



Srećko Horvat

Catastrophe or Revolution?

**Donnerstag, 3. November 2022,
18:30 Uhr, Cabaret Voltaire**

**Vortrag (englisch) und Podiumsdiskussion
mit Nicola Gess und Ulrich Bröckling**

**Im Rahmen der Abschlussstagung «Katastrophenwissen – Wissenskatastrophen» des SNF Sinergia-Projekts
«The Power of Wonder», 3.–5. November 2022, Universität Zürich**

The relationship between catastrophe and social transformation is probably as old as humanity. There is no document of civilisation that is not at the same time a document of catastrophe. Until our own age of extinction, catastrophe was a chance for revolution and ... for evolution as well. Faced with our contemporary eschatological threats – from the climate crisis and the neverending war to the possibility of nuclear annihilation – what seems missing is precisely a fundamental social transformation that would be able to come to terms with extinction – and perhaps to build a world «after the apocalypse».

Drawing on the most recent book of Horvat (*After the Apocalypse*), the point of this lecture is not simply to answer the question what can historic catastrophes – from volcanoes and nuclear accidents to climate disasters and wars – teach us about our future? The future is already here. The question is what do we do about it – here and now.

Srećko Horvat is a philosopher and author of books such as *After the Apocalypse* (Polity Press, 2021), *Poetry from the Future* (Penguin, 2019), *The Radicality of Love* (Wiley, 2015), *What does Europe Want?* (with Slavoj Žižek, Columbia University Press, 2013). The German weekly *Der Freitag* called him «one of the most exciting voices of his generation» and he has been described as a «fiery voice of dissent in the Post-Yugoslav landscape». His writings have appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, *Der Spiegel*, *Newsweek*, *Al Jazeera*, *Jacobin*. He is among the co-founders of *DiEM25* and the *Progressive International*.

