



23rd Democracy & Diversity Graduate Summer Institute
Wrocław [Vrots-love], Poland
July 3-19, 2014
Understanding Modernity

The Transregional Center for Democratic Studies (TCDS) is pleased to announce its 23rd annual *Democracy & Diversity* Institute to be held at The New School summer campus in Wrocław, Poland from July 3 to 19, 2014. Over the years the D&D Institute has gathered an exceptional international reputation as a major transatlantic bridge that brings Americans and Europeans closer to ideas generated in both parts of the world.

Widely admired as an intimate international forum for lively but rigorous debate on critical issues of democratic life, the D&D Institute brings an interdisciplinary, comparative, and highly interactive approach to the social, political, and cultural challenges facing today's world.

Located between Berlin, Prague, and Warsaw, and saturated with the history and memory of these three distinct cultures, **Wrocław** (formerly Breslau) is a beautiful and booming city that uniquely conveys both the challenges and the promise of a united Europe. Drawing on Wrocław's culture of the borderland, TCDS's network of distinguished and dedicated collaborators and alumni, and The New School's reputation stemming from our long-term engagement in the region, the *Democracy & Diversity* Institute offers a rigorous program of critical inquiry on some of the most pressing problems of our time.

This year's program will unfold around the theme ***Understanding Modernity*** and will consider the individual and social conditions of modern prejudice and its political consequences; contemporary social movements such as the Arab Spring and Occupy Wall St. and their democratic potential and limitations; the role of political theory in legitimizing violence in its various forms (structural, cultural, symbolic); and the necessity of media in modern democratic life and the role of the "politics of small things." This program will be complimented by several study tours of Wrocław's cultural and historical landmarks as well as several evening events featuring artists and intellectuals from the region.

Our local collaborators in Poland are the International Institute for the Study of Culture and Education (IISCE) at the University of Lower Silesia and the Ośrodek Szkolenia Państwowej Inspekcji Pracy.

University of Lower Silesia

OŚRODEK SZKOLENIA
PAŃSTWOWEJ INSPEKЦИИ PRACY**Wrocław** the meeting PLACE

COURSES OFFERED:

New School students register for 2 courses and receive 6 credits. Other participants will receive Institute certificates. All participants select 2 out of the following 4 graduate-level seminars:

The World of Prejudice

Agnes Heller – The New School for Social Research, Professor Emeritus of Philosophy

This course will discuss the relationship between modernity and forms of prejudice such as racism, anti-Semitism, class prejudices, prejudices against women, and sexual prejudices. We will first examine the individual and social conditions of prejudice in modern society before moving on to its concrete forms. We will then investigate how those prejudices undermine the norms and the normalcy of liberal democracies, and how they serve as ideological means for furthering different fundamentalist movements and establish totalitarian parties and totalitarian states. In order to fully explore the notion of prejudice we will not only examine works of philosophy and political theory (Arendt, Gadamer, Foucault, Beauvoir) but also some of the preeminent works of modern literature (Lessing, Ibsen, Flaubert).

Participatory Democracy, “People Power” & Social Change

James Miller – The New School for Social Research, Professor of Political Science and Liberal Studies

In 2011, inspired, in part, by a series of avowedly democratic uprisings in the Arab world, the United States and several other countries experienced a spectacular series of ephemeral revolts organized by activists committed to prefiguring, through occupations of urban public spaces, a new world of social justice and radical democracy. After reviewing some of the hopes aroused in 2011 by the Arab Spring and Occupy Wall Street, this seminar will flash back to the origins of the modern democratic vision in the work of Rousseau and the experience of the Parisian artisans who experimented with forms of direct political participation at the height of the French Revolution. Then, we will trace this tradition through Marx, Arendt’s paradoxical work *On Revolution*, and up to the present, asking ourselves: What have we learned about the global potential – and limits – of the radical democratic revolts of our own era?

Romancing Violence: Theories and Practices of Political Violence

Elzbieta Matynia – The New School for Social Research, Professor of Sociology and Liberal Studies

Far from receding with the rise of liberal democracies worldwide, violence appears to be enjoying a spectacular rebound – from the wave of revolutions in North Africa and the Middle East to dramatic acts of individual terror in Norway. This course explores classical theoretical propositions concerning the role of violence in bringing about social and political change – from Marx, through Weber, Lenin, Gramsci, Arendt, and Benjamin, to more recent thinkers like Bourdieu, Agamben, Zizek, and Michnik. We will look at different types of political violence, and revisit Arendt’s distinction between the justifiability and the legitimacy of violence. Conscious of the traditional forms of political violence – wars, revolutions, and armed struggle movements – we will pay close attention to the forms and consequences of structural violence, but also examine the forms of cultural and symbolic violence, such as language that routinely serves to legitimize violence. A separate session will be dedicated to the discourse on non-violence.

Media and Politics of Small Things

Jeffrey Goldfarb – The New School for Social Research, Professor of Sociology

Modern media undermine democracy. This is well known. Corporate media support corporate power, as Chomsky and Herman have analyzed in their “propaganda model,” while commercial media turn politics into a commodity, undermining the public sphere, as Habermas criticized in his classic, *The Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere*.

