Summary

"Politische Ethik zwischen kritischer Theorie und angewandter Ethik"

by Christian Neuhäuser

On the face of it, Critical Theory and Applied Ethics do not seem to have much in common. But when they are understood as theoretically diverse approaches to political ethics many similarities become visible, although some stark differences remain.

In this article, the similarities are highlighted by looking at four crucial elements of both theories. The first element is the normative basis in Marxism or liberalism. The second element is the proposed method of social change via revolution or reform. The third element is the main addressees of the theories, in one case the political institutions and in the other all citizens as political agents. The fourth element is the methodological stance of the theories as rooted in philosophy alone or in philosophy plus social theory and social science.

The article ends with the argument that there are enough similarities to combine elements of both theories into one position, which could be called Critical Humanism.