Anti-Racism & Anti-Imperialism (Call for papers)

“The problem is racism,” reads a popular slogan (in Germany). A problem, certainly. Another one is anti-racism. That is, a likewise popular discourse in the humanities exerting a growing impact also on various political groups on the Left; a melange of diverse deconstructivist theories from the realms of Post-Colonial Studies and, most recently, so-called Critical Whiteness Studies.

As the race-class-gender triad indicated already decades ago, a critique of the relations of production and their ideology is gradually being replaced by the respect for identities. Meanwhile, the Left is developing into a human resources department of a diversified capitalism, as Walter Benn Michaels put it. Class too shall now be regarded as a kind of social colour (“classism”) to be particularly esteemed, and not to be abolished.

Still, a crude anti-imperialism that was once to legitimize the armed struggle of the “oppressed peoples” has survived to this day. But the enemy, according to the façon de parler of those seemingly advanced theories, is now called eurocentrism or universalism. The Enlightenment, irrespective of its dialectics, may at best be tolerated as a particular culture among others, or, worse, itself be vilified as imperialist. Whoever dares to speak as a white, that is, a privileged person, first of all ought to question his or her own position—instead of expecting people of any colour to be able to make use of their own understanding without direction from another. Minority, which racism attributes to the natural conditions of certain groups of human beings, can thus be declared a sacrosanct characteristic of Otherness. Races, though everyone would deny their mere existence, are thus being preserved as products of cultural practice.

Such inconsistencies and contradictions as well as their political consequences shall be examined in the forthcoming issue (No. 1/2018) of the Journal for Critical Social Theory and Philosophy. We are inviting contributions to the critique of cultural identity, to the anti-racist theory of colours (whites vs. people of colour), to the relationship between (leftist) cultural relativism and (rightist) ethnopluralism, not least to anti-Semitism frequently bursting forth in the name of anti-racism.

Articles should
- be written in German or English;
- include an abstract along with a short biographical note on the author;
- not exceed 60,000 characters;
- be prepared for anonymous review;
- be sent to chhesse@zedat.fu-berlin.de.

Please submit your abstracts (max. 2 pages) until July 15, 2017. Full articles are being expected until October 30, 2017. For further information please visit http://www.degruyter.com/view/j/zksp