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# **FRANK RUDA**

Senior Lecturer at the University of Dundee, UK

on

## **ON A PECULIAR MODE OF REPRODUCING POWER: GROTESQUE SOVEREIGNTY**

**23RD SEPTEMBER, 2022,**

**7:30-8:30 PM IST/ 3:00-4:00 PM BST**

**Meeting ID:** [870 2473 8754](#)

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## Bio-note of Prof. Frank Ruda

Prof. Frank Ruda is Senior Lecturer of Philosophy at the University of Dundee, UK, as also a Professor of Philosophy at the European Graduate School, Saas-Fee, Switzerland, Professor of Philosophy at the Scientific Research Center, Ljubljana, Slovenia, and Professor at the Bombay Institute for Critical Analysis and Research, Mumbai, India.

Prof. Ruda studied Philosophy and German Literature at the Ruhr-University of Bochum and at the École Pratique des Hautes Études, Paris. Afterwards he was a Fellow at the postgraduate program “Forms of Life and the Know-How of Living” at the Universities of Potsdam and Viadrina (Frankfurt/Oder) where he obtained his PhD in philosophy in 2008 with a thesis on Hegel. In 2017, Prof. Ruda received his *Venia Legendi* for philosophy from the Free University of Berlin for his habilitation thesis entitled “Worse than Error. Indifference and Fatalism.”

He taught, among other places, at Capital Normal University Beijing, Bard College Berlin, Free University of Berlin, Goethe University Frankfurt, University of Nanjing, Bauhaus University in Weimar, and at the University of Potsdam. Between 2008 and 2014, Prof. Ruda was a Research Associate at the Free University of Berlin, in 2015-16 at Goethe University Frankfurt, and in 2017, he was a Senior Fellow at IKKM (*International Research Institute for Cultural Techniques and Media Philosophy*) in Weimar.

In addition to five edited books in German and English, four translations of books by Jacques Rancière, Alain Badiou, and Alenka Zupančič into German, and numerous book chapters and journal articles, Prof. Ruda has authored ten books.

The latest amongst these is the forthcoming *Indifference and Repetition*, with a preface by Alain Badiou, the English version of his earlier *Indifferenz und Wiederholung. Freiheit in der Moderne* (Konstanz University Press, 2018), which examines problems arising from “mythical” understandings of freedom that take freedom to be a natural given and identify it as a natural human capacity. This is preceded by his recently published book, *Reading Hegel* (co-authored with Slavoj Žižek and Agon Hamza, Polity Press 2022), which addresses a number of pressing issues that a contemporary reading of Hegel allows a new perspective on: our relation to the future, our relation to nature, and our relation to the absolute. This book follows *Reading Marx* (Polity Press 2018), which also Prof. Ruda had co-authored with Slavoj Žižek and Agon Hamza, and which attempts to reinvent Marx’s thought from diverse contemporary perspectives, including an argument for reading the critique of political economy as a version

of Plato's cave allegory. The book has been translated into German, Russian, and Turkish. In the same year, he also co-authored, with Rebecca Comay, *The Dash – The Other Side of Absolute Knowing* (MIT Press, 2018), which examines the occurrence of dashes in two very crucial passages in Hegel's oeuvre, and develops a Hegelian theory of "speculative signs."

Moving on to Prof. Ruda's earlier works, in *Gegen-Freiheit: Komik und Fatalismus* (Konstanz University Press, 2018), which is an extension of his earlier *Abolishing Freedom: A Plea for a Contemporary Use of Fatalism* (Nebraska University Press, 2016), he shows how and why only a form of fatalism, notably comic fatalism, allows for an overcoming of the myth of the givenness of freedom, and he demonstrates that "fatalism is the only possible stance that allows us to think freedom without being indifferent." His book *For Badiou: Idealism Without Idealism* (with a preface by Slavoj Žižek, Northwestern University Press 2015) is an in-depth exploration of the dialectical kernel of Alain Badiou's work and elaborates how it allows for a new reading of central figures from Western philosophy like Plato, Descartes, Hegel and Marx. His earliest book – *Hegel's Rabble: An Investigation into Hegel's Philosophy of Right* (with a preface by Slavoj Žižek, Continuum 2011), which was also published in German by Prof. Ruda himself as *Hegels Pöbel: Eine Untersuchung der "Grundlinien der Philosophie des Rechts"* (Konstanz University Press, 2011) – presents a systematic investigation of the Hegelian problem of the *rabble*, arguing that in it we encounter a problem that "Hegel is able neither to resolve nor to sublimate", which complicates standard readings of Hegel's notion of the state.

Prof. Ruda is also a co-editor of the journal *Crisis and Critique*, and he co-authors a column (*R-Files*) at the *Philosophical Salon* of the *Los Angeles Review of Books*.