Authoritarianism, Ambivalence, Ambiguity

The Life and Work of Else Frenkel-Brunswik

Online-Symposium, July, 1–2, 2021

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 »ungerade«.

On July 1st and 2nd, 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.

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AGSÖ, Archive for the History of Sociology in Austria
öge, Austrian Association for Exile Research
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Registration: office@exilforschung.ac.at
Programme

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

To register for the conference, please send an e-mail to office@exilforschung.ac.at
For further information visit agso.uni-graz.at/frenkel-brunswik