**Call for Papers:**

Technology – Power – Violence

Günther Anders and Politics/the Political

An interdisciplinary conference to be held at the University of Freiburg, 16.-18. November 2017. Organised by Dr. Christian Dries (Institut für Soziologie, Freiburg), Prof. Dr. Oliver Marchart (Institut für Politikwissenschaft, Vienna).

It has long been suspected that the central question of the role of technology in modern society cannot simply be reduced to the problem of its correct and false application. In this respect Günther Anders (1902-1992) occupied a radical perspective. Early on he expressed his misgivings that technology could no longer be tamed by controlled usage and was gradually changing people into an antiquated creation. His hypothesis seemed too extreme in a post-war world that was optimistic about progress: with the invention of the machine, technology became the all dominating social and *political* force, "the subject of history".

Although the name of Anders now appears with increasing frequency, above all in technology and media theory, the political/politics remains an as yet underexplored aspect. That will be the focus of this interdisciplinary academic conference under the title *Technology – Power – Violence*. We are looking for contributions that deal with Günther Anders' political understanding, his conception of power, control and alienation in the „Weltzustand Technik", the specific subject character of technology (and its relation to the economic sphere), as well as Anders' considerations on different forms of protest and his appeal for violent opposition to the nuclear industry.

How does Anders determine the location of the political (for example in distinction to Hannah Arendt or the approaches of Jean-Luc Nancy, Jacques Rancière, Chantal Mouffe, Ernesto Laclau among others)? Which politics are a consequence of technology? Which matrices shape which subjects, or does the technological dispositive in the ongoing epoch of the antiquatedness of humanity ultimately thwart the "coming together again of a new subject" (Giorgio Agamben)? Can one still act politically in the atomic "endtime" (and if yes, in what forms and with what boundaries?) What role does Anders' early post-fundamental anthropology of unworldliness, which led to the call 'to desert into the praxis', play in this connection? Where can the Anders-ish understanding of technology and his idea of the political be linked to the recent debates over the agency of technology, the concept of Actor-Network Theory or media ecology? Not least the question remains of how far the renegade Heidegger pupil sometimes labelled as a conservative cultural critic can be integrated into the Heideggerian tradition on the left and be made fruitful for contemporary debates, not only in the philosophy of technology but also in political theory.

➔ Abstracts (*c*. 2.000 characters; please include your job title and contact details) – in either English or German – for conference papers on these and related themes should be sent as PDF by email by **28 February 2017** to:

Dr. Christian Dries
E-Mail: christian.dries@soziologie.uni-freiburg.de
*as well as*
Prof. Dr. Oliver Marchart
politische.theorie@univie.ac.at