

Ethics, Religion, and Resonance:

Two-day PhD course including Master class and Futures Lecture with Hartmut Rosa

Course description:

This PhD course with Hartmut Rosa will offer participants the possibility of discussing seminal texts by Rosa – namely central chapters taken from his 2016 opus magnum *Resonanz: Eine Soziologie der Weltbeziehung* and his 2020 bestseller *Unverfügbarkeit* – as compared to selected chapters from K.E. Løgstrup’s *Den etiske fordring* (1956), about the topics of love, trust, friendship, interdependence, and care. Rosa himself will relate to Løgstrup in his Futures Lecture at the Faculty of Arts, Aarhus University, on September 14, 16:00-18:00.

Rosa’s highly-valued work on temporality and social acceleration, his theory of resonance and alienation in late modernity as well as his thoughts about the unavailable and uncontrollable have inspired researchers from multiple fields of research and fertilized numerous cross-disciplinary dialogues. PhD students are invited to present their own work as it engages with Rosa’s research, and receive feedback from Rosa at a Master class on September 14, 12:00-14:00.

To this end, PhD students are required to submit a 3-5 page project description, case study, or other short research synopsis no later than on August 23, 2023. The Master class will consist of two parts: (1) a discussion of Rosa’s work and (2) discussion of and feedback on minor texts by PhD students.

The English translation of Chapters V and IX from Rosa’s book *Resonance*, Chapter 5 of his book *The Uncontrollability of the World* and Chapters 1, 4, and 7 of Løgstrup’s *The Ethical Demand* as well as suggestions for further readings will be sent out in advance.

Participants are required to read the above-mentioned texts before the course, which will begin on September 13, 9:00 o’clock with reading & discussion sessions headed by Claudia Welz and lectures on Løgstrup and Rosa by Anne Marie Kragh Pahuus and David Bugge.

It is also possible to participate in the course without presenting a paper. It will take place on the Nobelparken campus at Aarhus University, without options of online participation.

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Hartmut Rosa is Professor of Sociology at Friedrich Schiller University Jena and the Director of the Max Weber Center for Advanced Cultural and Social Studies at University of Erfurt (see <https://www.uni-erfurt.de/max-weber-kolleg/personen/direktorium-personal/direktorium/prof-dr-hartmut-rosa>).

Within sociology and critical social theory, Rosa is recognized as a pioneering member of the so-called fourth generation of the Frankfurt School. In recent years, his analyses of identity formation in an era of social acceleration have proven highly relevant not only for sociology but also philosophy, educational psychology, theology, religious studies, anthropology, ethnography, political theory, media theory, cultural studies, aesthetics, and many other fields of research. This year, Rosa was awarded Germany’s most prestigious research award, the Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Prize.

ECTS credits	1,5 without paper 2,5 with PhD paper (1 ECTS credit normally requires 25 hours of workload, including student preparation, home assignments, course hours and exams)
Venue	Nobelparken, Aarhus University, Jens Chr. Skous Vej 3, Room 1453-415 + Stakladen, building 1423

Program

Sept. 13, 2023

venue: building 1453, room 415

- 9:00-9:15 Welcome and introduction
- 9:15-10:00 Reading session 1: Løgstrup, *The Ethical Demand*, Ch. 1 + 7 (and extracts from Ch. 4)
Short coffee break
- 10:00-11:00 Lecture by Anne Marie Pahuus (Aarhus University):
"Why is negative resonance not an option? Løgstrup and Rosa in comparison"
- 11:00-12:00 Lecture by David Bugge (Aarhus University):
"One another's world – literature, trust, and love in K.E. Løgstrup"
- 12:00-13:00 Lunch break
- 13:00-13:45 Reading session 2: Rosa, *Resonanz*, Ch. 5: Resonance, Sociality, and Alienation
- 13:45-14:30 Reading session 3: Rosa, *Resonanz*, Ch. 9: Resonance and Religion
- 14:30-15:00 Coffee break
- 15:00-16:00 Reading session 4: Rosa, *Unverfügbarkeit*, Ch. 5: Experiences of Uncontrollability

