

**Critical Theory at the Endgame**  
**February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2026**  
**Ehem. Senatssaal - Neue Universität**

Is there a dialectics of the apocalypse? This workshop takes this question as its point of departure to rethink the place of the end of the world within Critical Theory. Rather than approaching the apocalypse as pure catastrophe or as a residual religious motif, it treats it as a political and historical figure through which the violence embedded in the continuity of capitalism and in modern forms of rationality becomes legible. Grounded in the tradition of the Frankfurt School and brought into dialogue with feminist, post-colonial, peripheral, queer and anti-racist perspectives, the workshop examines the political uses and risks of apocalyptic thinking today, asking whether it can still interrupt dominant narratives and reopen historical possibility, or whether it has been absorbed into the ideological repertoire of neoliberalism and contemporary authoritarianism.

**Program**

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| 10:00 – 10:15 | <b>Opening Remarks</b><br>Bruna Della Torre (CAPAS)  |
| 10:15 – 10:45 | <b>CAPAS and Critical Theory</b><br>Robert Folger (CAPAS)  |
| 10:45 – 11:00 | Break  |
| 11:00 – 13:00 | Carl Cassegård (Göteborgs Universitet, Sweden), Emilian Ortega (Universität Heidelberg/CAPAS), Jenny Stümer (CAPAS)  |
| 13:00 – 14:30 | <b>Lunch Break</b>   |
| 14:30 – 16:30 | Jordi Maiso (Universidad Complutense de Madrid), Cristina Catalina Gallego (Universidad Complutense de Madrid), Marc Berdet (Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)                 |
| 16:30 – 16:45 | Break  |
| 16:45 – 18:15 | <b>Keynote Lecture: Existential Problems and the Politics of As-If – From Late to Last Capitalism</b><br>Stephan Lessenich (Director of the Institut für Sozialforschung, Frankfurt am Main) |