



INSTITUTE FOR CRITICAL SOCIAL THEORY

University of Bristol

Critical Theory in an Age of Social Disintegration

July 17–19th, 2025

www.criticalsocialtheory.com



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Lady Hale Moot Court Room, 8-10 Berkeley Square,

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United Kingdom



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CONFERENCE INFORMATION

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Conference Organizers:

Dustin J. Byrd: criticalsocialtheory@gmail.com

Seyed Javad Miri: leo_tolstoy17335@yahoo.com

Michael Naughton: M.Naughton@bristol.ac.uk

July 17th

8:30-9:15am: Registration

9:15: Welcome Address: Dr. Michael Naughton

9:30-11am: Session 1: *Post-Colonial Theory and Praxis*

- 1) **I Am Crippled: Revisiting Semilingualism in the Post-Colonial Global South**
Ghada Zakaria
- 2) **Colonial hang ups in Superdiverse cities**
Serena Hussain
- 3) **Gaza Genocide, Global Solidarity, and the Suppression of Palestine Advocacy: A Critical Theory Discourse**
Eithar Daher (Zoom)

11am: Break

11:30-1pm: Session 2: *Gender, Sexuality, and Culture*

- 1) **Ideology in Globalized Critical Theory and its Methodologies: Presence, Utilizations, & Reflections**
Joseph Alagha & Krikor Ankeshian (Zoom)
- 2) **ECOWAS and the Rise of Military Populism in West Africa: A Critical System Theory Approach**
Abubakar Abubakar Usman
- 3) **Failures of the Left: Mapping the Intersections of Gendered and Liberal Islamophobia**
Amina Easat-Daas

1-2pm: Lunch

2-3:30pm: Session 3: *Religion and Philosophy in Liberal and Post-Modernist Society*

- 1) **Catholicism, Post-Liberalism, and Populism: Situating the Politics of *Word on Fire***
Michael Calderbank
- 2) **René Guénon: His Work and Thought in the Times We Live In**
Carimo Mohomed (Zoom)
- 3) **Needy Existence: Fromm, Marx, and the Problem of Human Need**
Kieran Durkin

3:30pm: Break

4-5pm: **Plenary Address:** Seyed Javad Miri

Break for the Evening

July 18th

9:30-11:45am: Session 1: *Politics, Economy, and Genocide*

- 1) **Religion, Presidential Elections, and Social Anomie**
Laurentiu D. Tanase
- 2) **Who is responsible for global financial crises?**
Constanza Carolina Guajardo Ortega
- 3) **Religious Orthodoxy and the Tragic Disposition**
Ben Menghini
- 4) **'Poetic Thinking and the Beauty of its Excess in *Orlando***
Martha Raquel Gonzales

11:45am: Break

12-1:00pm: **Round Table Discussion: Critical Theory in a time of War: Ukraine, Gaza, Iran**

All participants are highly encouraged to join us in a discussion on the nature of doing critical theory amidst the wars in Ukraine-Russia, Israel-Palestine, Israel-Iran, and the ongoing threats to democracy.

1:00-2pm: Lunch

2pm-3:00: **Plenary Address:** Dustin J. Byrd

Break for the Evening

July 19th

Walking Tour of Bristol and its History (Time TBD)

For a brief introduction into Bristol's connection to the Transatlantic Slave Trade, see the below articles:

[Bristol and the Transatlantic Slave Trade.](#)

[The University and Slavery.](#)

For a good introduction to the history of the city of Bristol, see this BBC documentary:

[Bristol's Dark Georgian Past.](#)

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

July 17th at 4pm:



Seyed Javad Miri, Ph.D.

“Critical Social Theory in a Critical Global Context”

Seyed Javad Miri is a Swedish-Iranian Sociologist and Professor at the Institute for Humanities and Cultural Studies in Tehran, Iran. He is a specialist in Islamic social theory, inter-civilizational discourse, and contemporary Islamic thought. He has published numerous books and articles, including, *Revisiting the Critical Legacy of Shah Ismail* (Brill, 2025), *Towards Emancipation: Decolonality and the Critical Social Theory in the Primordial School of Thought* (Ekpyrosis Press, 2025), and co-edited *Ali Shariati: Critical Social Theory and the Struggle for Decolonization* (Ekpyrosis Press, 2025). He is the Founder of the journal *Islamic Perspective* (now *Critical Perspectives*) and also serves as the Co-Director of the Institute for Critical Social Theory.

July 18th at 2pm:



Dustin J. Byrd, Ph.D.

“What it means to be Critical in an Age of Disintegration”

Dustin J. Byrd is a Professor of Philosophy and Religious Studies at The University of Olivet in Michigan, USA. He specializes in Social and Political Philosophy, with an expertise in the Frankfurt School, the Critical Theory of Religion, and Psychoanalytical Political Theory. He has edited/co-edited numerous books, including *Ali Shariati: Critical Social Theory and the Struggle for Decolonization* (Ekpyrosis Press, 2025); *The Many Faces of Populism: Perspectives from Critical Theory and Beyond* (Brill, 2024); *Sigmund Freud as a Critical Social Theorist: Psychoanalysis and the Neurotic in Contemporary Society* (Brill, 2024), and *Syed Hussein Alatas and Critical Social Theory: Decolonizing the Captive Mind* (Brill, 2024), and has authored many more, including, *The Dark Charisma of Donald Trump: Political Psychology and the MAGA Movement* (Ekpyrosis Press, 2023), and *The Frankfurt School and the Dialectics of Religion: Translating Critical Faith into Critical Theory* (Ekpyrosis Press, 2020). He is the Co-Director of the Institute for Critical Social Theory; the Editor-in-Chief of ICST’s new journal, *Critical Perspectives*, and the Founder and Editor-in-Chief of Ekpyrosis Press. www.ekpyrosispress.com More information about Dustin J. Byrd can be found on his personal website: www.dustinjbyrd.org