

BOOK PRESENTATION: Overcoming Exploitation and Externalisation

An Intersectional Theory of Hegemony and Transformation

GPN, Kleine Rosenstraße 1-3, Room 3023 (5th floor)

Tuesday April 30, 2024, 6:30 p.m.

Given that we are the ensemble of social relations, as Karl Marx writes, or to say it with Judith Butler: that we do not exist beyond discourse, it follows that our identities are not independent of economic relations. Just as economic relations cannot be thought of as unaffected by identity politics. However, identity politics is far more than gendering: Not wanting to admit patriarchal privileges as a man is identity politics; not taking to the streets as a worker because the own country has an advantageous position in the global economy is identity politics. A historical perspective reveals even more how essential securing privileges was and is for our current economic order.

But good will is not enough. On the contrary: the structural constraints of capitalism go much deeper than merely being a matter of greed or corporate power. These cannot be fixed within the system. It is the market economy itself that demands structural inequality, that enforces exploitation far beyond the extraction of surplus value and that, in short, makes a good life for all impossible.

Everything is connected. This analysis opens up opportunities for change at every level: from direct action and political campaigns to everyday life and our own subjectivities. Only the direction must be clear: away from structural constraints, towards greater democratisation (not least for the empowerment of suppressed identities), and the creation of commons as spaces based on also material inclusion rather than exclusion.

Friederike Habermann has given the world a wonderful gift in Overcoming Exploitation and Externalization. Not only has she analysed and distilled two hundred years of Marxist, decolonial, and feminist social theorists, but she has brought a unique and piercing insight that exceeds them all. This is the work of a giant standing on the shoulders of giants.

Raj Patel, Research Professor, Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs, University of Texas at Austin, USA

Friederike Habermann is an economist and historian with a PhD in political science, active in social movements since 1980, independent researcher and author of eight monographs. She is particularly concerned with the entanglement of intersectional forms of privilege maintenance and the market society - and with ways out of this mess.

[Link to the book.](#)

