Born out of the spirit of ‘old’ historical materialism, Critical Theory has often – and paradoxically – been viewed as taking an excessive distance towards the materiality of the world. By understanding itself as a post-metaphysical continuation of the incomplete project of enlightened modernity, it has largely anchored its emancipatory horizon in intersubjective practices of rational communication, recognition and justification. Yet this view is being challenged today. Via the foregrounding of concepts such as resonance, affect, life and force, questions of materiality and ontology have regained prominence. Traditional conceptions of human and non-human nature have been rethought, with significant implications for political practice and critique. But Critical Theory is not alone in this. A similar shift towards ontologies of nature, matter, life, and affect has taken place in recent post-structuralist debates. In a parallel move, ‘new materialist’ theories have argued against restrictive and hierarchical dualisms which largely shaped modern thought: matter versus life, biological versus symbolic life, or affectivity versus rationality. Acknowledging their similarities as well as their differences, this conference aims at establishing a dialogue between these intellectual currents which so far have developed in a safe distance from one another, exploring their implications for ecological, political, aesthetic and gender issues.

If you are interested, please register with Ilona.Bode@uni-erfurt.de.

ORGANIZERS
Prof. Hartmut Rosa, Max Weber Kolleg, Erfurt
Dr. Arthur Bueno, Max Weber Kolleg, Erfurt / Nanterre University, Paris
Dr. Joris Anja Gregor, Friedrich Schiller University Jena
Dr. Christoph Henning, Max Weber Kolleg, Erfurt

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PROGRAM
Thursday, Nov 23

9:30 – 10:00 | Welcome & Opening Speech
Rosa, Bueno, Gregor, Henning

10:00 – 10:30 | Hartmut Rosa (Erfurt/Jena):
The Theory of Resonance as
Critical Theory

10:30 – 11:00 | Lenny Moss (Exeter):
Natural Detachment, Normativity and the Anthropology of
Resonance

11:00 – 11:45 | Discussion

13:00 – 13:30 | Rick Dolphijn (Utrecht):
What Keeps on Mattering

13:30 – 14:00 | Kai Merten (Erfurt):
Diffraction: Reading after Barad

14:00 – 14:45 | Discussion

15:00 – 15:30 | Petra Gümplová (Duisburg):
Domination over Nature:
History, Critique, Emancipation

15:30 – 16:00 | Arne Johan Vetlesen (Oslo):
The Nature Deficit in Critical
Theory. Causes and
Consequences

16:00 – 16:45 | Discussion

17:00 – 17:30 | Jocelyn Maclure (Montreal):
Renewed Rationalism and the
Discipline of Reason. Contributions
to the Debate Between the Rationalist
and Romantic Strands of Critical
Theory

17:30 – 17:50 | Discussion

18:00 – 19:00 | Charles Taylor (Montreal):
Agency, Patience and Critical Theory
(room 606)

Friday, Nov 24

09:00 – 09:30 | Frédéric Lordon (Paris):
Affects, Institutions and Crises.
A Spinozist View on Historical Change

10:00 – 10:45 | Discussion

09:30 – 10:00 | Martin Saar (Leipzig):
Power, Affect, Matter, Spinoza
and contemporary Social Theory

11:00 – 11:30 | Heike Delitz (Bamberg):
Life as Subject of Society:
Critical Vitalism as
Critical Social Theory

11:30 – 12:00 | Arthur Bueno (Erfurt/Paris):
After Apathy: Political Affects and
the Struggle for Resonance

12:00 – 12:45 | Discussion

14:00 – 14:30 | Claire Blencowe (Warwick):
Ecological Attunement
in a Theological Key: Adventures
in Antifascist Aesthetics

14:30 – 15:00 | Ute Tellmann (Erfurt):
Critical Matters: New Materialism
and Economy

15:00 – 15:45 | Discussion

16:00 – 16:30 | Christoph Henning (Erfurt):
New Materialism in Practice:
Visiting Artists at Work with Latour

16:30 – 17:00 | Elmar Flatschart (Wien):
New Materialism, Critical Realism
and Negative Dialectics. A Critical
Comparison

17:00 – 17:45 | Final discussion