

Disturbed futures
Psychopathology of time between philosophy and psychiatry
(Interdisciplinary workshop)

Place: Collegium Helveticum, University of Zurich and ETH Zurich

Date: 17th November 2015, 09.00–17.00h

Contact: moskalewicz@gmail.com or moskalewicz@collegium.ethz.ch

What is pathological regarding time experience and, more specifically, regarding human experience of the future – by all means the most important dimension of time? Is there a standard, neutral notion of the future, against which particular abnormal experiences could be assessed as such? Alternatively, is there, among the many context-dependent and value-laden notions of the future, a particularly “healthy” one?

These questions have been long debated in philosophy, outside of the medical context of mental health. Numerous distinctions between different “kinds” of future(s) have been made and explored, such as: determined future (Hempel), unpredictable future (Derrida), future as the Other (Levinas), progressive future (Koselleck), open-ended future (Arendt) or future toward-death (Heidegger). Philosophers have also analyzed problems related to conscious/unconscious horizon of expectation and to the contingency vs. necessity of the future. However, discussions of the deviation from “normality” have remained rare.

At the same time, psychopathological relevance of the varieties of lived time has been discussed within the field of phenomenological psychiatry. Investigating temporality as a pre-reflective structure of all experience and as a reflective attitude towards different dimensions of time, psychiatrists construed future experiences in terms of their abnormality, including phenomena such as: obstructed future (Gebattel), others-determined future (Binswanger), disconnected future (Straus), uncontrollable future (Melges) or desynchronized future (Fuchs). Regardless of the real, ontological not-yet, future can be *lived upon* in many different ways, some of them apparently extreme, such as utopian future of an addict, presented future of a maniac, chaotic future of a schizophrenic, fearful future of a neurotic, repulsive future of a phobic or constricted future of a depressive.

While it is widely agreed that having no future at all (as in the case of the time of the self coming to a standstill) is truly pathological, the variety of futures actually lived upon makes the question of the boundary between the normal and the pathological difficult to tackle. All the more so since the lived time is a collective phenomenon, subject to quickly changing socio-temporal norms, such as contemporary acceleration, resulting in general uncertainty of shared future and the concomitant “neurosis” of our times.

The aim of the workshop is to bring together leading specialists in the interdisciplinary field of temporality studies in order to discuss these problems. Its key focus is to demarcate pathological future experiences from its non-pathological, even if unpleasant counterparts, while focusing on underlying, temporal foundations of mental disorders and taking advantage of philosophical notions of the future.

Confirmed speakers:

Claude Debru (École normale supérieure, Paris)

Thomas Fuchs (Zentrum für Psychosoziale Medizin Universitätsklinikum Heidelberg)

Anne Giersch (Faculte de Medicine, Strasbourg)

Alice Holzhey-Kunz (Gesellschaft für hermeneutische Anthropologie und Daseinsanalyse, Zürich)

Kurt Stocker (Psychologisches Institut der Universität Zürich)

Wolfgang Tschacher (Universitätsklinik für Psychiatrie und Psychotherapie, Bern)

Kai Vogeley (Klinik für Psychiatrie und Psychotherapie, Köln)

The interdisciplinary workshop is initiated and organized by Dr. Marcin Moskalewicz, EURIAS Fellow 2015/2016 at the Collegium Helveticum. The Fellowship is co-sponsored by the European Commission 7th Framework Programme.

Workshop schedule**First session**

9.30-10.00 opening

10.00-10.30 talk 1

10.30-11.00 talk 2

Coffee break

11.00-11.30

Second session

11.30-12.00 talk 3

12.00-12.30 talk 4

12.30-13.00 talk 5

Lunch break

13.00-14.30

Third session

14.30-15.00 talk 6

15.00-15.30 talk 7

15.30-16.00 talk 8

Coffee break

16.00-16.30

Concluding discussion

16.30-17.30

Dinner

18.00