
The Languages of Theory

In the past, the philological study of texts and their linguistic properties on the one hand and issues of theory on the other have often been regarded as distinct concerns, sometimes even opposed to each other. At a closer look, however, it is clear that this simple opposition does not hold. In recent times numerous literary studies have successfully combined philological and theoretical approaches and thereby given proof of their compatibility. But the interrelation between philology's concern with the manifold languages of literary texts and the engagements of theory reaches further. Far from being external to theoretical reflection, philological analysis is a core element of the making of theory.

Thus, philological and linguistic inquiries are often at the heart of theoretical investigations. Foucault, for example, takes great interest in the origins of certain ancient Greek terms such as *aletheia* and *parrhesia* which are developed as key notions of a new way of accounting for the subject's engagement with truth and its relation to power. Similarly, Agamben, drawing on the seminal works of Benveniste and Dumézil, systematically resorts to etymological reflections of the history of words in the Indo-European language family in order to deploy the meanings of certain core concepts, as for example the term *sacer*.

Our panel welcomes papers focusing on the linguistic implications of current literary and philosophical theory. Where does the philological problem of the many languages enter into theoretical reflection? And in how far does it turn out to be an integral part of the theoretical enterprise?

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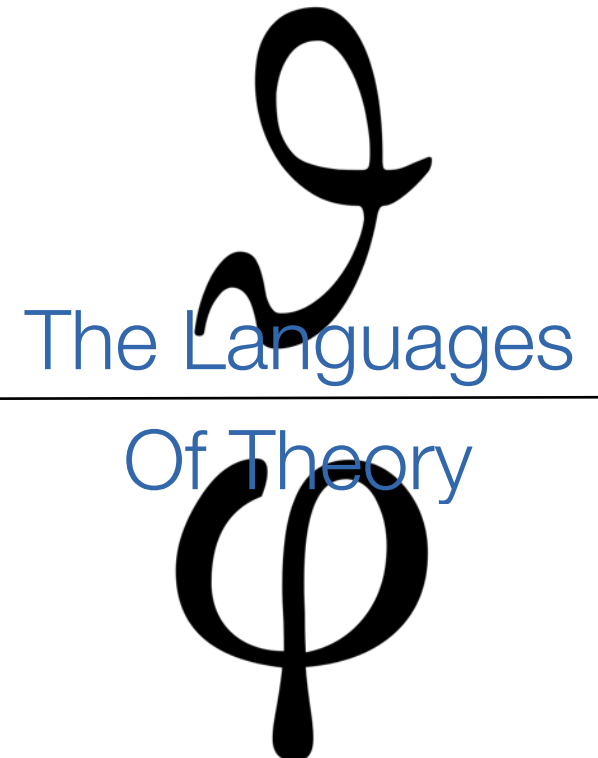
Group section of the 21. World Congress of the International Comparative Literature Association, hosted by the German Comparative Literature Association in cooperation with the Swiss Comparative Literature Association

Conference venue:

Main building, HS 7
University of Vienna
Universitätsring 1
1010 Vienna

Organizing Committee:

Christian Moser
Linda Simonis
Joachim Harst



Fr, 7/22.

Venue: Main Building, HS 7

09:00 Keynote

Linda Simonis: Introduction and Chair
Achim Geisenhanslüke (Frankfurt a.M.): Philological Understanding in the Era after Theory.

10:00

Sandro Zanetti (Zurich): Auratic Theory: Benjamin.
10:45 Coffee Break

11:00 Section 1: Philology and French Theory

Chair: Joachim Harst
Regine Strätling (Bonn): ‚Love of words‘ and anti-philological stance in Roland Barthes’ *S/Z*.

Johanna Schumm (Munich): Deleuze’s *Le pli* and Baroque Language.
12:30 Lunch Break

14:00 Philology and French Theory (continued)

Chair: Christian Moser
Michael Eggers (Cologne): Working at the Net. Bruno Latour’s Foundations of Discursivity.

Kirsten Kramer (Bielefeld): Variants of Agency. Observations on Myth, Fiction and Narrative in Latour’s Social Theory.
15:30 Coffee Break

16:00 Section 2: Philology and Political Theory

Chair: Susanne Knaller
Linda Simonis (Bochum): Acts of Swearing. The Language of the Oath and its Investigation by Agamben and Foucault.

Christian Moser (Bonn): Language and Liability in 18th-Century Theories of the Origin of Culture and Society.
17:30 Coffee Break

18:00 Keynote

Chair: Christian Moser
Nico Pethes (Cologne): Philological Paperwork. The Question of Theory within a Praxeological Perspective on Literary Scholarship.

20:00 Conference Dinner for all participants in the restaurant Das Rebhuhn, Berggasse 24, A-1090 Vienna.

Sa, 7/23.

Venue: Main Building, HS 7

09:00 Philology and Political Theory (continued)

Chair: Markus Winkler
Kathrin Schödel (Malta) : ‘Voice’ or ‘Speech’? Discourses of Migration and Jacques Rancière’s Reflections on Human Rights, Politics and Language.

Maria Boletsi (Leiden): Middle Voice and the Rhetoric of Crisis in Present-Day Europe.
10:30 Coffee Break

11:00 Section 3: Philology and Poetics

Chair: Regine Strätling
Joachim Harst (Bonn): Borges: Poetry as Philology.

Roger Lüdeke (Düsseldorf): Novel Poetics of the Self: Richardson’s Pamela.
12:30 Lunch Break

14:00 Section 4: Philology and Cultural Theory

Chair: Dana Bönisch
Peter Brandes (Bochum): Cultural History and Linguistic Representation of the Bed. Encountering the Philological Foundations of Culture Theory in Quotidian Culture.

Markus Winkler (Geneva): Genealogy and Philology.
15:30 Coffee Break

16:00 Philology and Cultural Theory (continued)

Chair: Joachim Harst
Annette Simonis (Gießen): Stephen Greenblatt and the Making of a New Philology of Culture.

Dagmar Reichardt (Groningen): The Work of Fernando Ortiz and his Impact on Europe.
17:30 Coffee Break

18:00 Panel Discussion

Emily Apter (New York) and David Damrosch (Harvard): Theory, World Literature and the Politics of Translation
Chairs: Christian Moser and Markus Winkler
Venue: Audimax