

ON SOLIDARITY IX: The Issue of Distribution

11-13 June 2015, Vienna, Austria

Conference Program

Thursday, 11 June

Venue: IWM, Spittelauer Lände 3, 1090 Vienna

5:15pm *Transfer by shuttle from Hotel De France to the IWM*

6:00pm **Key Note Speech, welcome and introduction**

Varieties of Inequality:

What Can Be Done About Them and Why it Must Be Done

Claus Offe, Professor em. Political Sociology, Hertie School of Governance, Berlin; Professor em. Political Sociology and Social Politics at Humboldt-University, Berlin

Followed by a reception in the IWM Cafeteria

Friday, 12 June

Venue: Albert Schweitzer Haus, corner of Schwarzspanierstr. 13/Garnisongasse 14-16, 1090 Vienna

9:00am - 11:00pm **Session I: The Family**

Although the family has long been superseded by larger and more advanced institutions, it is still a focal point of solidarity and distribution. However, whilst it might appear one of the most natural spheres for solidarity, the family is also the site of hierarchy and (gender and generational) inequality. One of the issues to be discussed is the distribution between generations in both directions: from old to young through various inheritance schemes that provide often lifelong endowments for the subsequent generation(s); and vice versa, from young to old, as a form of insurance. Furthermore, families play a – perhaps underestimated but still significant – role as benefactors and patrons, donors and sponsors for a wide range of charitable activities in various fields. With the gradual retreat of the welfare state, the importance of the non-profit sector and the family as agencies of distribution may be rising again.

Chair: **Ivan Krastev**

Introductions: **Frank F. Furstenberg, Kathleen Gerson**

Friday, 12 June

Venue: Albert Schweitzer Haus, corner of Schwarzspanierstr. 13/Garnisongasse 14-16, 1090 Vienna

11:30am - 1:30pm Session II: The Market

This session will focus on the role of the market as a possible agent of distribution, an agent that does not refer to solidarity. We will revisit a few economic/ social theories that were rather popular not too long ago, such as the 'trickle-down' or 'rising tide' theses. Both suggested that in a booming economy, rising demand and productivity would also benefit the labor force by leading to increases in employment levels and perhaps even wages. However, technological innovations such as IT, automation, intelligent robots and other devices are increasingly replacing man-power and have thus severed this link between productivity growth and employment. What are/ will be the results of the global financial crisis? Have the rich emerged out of the crisis with even more power and influence? Who are the 'new rich' today? How can distribution work when the level of solidarity is decreasing? While in the previous conferences "On Solidarity" poverty, deprivation and exclusion were at the center of our attention, we now suggest approaching these problems by looking at social polarization as such.

Chair: Janos Matyas Kovacs

Introductions: Brigitte Aulenbacher, Mike Hout

1:30pm – 2:30pm Lunch break, restaurant on the ground floor of Albert Schweitzer Haus

2:30pm – 5:30pm Session III: Citizenship

Venue: Albert Schweitzer Haus, corner of Schwarzspanierstr. 13/Garnisongasse 14-16 1090 Vienna

Democratic citizenship is premised both on the idea that each counts as one and that a strong barrier exists between the inequalities characteristic of economic and social relations and the sphere of political participation and decision—the world of elections, political representation, and legislative action. To some extent, this division has always been a fiction, but what extent of violation of these premises is consistent with the norms and practices of a decent representative democracy?

Chair: tbc

Introductions: Henry Brady, Ivan Krastev

7:00pm Transfer by shuttle from Hotel De France to the Federal Chancellery

**7:30pm Conference Dinner,
Venue: Austrian Federal Chancellery, Ballhausplatz 2**

Hosted by Director-General Dr. Manfred Matzka, Head of the Central Executive Department, Austrian Federal Chancellery.

Saturday, June 13

Venue: Albert Schweitzer Haus, corner of Schwarzspanierstr. 13/Garnisongasse 14-16, 1090 Vienna

9:30am – 1:00pm Session IV: Social Policy

It was Karl Polanyi who famously observed that the commodification of land and especially labor in the nineteenth century coupled to an ideology of free markets fashioned a provocation that led to a push-back in which “society defended itself” by demanding that the state adopt social policies to cushion citizens vulnerable to market effects. This, he counseled, set in motion both a process of humanization but also the potential peril that there could be just enough intervention in markets to depress their efficacy while not enough to effectively deliver a more just social order. Where are we today within this complex dance of markets and social policy?

Chair: Claus Offe

Introductions: Katherine Newman, Jonas Pontusson,

1:00pm End of conference

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