

Good morning to all.

I am proud to welcome you to the workshop *Multiple Modernities, Normative Integration Spheres and Experiences of Violence: Brazil and Germany compared*. It is the first workshop of the academic partnership between the Center for the Study of Violence and the University of São Paulo and the Institute for Social Research of the Goethe University of Frankfurt.

First of all, we would like to thank all our colleagues from the Institute, the ones who were kind enough to organize the event, Axel Honneth and Sidonia Blaettler, and those who accepted to come to São Paulo in the end of the year, escaping from a zero degree winter to a hot couple of days in our city. Secondly, I want to thank the participants from other centers of the University, such as Center for Metropolitan Studies (CEM), the Laboratory of Studies of Philosophy and Psychoanalysis (Latesip), and the City of Knowledge (ECA-USP). At last, we also want to thank the supporters of the workshop, CNPq and FAPESP, whose continuous aid have made this and many of our initiatives possible, as well as the Faculty of Philosophy, Languages and Literature, and Human Sciences of this University, The National Association for Human Rights – Research and Post-Graduation, and the UNESCO Chair for Education on Peace, Human Rights, Democracy and Tolerance.

In order to open the discussions of the day, I would like to highlight the importance of academic partnerships between institutes that wish to develop international comparative studies. In a globalized world, we cannot think about our own societies without considering their relations with other societies, and without exchanging experiences for mutual learning processes.

In this sense, we praise this initiative between the NEV and the IfS, and the other groups involved, and we hope that this workshop can be fruitful for our particular researches, but especially so that we can develop a common reflection about our modernities and their normative expectations.

As results of this workshop, we will ask for revised versions of the papers presented by the end of January, 2013, so that we can organize a digital publication, and possibly a printed one. We will also collect the video material that will be transmitted online during the two days of the workshop, and make an edition of the presentations and debates to be published in the websites of our institutions.

With this, I end this reception welcoming you all again, and wishing that these two days of works can be of great contribution to our researches, and hopefully, with benefits to our societies.

Thank you, and let the debates begin!

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