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Editorial

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Editorial

Abstract

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Gramsci und Benjamin – Passagen: Gramsci and Benjamin – Bridges

The contributions to this special issue of the *International Gramsci Journal* are expanded and revised versions of presentations given at the International Conference *Gramsci und Benjamin – Passagen*, organized by Ingo Pohn-Lauggas, Birgit Wagner and Wolfgang Müller-Funk at the Department of Romance Studies, University of Vienna, in 2019. The initial idea for this conference can be traced back to a brain-storming between Mauro Ponzi (†) and Müller-Funk in Rome in 2017.

Why Gramsci and Benjamin? How can we conceive the “bridges” between these two theoreticians? In the past, this question was only sporadically treated in articles published in very diverse journals with limited visibility, which are given credit in the articles following. What is lacking today is a systematic overview of the similarities and differences between the most-studied insights of the two thinkers. Are there “bridges” that connect Gramsci’s concept of “living philology”, his concept of hegemony and his views on the subalterns with Benjamin’s perception of the capitalism of the nineteenth century, his theories on outsiders and marginalized political actors, and his very broad and internationally successful conception of culture? What can the parallel consideration of these important theoreticians of the twentieth century contribute to the understanding of our tortured present and to the promoting of empowering actions and thoughts?

Each contribution is preceded by a short abstract in English, to allow a rapid glance at them. We want to thank Derek Boothman for his manifold friendly assistance as well as the Rosita-Schjerve-Rindler-Fonds for financial support.

The issue closes with reviews of two recently-published volumes, as in the first section built around conference proceedings. One, dedicated to the late André Tosel, is devoted to a Luxemburg-Gramsci comparison and the other to the wide-ranging London conference *Past and Present: Revisiting Gramsci’s Notebooks*.

Vienna, September 2020, Ingo Pohn-Lauggas & Birgit Wagner