

Graduate School of Humanities  
and Social Sciences

LUCERNE GRADUATE LECTURE

# Capitalism and Democracy Today

Prof. Wolfgang Streeck, director emeritus at the Max Planck Institute  
for the Study of Societies, Cologne

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# About Wolfgang Streeck

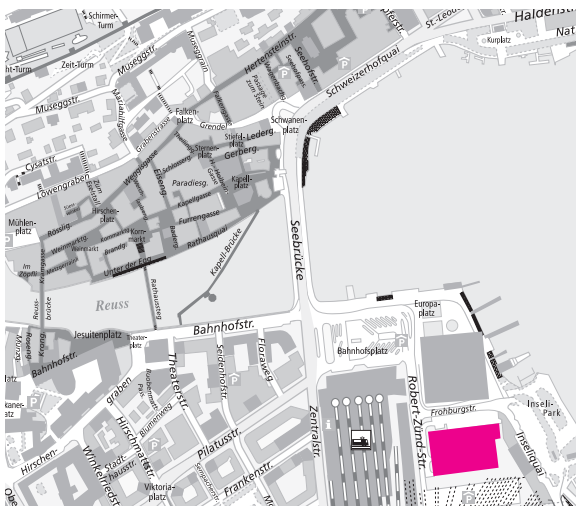


Wolfgang Streeck is director emeritus and Professor at the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies in Cologne, Germany. From 1988 to 1995 he was Professor of Sociology and Industrial Relations at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His latest publications include: *Buying Time: The Delayed Crisis of Democratic Capitalism*, 2014; *Politics in the Age of Austerity* (ed., with Armin Schäfer), 2013; *Re-Forming Capitalism: Institutional Change in the German Political Economy*, 2009. His current research interests are crises and institutional change in the political economy of contemporary capitalism.

Wolfgang Streeck is teaching the Lucerne Master Class 2015 *Markets and Democracy* at the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Lucerne from 28 September – 2 October 2015.

## Capitalism and Democracy Today

The lecture will set out from the postwar settlement of democratic capitalism. After briefly recalling the outlines of its institutional makeup, it will trace its gradual decay that began in the 1970s, as indicated among other things by declining electoral participation, shrinking trade union and political party membership, growing electoral volatility, and the ascent of «populist» protest parties like *Cinque stelle* or *the Front National*. Particular attention will be paid to the influence of rising economic inequality on the quality of democracy. Another issue will be the rise of neoliberalism, as associated with the financialization of capitalism since the 1990s, and its consequences for democratic politics and everyday life. The final section will explore the specific manifestation of the renewed tensions between democracy and capitalism in the European Union, especially under European Monetary Union.



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