THE CHALLENGE OF PROGRESS

CURRENT PERSPECTIVES IN SOCIAL THEORY

Series Editor: Harry F. Dahms

Recent Volumes:

Volume 23:	Social Theory as Politics in Knowledge, 2005, Edited by Jennifer M. Lehmann
Volume 24:	Globalization between the Cold War and Neo-imperialism, 2006, Edited by Jennifer M. Lehmann and Harry F. Dahms
Volume 25:	No Social Science without Critical Theory, 2008, Edited by Harry F. Dahms
Volume 26:	Nature, Knowledge and Negation, 2009, Edited by Harry F. Dahms
Volume 27:	Theorizing the Dynamics of Social Processes, 2010, Edited by Harry F. Dahms and Lawrence Hazelrigg
Volume 28:	The Vitality of Critical Theory, 2011, by Harry F. Dahms
Volume 29:	The Diversity of Social Theories, 2011, Edited by Harry F. Dahms
Volume 30:	Theorizing Modern Society as a Dynamic Process, 2012, Edited by Harry F. Dahms and Lawrence Hazelrigg
Volume 31:	Social Theories of History and Histories of Social Theory, 2013, Edited by Harry F. Dahms
Volume 32:	Mediations of Social Life in the 21st Century, 2014, Edited by Harry F. Dahms
Volume 33:	Globalization, Critique and Social Theory: Diagnoses and Challenges, 2015, Edited by Harry F. Dahms
Volume 34:	States and Citizens: Accommodation, Facilitation and Resistance to Globalization, 2015, Edited by Jon Shefner
Volume 35:	Reconstructing Social Theory, History and Practice, Edited by Harry F. Dahms and Eric R. Lybeck

EDITORIAL ADVISORY BOARD

EDITOR

Harry F. Dahms University of Tennessee (Sociology)

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Robert J. Antonio University of Kansas (Sociology)

Lawrence Hazelrigg
Florida State University (Sociology)

Timothy Luke Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Political Science)

EDITORIAL BOARD

Sarah Amsler University of Lincoln (Educational Research and Development)

Kevin B. Anderson University of California, Santa Barbara (Sociology)

Stanley Aronowitz

City University of New York —

Graduate Center (Sociology)

Molefi Kete Asante
Temple University (African-American
Studies)

David Ashley
University of Wyoming (Sociology)

Robin Celikates University of Amsterdam (Philosophy) Norman K. Denzin University of Illinois at Urbana — Champaign (Sociology)

Arnold Farr University of Kentucky (Philosophy)

Nancy Fraser New School for Social Research (Political Science)

Martha Gimenez
University of Colorado – Boulder
(Sociology)

Robert Goldman Lewis and Clark College (Sociology and Anthropology)

Mark Gottdiener State University of New York at Buffalo (Sociology) Douglas Kellner University of California – Los Angeles (Philosophy)

Daniel Krier

Iowa State University (Sociology)

Lauren Langman

Loyola University (Sociology)

Eric R. Lybeck *University of Exeter (Sociology)*

John O'Neill York University (Sociology)

Paul Paolucci Eastern Kentucky University (Sociology) Lawrence Scaff
Wayne State University (Political
Science)

Steven Seidman State University of New York at Albany (Sociology)

Helmut Staubmann Leopold Franzens University, Innsbruck (Sociology)

Alexander Stoner
Salisbury University (Sociology)

Stephen Turner
The University of South Florida
(Philosophy)

CURRENT PERSPECTIVES IN SOCIAL THEORY VOLUME 36

THE CHALLENGE OF PROGRESS: THEORY BETWEEN CRITIQUE AND IDEOLOGY

EDITED BY

HARRY F. DAHMS

University of Tennessee, USA



United Kingdom – North America – Japan India – Malaysia – China Emerald Publishing Limited Howard House, Wagon Lane, Bingley BD16 1WA, UK

First edition 2020

Copyright © 2020 Emerald Publishing Limited

Reprints and permissions service

Contact: permissions@emeraldinsight.com

No part of this book may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, transmitted in any form or by any means electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise without either the prior written permission of the publisher or a licence permitting restricted copying issued in the UK by The Copyright Licensing Agency and in the USA by The Copyright Clearance Center. Any opinions expressed in the chapters are those of the authors. Whilst Emerald makes every effort to ensure the quality and accuracy of its content, Emerald makes no representation implied or otherwise, as to the chapters' suitability and application and disclaims any warranties, express or implied, to their use.

