

Call for Applications: 3rd Lucerne Master Class for PhD Students, 2016

When: 2 - 6 May, 2016
Where: University of Lucerne, Switzerland | Hotel Seeburg
Language: English
Application deadline: 1 March, 2016

Prof. Dr. Axel Honneth

Jack C. Weinstein Professor of the Humanities, Columbia University (New York)
Professor of Social Philosophy, Goethe University Frankfurt

Towards a Critical Theory of Markets

The Scholar

AXEL HONNETH is Jack C. Weinstein Professor for the Humanities in the Department of Philosophy at Columbia University and Professor of Social Philosophy at the Goethe University Frankfurt. He is Director of the Institute for Social Research in Frankfurt. Axel Honneth's latest publications include: *Freedom's Right*, Columbia University Press, 2014; *The Pathologies of Individual Freedom: Hegel's Social Theory*, Princeton University Press, 2010; *Pathologies of Reason: On the Legacy of Critical Theory*, Columbia University Press, 2009. Axel Honneth's areas of specialization include Social and Political Philosophy, Ethics and Social Theory.

The Topic:

In this Master Class I will attempt, in close collaboration with the participants, to develop a concept of capitalist markets that allows as much an adequate description of their central features as a critical elaboration of possible improvements of them. For this purpose we will first analyze three different theoretical approaches to capitalist markets: a "systems theory" strategy of explanation following Marx, an "action theoretical" strategy of explanation following Karl Polanyi and, lastly, an "institutionalist" strategy of explanation following the so-called "social structure of accumulation" theory. The intensive examination of these differing approaches will then allow us, in a second step, to discuss their respective strengths and weaknesses. In a third step, I will explicate why I take the last approach to be superior to the other two. An analysis of capitalism in such an "institutionalist" frame does not just allow us to differentiate various forms of realization of this mode of production, it also opens up the possibility to get into view the varying chances of reform-oriented interventions into it.

The Class

The class will begin on the 2nd of May at 1.00 pm and end on the 6th of May at 1.00 pm. The daily schedule will be from 9.00 am - 12.30 pm and from 2.00 pm - 6.00 pm and on one evening (lecture

& dinner) from 6.00 - 9.00 pm. There will be an afternoon for recreation in the Lucerne area. Participants will discuss Axel Honneth's recent work but also present and discuss their own projects.

Participants

The Master Class addresses doctoral students from disciplines such as Philosophy, Sociology, Cultural Studies, Political Science, Social Anthropology, Economics and Global Studies. Applications from international and EU doctoral students and doctoral students from Switzerland are welcome.

Cost

Tuition fee: 350 CHF

The organizing body of the Master Class, the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Lucerne, will cover catering and accommodation expenses. We will try to cover travel expenses as well, however, this depends on the country of origin (for details please send an email to Christina Cuonz). If applicants can muster support from their respective home institution, this is welcome.

What Former Participants Say

"The Master Class was a one-time opportunity to discuss the work of an outstanding scholar and to get to know other PhD students working on related issues." (Sebastian Möller, University of Bremen)

"I believe that spending this week with the Master will have an impact on the rest of my academic career." (Sandra Engelbrecht, Hertie School of Governance, Berlin)

"[...] an extraordinary and unforgettable experience." (Maryna Onishchenko, Copenhagen University)

Applications

Please send your application till **1 March, 2016** to the following email-address:
christina.cuonz@unilu.ch

Questions may also be addressed to Christina Cuonz.

Please provide a short statement of motivation (no more than one page), a CV and a short description (no more than one page) of your current dissertation project. Postdocs may be admitted on the basis of individual decision.

More information: www.unilu.ch/masterclass

Support

The Master Class is supported by the Mercator Foundation Switzerland.

