

Frankfurt School (Critical Theory)

- Theodor Adorno – trained in music & philosophy,
with Horkheimer *Dialectics of Enlightenment*
sociology of avant garde music (Schoenberg, Mahler, Berg)
- brought to New York by Paul Lazarsfeld; *Authoritarian Personality* study;
especially concerned with the mass “culture industry”
- returned to Germany after WWII: reestablished Critical Theory & the Inst.
indirectly helped end monolithic Christian Democrats rule
victory in 1971 of Willie Brandt’s Social
clash with students May 1969: his generation learned anarchist
politics was no match for fascists [d Aug '69]
- Max Horkheimer – institute director, “Café Max” closed 1933 by the Nazis
- *Critical Theory*; Oedipus complex transformed by modern society
- Walter Benjamin *Origin of German Tragic Drama; One-Way Street; Arcades Proj*
- Erich Fromm – psychoanalyst, In US taught at Bennington, Columbia, Yale
- Leo Lowenthal – sociology of literature, managing editor of the Institute’s journal,
Zeitschrift für Sozialforschung.; in U.S. worked at Columbia, VOA,
Stanford Center for the Advanced Study of the Behavioral Sciences;
Berkeley
- Herbert Marcuse – became a cult figure of the 1960s at Brandeis & Berkeley
- Otto Kirchheimer - note that Foucault picks up on the Rusche & Kirchheimer
study of correlations between penal systems
and modes of production
- Karl Wittfogel – *Oriental Despotism: a comparative study of total power.*
- Friedrich Pollock – Ph.D. on Marx’s theory of money; director of the Institute 1928-30

Others who were members, journal contributors, interlocutors:
Hannah Arendt, Raymond Aron, Bruno Bettelheim, Bertolt Brecht,
Siegfried Kracauer, Paul Lazarsfeld, Georg Lukacs, Karl Mannheim,
Friedrich Pollock, Gershom Scholem

“ 2nd generation ” :

Jurgen Habermas: *The Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere*, 1962’
Knowledge & Human Interests, 1971; *Legitimation Crisis*, 1975

American commentators & extensions

Buck-Morss, Susan.

*The Origin of Negative Dialectics: Theodor W. Adorno, Walter Benjamin,
and the Frankfurt Institute.*

The Dialectics of Seeing: Walter Benjamin & the Archades Project.

Jay, Martin.

*The Dialectical Imagination: A History of the Frankfurt School & the
Institute of Social Research, 1923-1950.*

Poster, Mark

Critical Theory of the Family.

Rickels, Lawrence.

The Case of California.