

Call for Papers: Unveiling the Past, Illuminating the Present: Radical Historicism in Political Economy and Historical Sociology

Convenors:

Judith Koch, j.koch@sussex.ac.uk

Pedro Salgado, pedro.dutra-salgado@port.ac.uk

The workshop "Unveiling the Past, Illuminating the Present: Radical Historicism in Political Economy and Historical Sociology" invites scholars and researchers to explore the scope and multifaceted dimensions of Radical Historicism as an interdisciplinary method for the study of International Relations. It specifically aims at delving into the method's implications for (Global) Political Economy (PE) and International Historical Sociology (IHS), as two fields that challenge various dichotomies such as politics/economics, public/private, and domestic/international, thereby engaging in historical comparisons, whether overtly or implicitly.

Radical Historicism seeks to foster a deeper comprehension of the complex dynamics that have shaped political and economic structures by dismantling Eurocentric perspectives and by critically deconstructing grand narratives. By moving beyond traditional approaches, the exploration of Radical Historicism becomes essential in constructing a more inclusive and nuanced understanding of the many processes that shape historical and contemporary socio-political landscapes.

One of the central themes of the workshop is the intrinsic link between Historical Sociology and Political Economy. Radical Historicism provides a unique methodological framework that challenges conventional interpretations of historical events, enhancing the interdisciplinary dialogue between these two fields. The workshop will delve into how Radical Historicism enriches the study of how social practices, actors, and structures evolve over time, provoking a vibrant discussion among scholars with different understandings of the radical historicist method.

By bringing together scholars with diverse expertise and perspectives, this workshop aims to facilitate a critical intellectual exchange that contributes to ongoing dialogues within the fields of Political Economy and Historical Sociology. Challenging established paradigms, this workshop aspires to pave the way for a more comprehensive understanding of the intricate interplay between history, politics, and society.

Topics of Interest:

The proposed workshop welcomes submissions on a variety of topics aligned with Radical Historicism, including but not limited to:

- Anti-Eurocentrism and Post-/Decolonial Theory: Exploring contributions that challenge Eurocentric perspectives and offer insights into post-/decolonial theories.
- Radical Historicist Institutionalism: Analyzing how Radical Historicism influences institutional structures and their impact on political and economic systems.
- Theory, History, and Method in International Relations (IR): Investigating the tensions between theory, history, and method in the context of International Relations through a Radical Historicism lens.
- Radical Historicism in Marxism and Poststructuralism: Examining the intersections and divergences between these two traditions in the materiality of discourse, and in the relation between a genealogy of subjects and philosophy of praxis.
- Law, Colonialism, and Accumulation: Exploring the role of Radical Historicism in uncovering the role of law in (primitive?) accumulation, the legal construction of subjectivities, and the evolving connections between property and sovereignty.
- State Formation as Social and Geopolitical Process: Investigating the social and geopolitical dimensions of state formation through a Radical Historicist perspective.
- Foreign Policy, Diplomacy, and Agency: Analyzing the complexities of foreign policy formation and diplomacy by employing Radical Historicism to understand agency in historical processes.

Submission Guidelines:

Please include a brief bio and contact information. We look forward to your contributions.