British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data

A catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library

ISBN: 978-1-78714-572-6 (Print) ISBN: 978-1-78714-571-9 (Online) ISBN: 978-1-78714-980-9 (EPub)

ISSN: 0278-1204 (Series)



ISOQAR certified Management System, awarded to Emerald for adherence to Environmental standard ISO 14001:2004.

Certificate Number 1985 ISO 14001



This volume is dedicated to the memory of Moishe Postone (1942–2018), member of the Editorial Board from 2002 to 2018 and contributor to volumes 19 and 33.

CONTENTS

List of Contributors	xi		
Introduction Harry F. Dahms	1		
PART I IDENTIFYING THE CHALLENGE: A CRITICAL DISCUSSION OF THE END OF PROGRESS: DECOLONIZING THE NORMATIVE FOUNDATIONS OF CRITICAL THEORY (2016), BY AMY ALLEN			
History, Critique, and Progress: Amy Allen's "End of Progress" and the Normative Grounding of Critical Theory Reha Kadakal	15		
Inheriting Critical Theory: A Review of Amy Allen's The End of Progress: Decolonizing the Normative Foundations of Critical Theory George Steinmetz	37		
Back to Adorno: Critical Theory's Problem of Normative Grounding Karen Ng			
Decolonizing Critical Theory <i>Kevin Olson</i>	61		
Progress, Normativity, and the "Decolonization" of Critical Theory: Reply to Critics Amy Allen	73		
PART II ASSESSING THE CHALLENGE: PROGRESS, POLITICS, AND IDEOLOGY			
Nietzsche after Charlottesville Robert J. Antonio	95		

x CONTENTS

"How Can [We] Not Know?" Blade Runner as Cinematic	
Landmark in Critical Thought Lawrence Hazelrigg	111
Luwrence Huzerrigg	111
Sociology at the End of History: Profession, Vocation and	
Critical Practice Daniel M. Harrison	133
Daniel M. Harrison	133
PART III	
CONFRONTING THE CHALLENGE: THE DYNAMICS OF PROGRESS IN THE MODERN AGE	
Las Vegas as the Anthropocene: The Neoliberal City as Desertification All the Way Down	
Timothy W. Luke	159
Exchanging Social Change for Social Class: Traditional Marriage Proposals as Status and Scrip	
Patricia Arend and Katherine Comeau	179
Sociology's Emancipation from Philosophy: The Influence of Francis Bacon on Émile Durkheim	
Shawn Van Valkenburgh	199
About the Contributors	217
Index	221

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS

Amy Allen Department of Philosophy, Penn State

University, USA

Robert J. Antonio Department of Sociology, University of

Kansas, USA

Patricia Arend Department of Behavioral Sciences,

Fitchburg State University, USA

Katherine Comeau Department of Sociology, University of Notre

Dame, USA

Daniel M. Harrison Department of Government, Criminology,

and Sociology, Lander University, USA

Lawrence Hazelrigg Department of Sociology, Florida State

University, USA

Reha Kadakal Sociology Program, California State

University Channel Islands, USA

Timothy W. Luke Department of Political Science, Virginia

Polytechnic Institute and State University,

USA

Karen Ng Department of Philosophy, Vanderbilt

University, USA

Kevin Olson Department of Political Science, University of

California, USA

George Steinmetz Department of Sociology, University of

Michigan, USA

Shawn Van Valkenburgh Department of Sociology, University of

California, USA