



Graduate School of Humanities
and Social Sciences

LUCERNE GRADUATE LECTURE

Crisis, critique, capitalism: Toward an expanded framework for the 21st century

Prof. Nancy Fraser, The New School for Social Research, New York

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Abstract

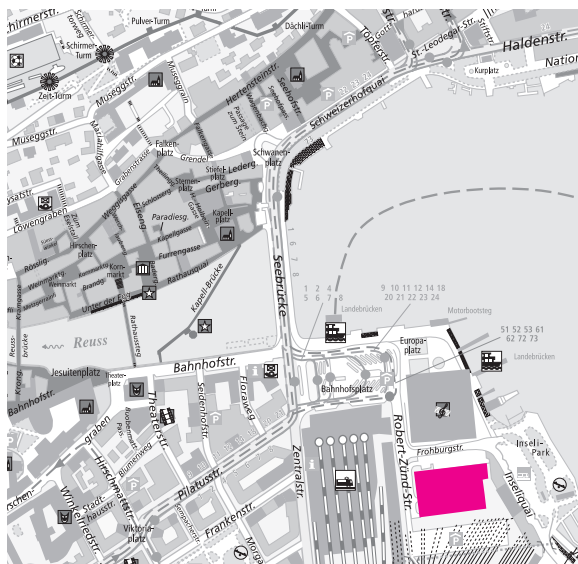
The current sense of crisis – in economy, ecology, politics, and society – is prompting many critical theorists to revisit the problem of capitalism. I salute this return to core issues of social theory after a period of neglect. But received understandings of capitalism are not adequate to 21st century conditions. I propose, accordingly, to re-examine a basic theoretical question: How is capitalism best conceptualized – as an economic system, a form of ethical life, or an institutional order? To answer this question, I will integrate relatively familiar concepts from Marx, Polanyi, and Habermas with newer insights from feminist, ecological, and political theorizing. The result will be an expanded conception of capitalism able better to accommodate the multiplicity of crisis tendencies and social struggles that characterize the 21st century.

About Nancy Fraser

Nancy Fraser is Henry A. and Louise Loeb Professor of Political and Social Science at The New School for Social Research in New York.

Among her widely discussed publications are *Fortunes of Feminism: From State-Managed Capitalism to Neoliberal Crisis* (2013), *Scales of Justice: Reimagining Political Space in a Globalizing World* (2008) or *Redistribution or Recognition? A Political-Philosophical Exchange* (2003), co-authored with Axel Honneth and also published in German (*Umverteilung oder Anerkennung? Eine politisch-philosophische Kontroverse*).

Nancy Fraser is teaching the first Lucerne Master Class at the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Lucerne from 14–18 October 2013.



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