Sept. 14, 2023

venue: building 1453, room 415

- 11:30 Lunch
- 12:00-14:00 Master class with Hartmut Rosa: 'Resonance theory' in an interdisciplinary context –
PhD paper session with responses from Prof. Rosa
- Joona Markus Hulmi (Aalto University, Finland): "Resonance and Atmosphere: Notes on the Experience of Architecture and Temporality"
 - Kenni Hede (Aarhus University, DK): "Spiritual Resonances: A Microphenomenological Investigation of Spiritual Entanglements across Beliefs in the Danish Secular Sphere"
 - Louna Chérel (University of Aix-Marseille, France): "Hartmut Rosa and Sigmund Freud – Malaise in Modernity. Two Studies of the Troubled Relationship to the World in (Late) Modernity"
 - Miriam Sünder (Göteborg University, Sweden): "The Third way – Suffering and Mediopassive Agency in Dorothee Sölle's Political Theology"
 - Josefína Formanová (Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic): "Victorious failure, or rethinking failure as a way-out of the self-restrictive and mute mode of existence"
 - Danson V. Muttuvelu (Copenhagen University, Denmark): "Tear Film Proteomics in Anterior and Posterior Blepharitis & Its Connection with Hartmut Rosa's Resonance"
 - Suzan Kole (Aalborg University Hospital, Denmark): "Navigating Modernity's Acceleration in Middle Ear Cholesteatoma Management"
- 14:00-14:30 Coffee break
- 14:30-15:30 Discussion in session 5: Resonance theory and its critics

venue: Stakladen, building 1423

- 16:00-18:00 Hartmut Rosa's Futures Lecture: "From Responsibility towards Respons-a-bility:
Resonance as an Ethic of Care in an Accelerated World"

Abstracts of keynote lectures

Anne Marie Pahuus (Aarhus University): “Why is negative resonance not an option? Løgstrup and Rosa in comparison”

Taking our point of departure in the phenomenology of love and trust from *The Ethical Demand*, we will see the two distinct lines of argument in Løgstrup, where trust is both to trust somebody and to have faith in life as such.

Trust is characterized by reliance on others and is thereby the manifestation of respect and the individual or personal granting of freedom, space and agency. This aspect resonates with what we would consider the core of ethics and even the core of care. Additionally, there exists trust as faith (*fiducia*), wherein self-surrender embodies trust as "a belief in life itself, a belief in the constant renewal of life." (Løgstrup, Ch. 1 in *The Ethical Demand*).

This particular manifestation of love and trust as faith could potentially pose challenges when fitting it into an ethical framework because it is not about responsibility in the most common sense of that word. Nevertheless, it should ideally find its place as something esteemed or embraced within the context of the life we share with other people and 'the good life.' In this regard, I would propose employing the term "ethics of resonance" to describe this phenomenon.

By taking this route, one could potentially provide a rationale for why the concept of negative resonance must necessarily be and also is contested by Hartmut Rosa himself, see <https://archive.krisis.eu/beyond-the-echo-chamber-an-interview-with-hartmut-rosa-on-resonance-and-alienation/>. Can we take with us from Løgstrup a perspective to clarify the positive basis within the concept of resonance, thereby facilitating an understanding of how the world can be both calling upon us as individuals and be the place where we are given the answers of life?

Hartmut Rosa’s Futures Lecture: “From Responsibility towards Respons-a-bility: Resonance as an Ethic of Care in an Accelerated World”

Sympathy, empathy, love, friendship and care: Modernity’s cultural and ethical vocabulary is full of concepts and conceptions signalling a specific, ‘resonant’ or responsive and empathic form of social relationships. However, the structural logic of modern society stands in sharp contrast to this relational mode. It is based on a mode of dynamic stabilization - i.e., on acceleration, optimization, growth and innovation – which institutionalizes and habitualizes a mode of aggression towards the world: Aggression against nature (ecological crisis), against others (democratic crisis) and against ourselves (burnout crisis). So how could it be different? How could we structurally as well as institutionally reconcile our mode of life with those ethical conceptions of resonant, responsive relationships? What is the alternative to acceleration and aggression? The lecture will try to outline such an alternative on the basis of resonance theory. It will then go on to reconstruct the very nature of relationships such as love, friendship, solidarity and care and explore the differences between them. As we will see, resonance as a mode of relating to others (and to things) actually includes an ethics of care which comes very close to Knud Ejler Logstrups conceptions of life and love.

Moderator:

- Vice Dean [Anne Marie Pahuus](#)

Discussants:

- Professor [Lotte Meinert](#)
- Professor MSO [Thomas Schwarz Wentzer](#)