriate section for your contribution. More detailed information on the clusters and sections can be found in a longer version of this CfP available at:

<http://www.uni-oldenburg.de/forschung/cmc/konferenz-widerstand-2014/>

(N.B.: Currently, only a German version of the long CfP is available, the English version will be uploaded ASAP).

PhD Workshops

Part of the conference's program are four PhD-workshops (three hours each) with different thematic foci. Each of these workshops will be chaired by two senior scholars. The workshops will address key questions related to research on resistance and provide a platform for the presentation of PhD-projects.

Workshop 1: Methodological Questions in Research on Resistance

Workshop 2: Theoretical References in Research on Resistance

Workshop 3: Scholarship and Resistance – Entangled Collaboration?

Workshop 4: Empirical Practices of Resistance: All the same?

Presentations of PhD-projects (max. 15 min.) do not have to follow the 'conventional' format of a paper, but can be presented more informally as work in progress, which may well be incorporated into the workshop's overall discussion. PhD students are kindly asked to indicate whether their proposals are meant as a contribution to one of the sections or as project presentation in one of the PhD workshops. In both cases, please make clear which section/workshop you find most suitable.

Scholarships

On condition that the conference organizers are successful in acquiring sufficient funding, scholars whose proposals have been accepted may apply for a scholarship to cover parts of the travel costs.

The scholarships are supposed to allow junior scholars (i.e. PhD students in particular), who do not have appropriate funding opportunities themselves, to participate in the conference. Moreover, both junior and senior scholars whose travel costs are extremely high, as they are travelling far distances, and/or whose funding options are dramatically limited, are welcome to apply for a scholarship.

The scholarships will most likely not cover all travel costs, but at least a substantial part. The maximum amount of funding per scholarship is based on the estimated travel costs (which, as a rule, depend on the travel distance). There are three categories of scholarships:

A: For scholars from Germany: 10 scholarships, max. 150,00 Euro each.

B: For scholars from Europe: 10 scholarships, max. 400,00 Euro each.

C: For scholars from outside Europe: 10 scholarships, max. 800,00 Euro each.

Submission of Proposals (for Papers and PhD Project Presentations)

Deadline for submission of proposals (max. 1000 characters): May 1, 2014

Acceptance notification: until May 20, 2014

Deadline for application for a scholarship (if proposal was accepted): June 20, 2014

Acceptance notification (scholarships): July 10, 2014

Please send your proposal to: cmc.sekretariat@uni-oldenburg.de

Deadline: May 1, 2014