

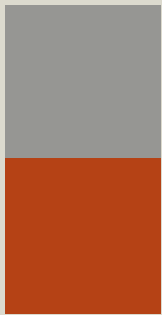
# Authoritarianism, Ambivalence, Ambiguity

## The Life and Work of Else Frenkel-Brunswik

Online-Symposium, July, 1–2, 2021



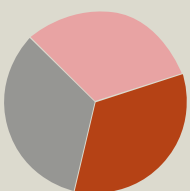
Vienna



**Else Frenkel-Brunswik** (1908–1958) may be known to some as one of the co-authors of the famous study *The Authoritarian Personality* by Theodor W. Adorno and others. However, as was the case with other Austrian sociologists such as Marie Jahoda and Maria Hertz Levinson, Frenkel-Brunswik's role in empirical research remained seldom discussed in later reception. Along with their names, a specific influence was forgotten that had significantly shaped this research—a distinct combination of empirical sociology, (social) psychology and psychoanalysis that had emerged in Vienna in the period before World War II and was expelled during Austrofascism and Nazism. Here it had been treated with hostility by established university social scientists, who branded it as feminist, Marxist and Jewish, and bluntly labeled it as »odd« (»ungerade«).

On July 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021, we are holding a symposium in Vienna dedicated to the life and works of Else Frenkel-Brunswik. The symposium invites international experts to explore the work of Else Frenkel-Brunswik, in particular her research on authoritarianism, and the legacy of this research for the social sciences today.

Berkeley



ORGANISED BY

AGSÖ, Archive for the History of Sociology in Austria

öge, Austrian Association for Exile Research

Österreichische Gesellschaft für Soziologie -

Sektion Geschichte der Soziologie

FUNDED BY

Zukunftsfonds der Republik Österreich

Registration: [office@exilforschung.ac.at](mailto:office@exilforschung.ac.at)



## Thursday, July 1, 2021

3.00–3.30 p.m. CET

### Opening remarks

3.30–5.00 p.m. CET

### Intellectual influences between Vienna and Berkeley: Continuities and ruptures

**Maria Czwik** UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA  
The Bühler students. The Vienna Institute  
for Psychology as reflected in dissertation  
projects

**Andreas Huber** UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA  
Professorial Sects and Student Riots.  
Antifeminism and Antisemitism at the  
University of Vienna in the Interwar period

**Christoph Reinprecht** UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA  
Else Frenkel-Brunswik's fractured  
biography in exile

5.30–7.00 p.m. CET

### Research on Authoritarianism in Exile

**Andreas Kranebitter** UNIVERSITY OF GRAZ  
Else Frenkel-Brunswik's methodological  
practice in THE AUTHORITARIAN PERSONALITY

**Christian Fleck** UNIVERSITY OF GRAZ  
Else Frenkel-Brunswik, contemporary  
sociology and sociological peers

**Mitchell Ash** UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA  
The Authoritarian Personality study as a  
synthesis of scientific cultures

## Friday, July 2, 2021

3.00–4.30 p.m. CET

### Persistence and Heritage: Else Frenkel-Brunswik in today's research

**Emily Abbey** RAMAPO COLLEGE, NEW JERSEY  
Else Frenkel-Brunswik: The centrality of  
ambivalence and ambiguity in human life

**Stanley Feldman** STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY, NY  
Social conformity and authoritarianism

**Angela Kindervater** MEDICAL SCHOOL HAMBURG  
The Impact of Else Frenkel-Brunswik's  
Research on Gerda Lederer's Studies  
of Authoritarianism

**Peter Schmidt** UNIVERSITY OF GIESSEN  
**Lucyna Darowska** UNIVERSITY OF OLDENBURG  
Differentiated perspectives on the concept of  
THE AUTHORITARIAN PERSONALITY—discussion in the  
context of a quantitative-qualitative paradigm

5.00–7.00 p.m. CET

### The Authoritarian Personality today

**Oliver Decker** UNIVERSITY OF LEIPZIG  
Social psychological research in tradition of  
Else Frenkel-Brunswik: Authoritarian Dynamics  
and its consequences

**Karin Stögner** UNIVERSITY OF PASSAU  
Rereading THE AUTHORITARIAN PERSONALITY today:  
A critical-feminist approach

**Robyn Marasco** HUNTER COLLEGE, NY  
What is Political Psychology?  
Else Frenkel-Brunswik and the Tasks  
of Social Science