Marx at 200: Is he still relevant?

David Fasenfest, Sociology, Associate Professor

Writing in the middle of the 19th Century, Marx examined the emerging system of capitalism to uncover how it worked and the social consequences of this rapidly expanding economic system. 200 years after his birth and 150 years after the publication of Capital Marx still informs and influences our understanding of contemporary society. This talk reflects on some of the lessons from Marx and examines how his work is still important in understanding global capitalism. Focus will be on his use of historical materialism and his depiction of commodity production to explore the currency of his ideas in a world where industrial production shifted from the Europe of his day to Asia and beyond Europe. Finally, this talk will review some key concepts in Marx as it applies to the Global South.

David Fasenfest, Department of Sociology, is the editor of the journal Critical Sociology, and the founding editor of the Brill series, Studies in Critical Social Sciences, with over 130 books in print. He is Visiting Research Professor, Institute for Global Studies, Shanghai University, a member of the Advisory Board of the Center for Global Governance, Shanghai University, and is a Professional Research Associate, SOAS, University of London.

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

For more info about the Humanities Center, call (313) 577-5471 or visit www.research2.wayne.edu/hum