

Conference  
**AUSTERITY:  
 COPING IS NOT ENOUGH!**

February 21–22, 2019



The expectations of critics of untamed globalization and financialization were mostly disappointed after the financial crisis. Those who hoped the near collapse and the following deep recession would lead to systemic change, saw the return of austerity and the continuity of supply-side politics instead. After a short period of stimulus packages, the crisis-ridden states in Europe were confronted with fiscal consolidation policies – despite enormous social protest and severe criticism from experts. The primacy of balanced budgets and debt reduction remains unchallenged. With reference to international competitiveness, social concerns get subordinate to the declared need for fiscal conservatism and consolidation of public finance.

Consequences go far beyond a correction of the spending side of public finance. Privatising and financializing welfare-systems foster inequalities within and between regions, states, and classes and result in new political crises. Right-wing populist parties are winning considerable support at the polls across and beyond the European Union and have entered (coalition) governments. They have been successful in restricting solidarity within and between

EU Member States and the United Nations. They place a new emphasis on the pursuit of exclusive-nationalistic policies and they have made social and cultural conservative attitudes and even racism socially acceptable. At the same time, anti-immigration policies in some European countries and in the United States are coupled with expansionary economic policies.

How do social and economic relations change under conditions of permanent austerity? How do international, national and regional political institutions influence the development of austerity-regimes? What commonalities and differences exist between nations? And which alternatives exist to overcome the status quo of austerity politics? To analyse the causes, connections and effects of this new age of austerity-capitalism, we need a broad debate that questions dominating paradigms, discusses political alternatives and develops new and far-reaching perspectives.

We cordially invite you to join us at „Austerity: Coping is not enough!“, and take part in discussions with experts from academic research centres and civil society organizations. We look forward to the conversations.

## Conference

# AUSTERITY: COPING IS NOT ENOUGH!

February 21–22, 2019

## Conference Venue

Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung  
Haus 2 / Building 2  
Conference Hall and Room 6.01  
Hiroshimastraße 28  
10785 Berlin

## PROGRAM THURSDAY, 21 FEBRUARY

## SCALES OF AUSTERITY

8.30 a.m.

Registration

9.00 a.m.

CONFERENCE HALL

### OPENING

**Andrä Gärber**, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung

**Stephen McBride**, McMaster University

**Dieter Plehwe**, WZB Berlin Social Science Center

9.30 a.m.

CONFERENCE HALL

### KEYNOTE LECTURE

**Jakob von Weizsäcker**, Head of Directorate-General I: Economic and Fiscal Policy Strategy, International Economy and Finance, Federal Ministry of Finance, Berlin

10.15 a.m.

Short Break

10.30 a.m.

**PANEL I**  
CONFERENCE HALL

### AUSTERITY IN EUROPE

CHAIR

**Bryan Evans**, Ryerson University

**Stephen McBride**, McMaster University: Alternatives to Constitutionalizing Austerity

**Stefanie Wöhl**, University of Applied Sciences BFI Vienna: Financialization and Austerity: More of the Same? The Case of Ireland

**Reinhard Naumann**, Friedrich Ebert Foundation, Portugal: Austerity in Portugal: Downsizing the Social State and Undermining Labour Rights

COMMENTATOR

**Steffen Lehndorff**, Institute for Work, Skills and Training

**PANEL II**  
ROOM 6.01

### HOW INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS PROMOTE AUSTERITY & IMPEDE ALTERNATIVES

CHAIR

**Ingo Schmidt**, Athabasca University

**Scott Sinclair**, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives: International Trade Agreements, Privatisation and Austerity

**Laura Macdonald**, Carleton University: Canada's Feminist Trade Policy: An Alternative to Austerity Trade Politics?

**Richard Woodward**, Coventry University: From ODA to DOA: The Strange Death of Overseas Development Assistance

COMMENTATOR

**Jim Stanford**, Centre for Future Work at the Australia Institute

12.00 p.m. – 1.00 p.m.

Lunch Break

> Thursday Part II

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## PROGRAM THURSDAY, 21 FEBRUARY > II

1.00 p.m.