Nonetheless, the media are necessary for contemporary democratic life. Thus, Habermas himself revised his critique of the media. In this seminar, we will analyze in close focus, the sociological dynamics that make this revision necessary. We will study the ways that media make democracy possible, by constituting a mediated public and by supporting and extending alternative politics. Specifically, we will study how “the politics of small things” are mediated and move public life. We will explore the big political consequences of mediated social interactions.

ACCOMMODATION

The Institute participants will be housed in **The Park Hotel** of the Ośrodek Szkolenia Państwowej Inspekcji Pracy conference center conveniently located amidst the beautiful Szczytnicki Park about a 30-40 minute walk to the city historical center and close to the iconic Centennial Hall. The hotel’s unique building, which was designed in 1929 by the prominent modernist architect Hans Scharoun (1893-1972), features the principle of organic architecture promoting harmony between human habitation and the natural world. The participants will share double and triple rooms in the modernist residence and classes will be held in the next-door conference center. Breakfast and lunch will be served in the hotel.

ELIGIBILITY

Graduate applicants: Applicants should have completed their undergraduate studies by the time of the Institute and should be either enrolled in a postgraduate degree program or working as junior university teachers or researchers. Preference will be given to those applicants who can demonstrate active involvement in civil society and civic life.

Advanced undergraduate applicants: Applicants must be enrolled as juniors or seniors. Preference will be given to those applicants who, while academically inclined, can demonstrate an active interest in civic life.

PROGRAM COSTS

~**Participants from The New School:**

Tuition: Tuition for applicants from The New School is based on the tuition they pay at their respective home divisions. New School financial aid is applicable. Please contact the Office of Financial Aid for more information.

Program Fee: The program fee of \$2000 covers participants’ room and partial board (breakfast and lunch) for the duration of the Institute, as well as the cultural program of lectures, tours, opening and closing receptions, etc. Travel costs are not included. Successful applicants can apply for support in their respective divisions. New School for Social Research (NSSR) students may apply directly to TCDS for support in covering the program fee. We encourage all applicants to look for outside funding sources.

~**Participants from other institutions in the US and abroad:**

Program Fee: The program fee of the 2014 Graduate Summer Institute for non-New School students is \$2500, covering tuition (non-credit), room and partial board (breakfast and lunch), and the cultural program of lectures, tours, opening and closing receptions, etc. Travel costs are not included. We strongly encourage all applicants to look for funding sources from their home institutions and local organizations.

HOW TO APPLY

Application form is available on the TCDS Web site at <http://blogs.newschool.edu/tcds/wroclaw-2014>.

~**All Applicants from The New School** need to submit:

Completed application form • CV or resume • Application essay (approx. 500 words describing how the Institute would complement one's academic experience to date and enhance educational and professional goals for the future) • New School academic transcript (unofficial)

~**All other Applicants** need to submit:

Completed application form • CV or resume • Application essay in English (approx. 500 words describing how the Institute would complement one's academic experience to date and enhance educational and professional goals for the future) • One letter of recommendation sent from the e-mail address belonging to its author or as an attachment to the application letter if scanned • **TOEFL or other evidence of substantial English language skills is required if coming from a non-English speaking country** • Applicants affiliated with an NGO or a civic organization should also include a brief description of the nature of the work undertaken by their organization

WHERE TO SUBMIT

~**Applicants from The New School except for Eugene Lang College:** Please submit application materials to TCDS via e-mail: tcds@newschool.edu with the subject "**WR14 Application.**" You can also submit your application in person at TCDS, 80 Fifth Ave, 5th Floor, Room#517, NY, NY 10011.

~**Applicants from Eugene Lang College:** Please submit application materials to Dechen Alberro, Senior Academic Advisor, or Kiah Shapiro at Eugene Lang College Study Abroad by e-mail: Langstudyabroad@newschool.edu with the subject "**WR14 Application.**" You can also submit your application in person at Study Abroad, 64 W 11th St, New York, NY, tel: 212.229.5100 x2260.

~**Applicants from Poland:** All applicants from Poland should apply through the International Institute for the Study of Culture and Education ([IISCE](http://www.iisce.org)) at the University of Lower Silesia. Please submit application materials via e-mail: iisce@dsw.edu.pl with the subject "**WR14 Application**"; or via fax: +48 71 356 15 72.

~**All other Applicants:** Please submit application materials to TCDS via e-mail: tcds@newschool.edu with the subject "**WR14 Application.**" You can also send your application by mail to The Transregional Center for Democratic Studies (TCDS), 80 Fifth Ave, 5th Floor, Room#517, NY, NY 10011.

THE APPLICATION DEADLINE

For all New School applicants, the application deadline is **March 28, 2014.**

For all other applicants, the application deadline is **April 14, 2014.**

For more information, please visit our [Web site \(http://blogs.newschool.edu/tcds/wroclaw-2014\)](http://blogs.newschool.edu/tcds/wroclaw-2014) or contact us by e-mail at tcds@newschool.edu or by phone at 212 229-5580 ext. 3137.