

EFFI BÖHLKE

On the Trail of Simone de Beauvoir. Impressions of Paris

January 9 of this year, Simone de Beauvoir would have been 100 years old. A woman was celebrated, whose name has been etched into the annals of the intellectual and practical political history of the women's movement. It was on this occasion that an international colloquium was held in Paris. This paper combines impressions of biographically oriented city tours with reports on events dealing with the relationship between the life and works of de Beauvoir, the philosopher and her contribution to the women's movement.

FRIGGA HAUG

Campaign. An Entry into the HKWM

This contribution is the entry »campaign« of the »Historisch-kritisches Wörterbuch des Marxismus« (HKWM – Historical-Critical Dictionary of Marxism). The word »campaign« was first derived from a military connotation. Its modern connotation evolved through commercialization under premises of political centralization, printed mass communication, a national political public opinion and at least a certain amount of structural democratization. »Campaigns« are analyzed in hegemonic and ideological theories. This entry handles the connotation used by Marx and Engels, by Rosa Luxemburg and particularly by Antonio Gramsci. Leftwing »campaigns« should seek the formation of persons taking politically conscious actions.

PETRA KAISER

Bourdieu's Counterfire. Sociological Diagnosis of the Present in the Guise of Political Challenge

The book Counterfire: Against the Tyranny of the Market (Verso Books 2003) is mostly comprised of previously unpublished texts. Bourdieu provides arguments against the unilateral revocation of the social contract being imposed by a movement, he calls the neo-liberal invasion. Bourdieu establishes a coherent sociological argumentation based on his profound insights into the mechanisms subjected to processes that are seriously threatening the social balance in our society.

THOMAS KÖHLER

Lost Ground. The Ebbing of Freedom and Will to Resist in Neo-Liberalized Daily Life

The author discusses how, to a growing extent, daily life is under the pressure of achievement imperatives and a powerless discomfort with one's own culture. In spite of the praised multiplicity of options for self-destructive ways of living, this culture of turbo-capitalism is offering ever fewer alternatives. In this paper, the critique of daily life is from the perspective of a concept that social practice is a permanently contested policy of how one is supposed to live one's life. The areas touched upon here are employment, education and nature, because in these areas the strength of pointed emphasis makes it easier to render the argumentation comprehensible.

RAINER VOLKMANN

Consolidation at all Costs?

An Emphatic »YES!« to Public Debt

Public debt, as a means of financing alternative economic concepts, has yet to become popular. This paper expounds on reasons for maintaining public debts, particularly for financing »public commodities«. Public debt also provides an opportunity for avoiding policies of aggressive foreign trade. This paper examines many arguments against public debts, to then explain that it is often necessary to accept public debt, as reflecting the political position concerning the extent and development of public commodities and public sector employment.

JÖRG BECKER

Mass Media, Migration and Positive Difference

The discussion around immigration has become sickening. Thick, heavy words such as integration, parallel society, terrorism, assimilation, Islam, head scarves, German courses, etc. are bludgeoning all those involved. Words have become weapons. Language designates not only enemies, but also produces enemy images. This paper examines Islamophobic images and the media propagating them. Reference is made to the inner-Jewish emancipation debate from the 19th century to Martin Buber, whose theory of communication is applied to the current debate on migrant media.

GERO ZOBEL

Rosa Luxemburg's Concept of Democracy

Rosa Luxemburg's argumentation on bourgeois parliamentary democracy can be reduced to 3 aspects. First, her assessment of what bourgeois democracy actually consists of and its relationship to the capitalist economic system. Secondly, the defensive aspect, that bourgeois democracy is an achievement to be defended. And finally the offensive aspect, that the parliament has become a battlefield in the class struggle, where the economic mechanism of capitalist domination has to be exposed to the public.

KAI AGTHE

The Union of Life and Work. Paul Werner Wagner

Interviews the Publicist Friedrich Dieckmann in Halle/S.

Friedrich Dieckmann, who celebrated his 70th birthday in 2007, is, without a doubt, one of the most extraordinary personalities of this country's great guild of multifaceted publicists. The author, originally from Berlin, is competent in the areas of graphic and performing arts, politics, intellectual and contemporary history. Subsequent to his studies, particularly under Prof. Ernst Bloch in Leipzig, he chose the imponderable existence of the freelance author. He became a dramaturge at the »Berliner Ensemble,« published essays as well as numerous theatre, literature and music critiques. He was a critical spirit in the GDR, while maintaining a positive view of the concept of a GDR heritage and how the GDR's cultural heritage should be handled.