



Deutsches Historisches  
Institut in Rom  
Istituto Storico  
Germanico di Roma



UNIVERSITÄT  
HEIDELBERG  
ZUKUNFT  
SEIT 1386



# THE POSITION OF SOCIOLOGICAL THEORY IN GERMANY AND ITALY

A Comparison of Development Patterns  
and Identity Debates

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP

20–21 NOVEMBER 2025



Firenze.

Panorama preso dal giardino Boboli.

## THURSDAY, 20 NOVEMBER

### I – Encounters

Chair: Stefan Laffin | Roma

**9.00** - Lars Döpkig | 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 Nor-  
bert 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 socio-  
logia 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 Deutsch-  
land und Italien in vergleichender Pers-  
pektive

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 Döpkig | 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

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## Contact

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

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**Sektion Soziologische Theorie der Deutschen  
Gesellschaft für Soziologie**

**Sektion Soziologiegeschichte der Deutschen  
Gesellschaft für Soziologie**



**! In-person event.**

Please register for participation:



Cover: Postcard with a panorama of Florence, written and addressed by Max Weber to his wife Marianne (photo: Bayerische Staatsbibliothek, Max Weber-Schäfer collection, letter number 824).