Emancipation with and without Marx

These talks, given in three parts, follow three main goals: to increase the conceptual determination and the historical content of the very idea of emancipation; to present Marx’s thought *and* politics as the most significant site for the development of a dialectical relation between emancipation and domination; and to unfold this dialectic as the best way for dealing with ‘the crisis of Marxism’ and determining at what points we have to go beyond Marx. Even a partial success in reaching these goals is a necessary precondition for elaborating a much needed new emancipatory politics suited for our time. What follows are some of the themes and ideas that will be dealt with in these talks though not necessarily in this order.

The idea of emancipation in contradistinction to liberty/freedom and equality/justice.

The inscription of freedom, justice, and emancipation in actual historical settings as political ideologies.

The origins of ‘liberty/freedom’ in the English and American revolutions of 16th and 17th centuries.

The inner contradictions of liberty: slavery, colonialism, and urban poverty.

Equality/justice as the ideology of Eastern Block in the 20th century.

The actualization of emancipation : class struggle of the proletariat and working-class movement in 19th century.

Formal features : emancipation as universal, comprehensive, and auto-poetic.

Emancipation and Marx’s critique of political economy: from positive appraisal to negative destruction of modern bourgeois society.

Beyond ‘the dialectic of Enlightenment’: the logic of emancipation is not reducible to Capital-Labour conflict.

Points of transcendence: how to go beyond Marx while being with him.