





THE POSITION OF SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY IN GERMANY AND ITALY

A Comparison of Development Patterns and Identity Debates

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP 20–21 NOVEMBER 2025



THURSDAY, 20 NOVEMBER

I - Encounters

Chair: Stefan Laffin | Roma

9.00 - Lars Döpking | Roma & Lukas Pfäffle | Heidelberg Introduction: Transalpine Perspectives on the Challenges of Sociological Theory Today

Lorenzo Sabetta | Roma & Andrea Brighenti | Trento Inheriting and Prolonging Social Theory. Our Experience with Developing a Sociology of Reaction in Dialogue with German-Language Theorists

Daniel Witte | Aachen Does German Sociological Theory Exist?

11.00 - Coffee break

II - Transfers

Chair: Hannah Schmidt-Ott | Hamburg

11.30 - Lukas Pfäffle | Heidelberg The Italian Renaissance and the Alfred Weber Colloquium. Observations on Norbert Elias' Unfinished Habilitation Project

Barbara Grüning | Milano Translating German Work. The Case Study of "Ideologie und Utopie" in Light of the Institutionalization of Sociology in Italy after WWII

13.15 - Lunch

III - Critique

Chair: Gregor Fitzi | Frankfurt/Oder

14.15 - Luca Corchia | Chieti-Pescara La teoria critica francofortese nella sociologia italiana. Sociologia storica e analisi di campo per una ricezione incompiuta

Darrow Schecter | Sussex Kritische Theorie und Biopolitik. Die teils kontrastierenden, teils sich ergänzenden Wege des kritischen Denkens in Deutschland und Italien in vergleichender Perspektive

Giovanni de Ghantuz Cubbe | Bergamo Vilfredo Pareto and the Transformation of Social Sciences in Italy and Germany

16.30 - Coffee break

IV - Reflections

Chair: Lukas Pfäffle | Heidelberg

17.00 - Emiliana Mangone | Salerno Problemi, contraddizioni e prospettive della sociologia italiana con uno sguardo oltralpe

Monika Krause | London Asking about Grand Theory in Different National Traditions of Sociology

19.30 - Dinner for Participants

FRIDAY, 21 NOVEMBER

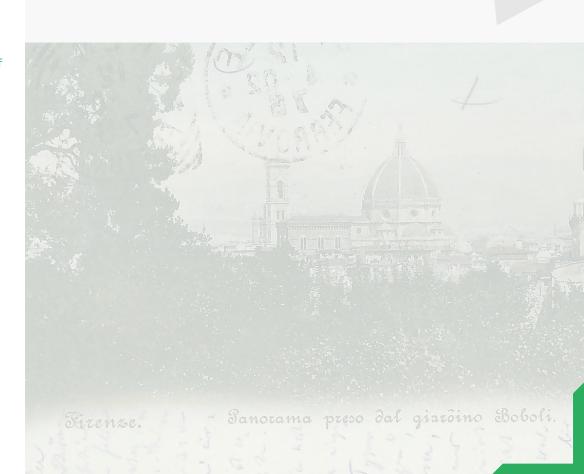
Future Perspectives

Lukas Pfäffle | Heidelberg & Lars Döpking | Roma

9.30

- a) Open Questions & Future Perspectives of Sociological Theory Between Germany & Italy
- b) Villa Vigoni Application
- c) Organizing Bilateral Reviews

11.30 - End of the Workshop



The interested glance across the Alps has influenced the genesis and development of sociological theory in Italian- and German-speaking countries. However, the lack of attention paid to the further advancement of theory and theoretically well-founded contributions is now widely criticised in both countries. Against this backdrop, the workshop brings together researchers from both countries to discuss the institutional, social and cultural factors of theory development from a transalpine perspective.

The history of the reception of individual theories and approaches will not be the focus of the discussion. Instead, the topics will centre on questions of transfer, mutual perception and institutionalisation – not least in order to constructively counteract the typical asymmetries of this bilateral theoretical relationship.

Venue

Deutsches Historisches Institut in Rom Istituto Storico Germanico di Roma Via Aurelia Antica, 391 I–00165 Roma www.dhi-roma.it

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Joint workshop of the Max Weber Institute for Sociology at Heidelberg University and the German Historical Institute in Rome.

Supported by

Sektion Soziologische Theorie der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Soziologie

Sektion Soziologiegeschichte der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Soziologie





