

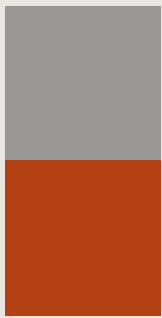
# Authoritarianism, Ambivalence, Ambiguity

The Life and Work of Else Frenkel-Brunswik

Online-Symposium, July 1–2, 2021



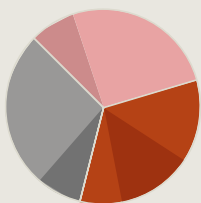
Vienna



Else Frenkel-Brunswik (1908–1958) may be known to some as one of the co-authors of the famous study *The Authoritarian Personality* by Theodor W. Adorno and others. However, as was the case with other Austrian sociologists such as Marie Jahoda and Maria Hertz Levinson, Frenkel-Brunswik's role in empirical research remained seldom discussed in later reception. Along with their names, a specific influence was forgotten that had significantly shaped this research—a distinct combination of empirical sociology, (social) psychology and psychoanalysis that had emerged in Vienna in the period before World War II and was expelled during Austrofascism and Nazism. Here it had been treated with hostility by established university social scientists, who branded it as feminist, Marxist and Jewish, and bluntly labeled it as »odd« (»ungerade«).

On July 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021, we are holding a symposium in Vienna dedicated to the life and works of Else Frenkel-Brunswik. The symposium invites international experts to explore the work of Else Frenkel-Brunswik, in particular her research on authoritarianism, and the legacy of this research for the social sciences today.

Berkeley



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## Thursday, July 1, 2021

3.00–3.30 p.m. CET  
**OPENING REMARKS**

3.30–5.00 p.m. CET  
**INTELLECTUAL INFLUENCES  
BETWEEN VIENNA AND BERKELEY:  
CONTINUITIES AND RUPTURES**

MODERATOR  
**Christian Dayé** GRAZ UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

**Maria Czwik** UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA  
The Bühler students.

The Vienna Institute for Psychology  
as reflected in dissertation projects

**Andreas Huber** IHS, VIENNA

Professorial Sects and Student Riots.  
Antifeminism and Antisemitism at the  
University of Vienna in the Interwar period

**Christoph Reinprecht** UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA

Else Frenkel-Brunswik's fractured biography in exile

5.30–7.00 p.m. CET  
**RESEARCH ON AUTHORITARIANISM  
IN EXILE**

MODERATOR  
**Linda Erker** UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA

**Andreas Kranebitter** UNIVERSITY OF GRAZ  
Else Frenkel-Brunswik's methodological practice  
in *the Authoritarian Personality*

**Christian Fleck** UNIVERSITY OF GRAZ

Else Frenkel-Brunswik,  
contemporary sociology and sociological peers

**Mitchell G. Ash** UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA

The Authoritarian Personality study as a synthesis  
of scientific cultures

## Friday, July 2, 2021

2.00–2.45 p.m. CET  
**Stanley Feldman** STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY, NY  
Social conformity and authoritarianism

3.00–4.30 p.m. CET  
**PERSISTENCE AND HERITAGE:  
ELSE FRENKEL-BRUNSWIK  
IN TODAY'S RESEARCH**

MODERATOR  
**Marietta Mayrhofer-Deak** UNIVERSITY OF VIENNA

**Emily Abbey** RAMAPO COLLEGE, NEW JERSEY

Else Frenkel-Brunswik:

The centrality of ambivalence and ambiguity in human life

**Angela Kindervater** MEDICAL SCHOOL HAMBURG

The Impact of Else Frenkel-Brunswik's Research  
on Gerda Lederer's Studies of Authoritarianism

**Peter Schmidt** UNIVERSITY OF GIESSEN

**Lucyna Darowska** UNIVERSITY OF OLDENBURG

Differentiated perspectives on the concept of  
the Authoritarian Personality—discussion in the context  
of a quantitative-qualitative paradigm

5.00–6.30 p.m. CET  
**THE AUTHORITARIAN PERSONALITY TODAY**

MODERATOR  
**Barbara Rothmüller** SFU VIENNA

**Oliver Decker** UNIVERSITY OF LEIPZIG / SFU BERLIN

Social psychological research in tradition of  
Else Frenkel-Brunswik:

Authoritarian Dynamics and its consequences

**Karin Stögner** UNIVERSITY OF PASSAU

Rereading *The Authoritarian Personality* today:

A critical-feminist approach

**Robyn Marasco** HUNTER COLLEGE, NY

What is Political Psychology?

Else Frenkel-Brunswik and the Tasks of Social Science