



Bloch Symposion 2022 Salzburg

Utopia and Resistance Ideological Critique • Political Music • Education

8–10 June 2022

Paris Lodron University Salzburg

Edmundsburg (Europe Hall) /
Great Hall of the University

Keynotes

„Heimat – Childhood – Utopia“ Prof. Dr. Micha Brumlik, Goethe University Frankfurt

„Bloch – Marcuse – Nature“ Prof. Dr. Wolfdietrich Schmied-Kowarzik, University of Kassel

„Hope does not mean confidence“ Prof. Dr. Francesca Vidal, University of Koblenz-Landau

Call for Papers

Organisers of the Symposion:

Univ.-Prof. Dr. Wassilios Baros (University of Salzburg/PREMISA) (Chair)

Univ.-Prof. Dr. Sabine Coelsch-Foisner (University of Salzburg/PLUS Kultur/ÖFG)

Univ.-Prof. Dr. Heinz Sünker (University of Wuppertal)

in cooperation with the „School of Classics and Humanities“ (Democritus University of Thrace)

Team of the chair in educational research (University of Salzburg):

Corinna Christmann MA, Aida Delic MA, Paraskevi Fanarioti MA, Keratso Georgiadou Dr., Ricarda Gugg MA, Miriam Hannig MA, Johanna Heimbach BA, Ioannis Kourtis MA, Angeliki Manafi MA, Georgia Manafi MA, Themistoklis Moutsisis MA, Christos Pantazis Dr., Daniela Susso MA, Annika Wastl

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"Es kommt darauf an, das hoffen zu lernen"¹, says Ernst Bloch in the preface of his highly acclaimed work "The Principle of Hope", which he wrote between 1938 and 1947 in exile in the USA. In the light of the current COVID-19 pandemic, in which people are facing fear and concerns about 'what may come', this dictum seems to have lost none of its topicality in recent decades. Bloch speaks of hope as a 'concrete utopia', i.e. as a social change that is really possible – a guiding human principle and drive. In this process of realization, in which the closer determinations of the future are brought forth through 'groping' and experiment, past, present, and future are not to be understood in terms of a chronological succession of distinct periods of time, but as inseparably intertwined and mutually influencing each other. In a series of experiences of solidarity that arose during this dark period, a glimpse of that which is better can already be discerned. Bloch found the transition from the past to utopia, this mixed light of past and future², first and foremost in art, literature and music, which he understood as a *mirror of the utopian*.

The Salzburg Ernst Bloch Symposium "Utopia and Resistance. Ideological Critique – Political Music – Education" 2022 aims to harness Bloch's thinking in a transdisciplinary manner for a critical-reflexive educational research.

To this end we invite contributions exploring the following questions:

- How can the relationship between education, hope and utopia be determined (theoretically/empirically)?
- To what extent can education be described as utopia in the meaning of *not-yet-aware* or *not-yet-become*?
- To what extent can hope be relevant to education in the context of experiences of crisis?
- What does pedagogy contribute (concretely) to 'learning to hope'?
- What is the significance of the arts as a *mirror of the utopian* in the context of education?
- What conditions in today's societies might have a favourable/unfavourable effect on the capacity for utopia?
- What is the significance of Bloch's concept of time for (political) education?
- What (further) aspects of Bloch's theories can be made fruitful for both critical-reflexive educational research and educational practice from an emancipatory perspective?

Dedicated to the resistance against processes of de-democratization, the Salzburg Ernst Bloch Symposium hopes to reveal the significance of Bloch's work for a critically reflexive educational research and, more broadly, encourage transdisciplinary socio-critical research apt to yield vital synergies between the sciences and the arts. A song-recital under the motto "For democratic values, society and people", performed by world-famous singer Maria Farantouri, will ensure a

¹ Bloch, E. (1977): Das Prinzip Hoffnung, Part 1. Frankfurt a.M.: Suhrkamp, p. 1; Freely translated: "It depends on learning to hope".

² Cf. Bloch, E. (1977): Tübinger Einleitung in die Philosophie. Frankfurt a. M.: Suhrkamp.

powerful opening of the symposium. Salzburg, world-renowned as a 'city of music, literature and art', offers an excellent venue for this event bringing together culture and science.

Papers

- You have 15–20 minutes speaking time per presentation.
- Please submit your proposal, title, name of author/authors and an abstract of 200 words to blochsymposionsalzburg@sbg.ac.at by 28.02.2022. Proposals are accepted in German and English.

In case of queries, please contact the organisers of the conference:
blochsymposionsalzburg@sbg.ac.at

**We look forward to your contribution and to welcoming you in
Salzburg!**

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