

Conference report: Highlights and impressions from the first International Conference on Critical and Radical Humanist Work and Organizational Psychology

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ABSTRACT

This article offers an involved account of the first International Conference on Critical and Radical Humanist Work and Organizational Psychology, held from the 11th to the 13th of July 2022 at the University of Innsbruck. The objective of this report is to provide some background information and to give an overview of the most important conference themes, topics, and activities, as well as to briefly introduce main contributors to the conference and to provide some basic information and exemplary references regarding their academic work. After some general remarks on the conference organization and participants, the text is structured according to the main program features, specifically, pre-conference workshops, opening and keynote speeches, presentation sessions and workshops, poster exhibition, panel discussion, and farewell address. Ways to get connected with and become actively involved in the emerging movement towards „criticalizing“ work and organizational psychology are discussed.¹

Keywords

Critical and Radical Humanist Work and Organizational Psychology – The Future of Work and Organizational Psychology (FoWOP) – academic activism – conference report

¹ We thank Zoe Sanderson for a friendly reading of a previous version of this report and for the following vivid comment (personal communication, 29th of November 2022), to which we – unfortunately lacking poetic skills – can only wholeheartedly agree: „If only there was some way of capturing the feeling of the event in words! I know this is impossible to do but I am sure you share my feeling that the event was more than the sum of the parts of the programme. For example, I read your words about listening to music in the courtyard quite objectively, thinking ‘yes, this is what we did’. Then I recalled the feelings of standing there in the strong wind and the fading light with a cold beer, laughing with friends, and felt the gap between the words and the experience. But I am being wishful and wistful – of course no words can capture such things!“