**PANEL III**  
CONFERENCE HALL

### NATIONAL VARIETIES OF AUSTERITY

CHAIR

**Dieter Plehwe**, WZB Berlin Social Science Center

**Bryan Evans**, Ryerson University: Negotiated Austerity? A Comparative Analysis of Social Concertation in Canada, Ireland, Spain and Denmark, (co-authored with Bryan Evans, Stephen McBride, James Watson)

**Steffen Lehndorff**, Institute for Work, Skills and Training: Comparative Welfare/Labor: National Varieties of Austerity

**Sofia Perez**, Center for European Studies, Harvard University: Competitive Internal Devaluation and Distributive Outcomes in Southern Europe

COMMENTATOR

**Stefanie Wöhl**, University of Applied Sciences BFI Vienna

2.30 p.m.

Coffee Break

3.00 p.m.

**PANEL IV**  
CONFERENCE HALL

### AUSTERITY REGIONAL, LOCAL: DEPENDENCIES AND STRUGGLES

CHAIR

**Laura Macdonald**, Carleton University

**Carlo Fanelli**, York University: Urban Austerity, with Canadian Characteristics: Prospects and Challenges

**Steven Griggs**, De Montfort University, Leicester: A City of Two Tales? Austerity, Collaborative Governance and Political Protest in Nantes

**Shana Cohen**, University of Cambridge: Austerity and Local Social Solidarity: Rethinking the Relation Between Community, Faith, and Liberal Values

COMMENTATOR

**Bernd Bonfert**, Roskilde University

4.30 p.m.

Coffee Break

5.00 p.m.

**PANEL V**  
CONFERENCE HALL

### AUSTERITY: SALVATION OR SEDUCTION?

**Cansel Kiziltepe**, Member of the German Bundestag, SPD

**Katja Rietzler**, Macroeconomic Policy Institute (IMK), Hans-Böckler-Stiftung

**Gerhard Schick**, Finanzwende e.V., Finance Watch Germany

MODERATOR

**Maike Rademaker**, Journalist

6.30 p.m.

Preliminary End

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## PROGRAM FRIDAY, 22 FEBRUARY

## CAUSES AND DYNAMICS OF AUSTERITY AND HOW TO SHOW RESISTANCE

8.30 a.m.

Registration

9.00 a.m.

CONFERENCE HALL

### OPENING

**Bryan Evans**, Ryerson University

9.15 a.m.

Short Break

9.30 a.m.

**PANEL VI**  
CONFERENCE HALL

### AUSTERITY EXPERTISE

CHAIR

**Sebastian Botzem**, Free University of Berlin

**Dieter Plehwe**, WZB Berlin Social Science Center: Institutionalized Expertise in Support of Austerity: the German Case

**Achim Truger**, The Macroeconomic Policy Institute: Expert Lessons from Austerity Policies in the EU: Could It Happen Again?

**Angela Wigger**, Radboud University: The New EU Industrial Policy: Authoritarian Neoliberal Structural Adjustment and the Case for Alternatives

COMMENTATOR

**Bryan Evans**, Ryerson University

**PANEL VII**  
ROOM 6.01

### COMMUNICATING AUSTERITY

CHAIR

**Donna Baines**, The University of Sydney

**Ellen Russell**, Wilfried Laurier University: Making Austerity Plausible: Economic Theory and Discursive Legitimation at Crucial Junctures

**Brendan O'Rourke**, Dublin Institute of Technology: Austerity for All Seasons?: Communicating on the Economy in Ireland (co-authored with John Hogan)

**Sorin Mitrea**, McMaster University: Cognitive Responses to the Saliency of Austerity

COMMENTATOR

**Henning Meyer**, Social Europe

11.00 a.m.

Short Break

> Friday Part II

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## PROGRAM FRIDAY, 22 FEBRUARY > II

11.15 a.m.

**PANEL VIII**  
CONFERENCE HALL

### AUSTERITY AND FINANCIALIZATION

CHAIR

**Richard Woodward**, Coventry University

**Sebastian Botzem**, