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DEVELOPMENT LECTURE

Planning Against Climate Fascism

Lecture by Kohei Saito

To mark the publication of the German translation of his book *Slow Down: How Degrowth Communism Can Save the Earth*, Japanese philosopher and bestselling author Kohei Saito will give a lecture at the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna.

As the climate crisis deepens, the dominant response is increasingly shaped not by justice or solidarity but by scarcity management, border violence, and the protection of privilege. Climate facism is a political form in which ecological breakdown becomes the pretext for authoritarian control, militarised exclusion, and the unequal distribution of survival. In this context, the central question is no longer whether planning will return, but what kind of planning will govern the future. Rejecting the false choice between market solutions and technocratic state control, this lecture argues for counter-planning: a democratic, egalitarian, and ecologically grounded reorganisation of production, consumption, and social reproduction. In opposition to an economic system that is inevitably dependent on ever-increasing energy and resource consumption, to top-down climate policy that leaves basic needs at the mercy of the markets, and to elitist managerialism, Gegenplanung sees the struggle as one to reclaim social coordination from capital and transform it into democracy at all levels.

Participation is free, seating is unassigned, the lecture will be in English.

Planning Against Climate Fascism

Lecture by Kohei Saito

June 12, 5:00 p.m.

Academy of Fine Arts Vienna,
Prospekthof, Atelierhaus, Lehárgasse 8, 1060 Vienna

Speakers:



Foto: © Yusuke Uchida

Kohei Saito is Associate Professor of Philosophy at the University of Tokyo. He received his Ph.D. from Humboldt University in Berlin. In 2024/25 Saito was fellow at The New Institute in Hamburg as Chair of the program “Beyond Capitalism: War Economy and Democratic Planning”. He works on ecology and political economy from a Marxist perspective. His book, *Capital in the Anthropocene* (2020), selling more than half a million copies in Japan, has been credited for inspiring a resurgence of interest in Marxist thought in Japan, as well as in the USA and Europe.

Ulrich Brand, Professor of International Politics at the University of Vienna, Board Member of “Diskurs. Das Wissenschaftsnetz”.

Lisa Mittendrein, Attac Austria and curator of the series “The New World Won’t Come About on Its Own”.

Astrid Schöggel, deputy head of the Climate, Environment, and Transportation Department at the Vienna Chamber of Labor.

A collaboration between the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna, the Department of Political Science at the University of Vienna, the Austrian Foundation for Development Research, Attac Austria, the Chamber of Labour Vienna, the Department of Development Studies at the University of Vienna and Democracy Center Vienna.

Opening remarks

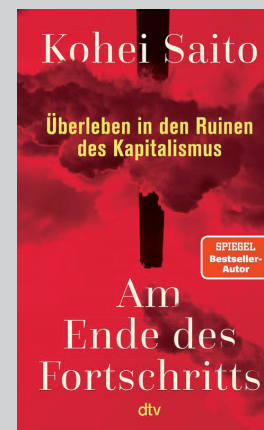
by Johan F. Hartle, Rector of the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna

Moderated

by Prof. Dr. Ulrich Brand, Professor of International Politics at the University of Vienna

Followed by comments

by Astrid Schöggel and Lisa Mittendrein. Free admission, open seating, lecture in English



Am Ende des Fortschritts

Überleben in den Ruinen
des Kapitalismus

Kohei Saito

Übersetzung aus dem
Japanischen von
Gregor Wakounig

dtv
978-3-423-28534-6