

## **Abstract**

### **Critical Realism and the Theatre of the Oppressed: A dialogue**

**Andreas Vavvos**

PhD student, Department of Social Anthropology, University of Saint Andrews, and Department of Psychology, University of Crete

A metacritique of Western philosophy and its limited orientation toward emancipation has been a central concern in both Critical Realism (CR) and the Theatre of the Oppressed (TO). Developed by Augusto Boal in Brazil in the 1970s, TO critically interrogates the influence of figures such as Aristotle, Hegel, and Brecht on the history of theatre. Similarly, within the CR tradition, critiques of the epistemic fallacy and the neglect of absence are identified as primordial failings of Western philosophical thought. By centering the concepts of dialogue and emancipation, this presentation explores the interface, tensions, challenges, and possibilities involved in fostering a dialogue between CR and TO. It investigates the historical becoming of these two paradigms and considers what might emerge from their cross-pollination in times of intersecting environmental and social metacrisis. Drawing on distinct examples, I suggest that the philosophical foundations and practical applications of TO and CR together point toward a reconceptualisation of theatre and philosophy as public, emancipatory practices.