

**THE ASHWORTH PROGRAM IN SOCIAL THEORY  
AND THE SOCIAL THEORY POSTGRADUATE ASSOCIATION,  
UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE**

Present:

**The Future of Critical Theory**

(A Postgraduate Conference)

17-18 November 2005

University of Melbourne

**Confirmed Keynote Speakers:**

John Rundell (Director of the Ashworth Program in Social Theory)

Jean-Philippe Deranty (Macquarie University)

Dieter Freundlieb (Griffith University)

The Ashworth Program in Social Theory and The Social Theory Postgraduate Association (University of Melbourne) are inaugurating an annual conference for Australian postgraduates researching in what may broadly be regarded as the tradition of "Critical Theory" For this to occur, we are organising a first conference on the theme of the "The Future of Critical Theory" which we hope will be the first in a series. The conference will be held on the **17th to 18th of November 2005**. We are inviting papers from Melbourne and interstate based postgraduate students in any discipline and asking them to reflect on the state of Critical Theory: its past, its present and its future.

Possible topics for discussion include:

1. The "criticalness" of Critical Theory.
2. The legacy of the Frankfurt School (from Horkheimer, Adorno to Habermas and Honneth): Generational interconnections, contemporary resonances.
3. Subjectivity and Intersubjectivity: what place does the 'subject' have in critical theory?
4. Developments in French critical theory -- Adumbrations of a French-German dialogue
5. Philosophy and Critical Theory
6. The politics and/or ethics of Critical Theory
7. The roots of Critical Theory: Marxism, Romanticism, Literature.
8. Dialogues with fields outside of Critical Theory that may be seen to provoke, supplement it or directly challenge it.
9. We also intend to devote sessions specific to these thinkers:  
Niklas Luhmann, Axel Honneth, Theodor Adorno, Manfred Frank, Agnes Heller, Walter Benjamin, Alain Badiou and Cornelius Castoriadis.

Submission details:

Title and 250-300 word abstract for papers of 20 minutes reading time.

Submissions should also include the following information:

Speaker's Name, Phone Number, Postal address, Email address, University Affiliation.

Submissions can be sent by e-mail to <stpa-postgrad@unimelb.edu.au>

by 30th September 2005.

For enquiries, email <stpa-postgrad@unimelb.edu.au>

Website: <<http://www.ashworth-program.unimelb.edu.au/conference2005>>

