

ULCP Booklet 12

History and Heteronomy

Critical Essays

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Preface

On July 2008 the University of Tokyo Center for Philosophy (UTCP) held a lecture series by Prof. Moishe Postone of Chicago University. The program included two seminars and a conference on Marxism, all of which the audience found very stimulating:

1st Seminar, “An Introduction to Marx’s Critical Theory”
(26/7/08)

2nd Seminar, “Habermas and the Trajectory of Critical Theory”
(29/7/08)

Conference “Marxism, Time and the Problem of History”
(31/7/08)

This booklet consists of the texts of Prof. Postone’s seminar sessions, several other articles, and an introduction written by Prof. Viren Murthy of the University of Ottawa.

In his book *Time, Labor, and Social Domination* (Cambridge University Press, 2003), Postone offers a radical re-reading of Marx’s *Capital*. For Postone, as well as for myself, the heart of the question of capitalism has to do with time. For instance, when he writes that “the radical form of social mediation in capitalism is exactly the domination of people by time.” If I am not mistaken, we might have to ask ourselves whether what we have here is time abstracted as “labor time” or time itself inserted into the present in the form of “value.” Here I believe there might be a non-negligible gap between Poston’s theory and my own thought—a gap that I intend to continue thinking in a more prudent manner as a task of our friendship.

I would like to express my thanks to both Moishe Postone and Viren Murthy for their texts.

Yasuo KOBAYASHI
Director of UTCP