

Kurzbeschreibung:

Slavoj Žižek has recently published a book with the title 'Living in the End Times'. Whether this diagnosis is correct remains to be seen. However few theorists would doubt that we are living in an intensely turbulent and increasingly dangerous world, a world that is mostly defined by extreme change and by a number of severe moments of crisis. This module will introduce and explore debates that respond to this condition. It will inspect debates that respond to a number of important dimensions of the contemporary global crisis. The first dimension to be discussed is the crisis of globalisation and the return of the local. Here we will look in more detail at the growing disconnect between a globalised economy and a return to national and nationalist politics. We will also introduce various forms of localism and a critique of the local. Secondly the module will focus on the ecological crisis. This is about both, understanding the roots of the crisis and understanding its social, cultural, political, and economic implications. Thirdly the module will focus on the so-called digital revolution and its breathtaking changes of our lives. We will introduce a celebratory and utopian discourse of digital culture as well as its dystopian counterpart. Finally we will discuss the crisis of capitalism. This is the largest part. We will inspect areas such as transformations of work, debates on degrowth, the indebted (wo)man, the crisis of democracy, struggles against capitalism, and the reemergence of the commons and of communist ideologies.

Literatur: