



GERMAN HISTORICAL INSTITUTE  
WASHINGTON D.C.

MAX-PLANCK-INSTITUT FÜR GESELLSCHAFTSFORSCHUNG  
MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF SOCIETIES



## *Conference*

*Risk and Uncertainty in the Economy: Historical,  
Sociological,  
and Anthropological Perspectives*

*June 19–22, 2011 | Villa Vigoni, Lago di Como,  
Italy*

## *Conveners*

*Jens Beckert*

*Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies, Cologne*

*Hartmut Berghoff*

*German Historical Institute, Washington DC*

Conference: *Risk and Uncertainty in the Economy*  
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**Preliminary Program**

**Sunday, June 19**

Arrival in the afternoon

7:00 p.m. Welcome reception and dinner

**Monday, June 20**

**9:00 a.m. Welcome and introduction to the conference**

*Jens Beckert and Hartmut Berghoff*

**Session I**

**Financial Markets**

**9:30 a.m. Turning Uncertainty into Risk: The Case of Credit Ratings**

*Bruce Carruthers, Northwestern University*

*Commentary: Hartmut Berghoff, German Historical Institute Washington*

10:45 a.m. Coffee

**11:15 a.m. Futures Exchanges: Transforming and Abstracting Market Risk**

**in Modern Capitalist Societies**

*Alexander Engel, University of Göttingen*

*Commentary: Christoph Deutschmann, Universität Tübingen (tbc)*

**12:45 p.m. Lunch**

**2:00 p.m. Uncertainty and Risk and the Financial Crisis of 2008**

*Stephen Nelson, Northwestern University*

*and Peter Katzenstein, Cornell University*

*Commentary: Jürgen Kocka, Social Sciences Research Center Berlin*

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*Session II*

*The Underground Economy*

**3:15 p.m. Organized Crime and the Stability of Illegal Markets**  
*Thomas Welskopp, University of Bielefeld*  
Commentary: *Frank Wehinger*

4:30 p.m. *Coffee*

**5:00 p.m. The Structure of Criminal Connections:  
The Russian-Italian Mafia Network**  
*Federico Varese, Oxford University*  
Commentary: *Jane Guyer*

**Tuesday, June 21**

*Session III*

*Families and Economic Risk*

**9:00 a.m. Kinship and Trust: Perspectives from Family Business  
Studies**  
*Andrea Colli, Bocconi University*  
Commentary: *Neil Fligstein, University of California  
Berkeley*

10:15 a.m. *Coffee*

**10:45 a.m. Sentiments of Risk: Cultural logics of Family Busi-  
ness**  
*Sylvia Yanagisako, Stanford University*  
Commentary: *Clemens Wischermann, Universität Konstanz*

**12:30 p.m. Lunch**

**2:00 p.m. The Uyghur Peasant Families**  
*Chris Hann, Max Planck Institute Halle*  
Commentary: *Christof Jeggler, Universität Bamberg*

3:15 p.m. *Coffee*

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*Session IV*

*Institutions and Uncertainty in the Economy*

**3:45 p.m. Competition, Cooperation and Trust in Early Modern  
Merchant Networks**

*Mark Häberlein, University of Bamberg*

*Commentary: Bruce Carruthers, Northwestern University*

**Wednesday, June 22**

**9:00 a.m. Domains of Exchange and Value**

*Jane Guyer, Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore*

*Commentary: Pierre-Michel Menger, EHESS Paris*

10:15 a.m. Coffee

**10:30 a.m. A Long Strange Trip: The Role of Government in  
the American Mortgage Market, 1966-2010**

*Neil Fligstein, University of California-Berkeley*

*Commentary: Jan-Ottmar Hesse (tbc)*

11:45 a.m. Coffee

**12:00 p.m. Risk and Uncertainty in the Economy**

*Final Discussion*

*Jürgen Kocka, Social Science Research Centre Berlin*

*Peter Katzenstein, Cornell University*

*Chris Hann, Max Planck Institute for Anthropology,*

*Halle*

1:00 p.m. Lunch

End of conference 2:30 p.m.