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
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
Conference: Risk and Uncertainty in the Economy
June 19–22, 2011 | Villa Vigoni

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 Business
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 Jeggle, Universität Bamberg

3:15 p.m. Coffee
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, EHEESS 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.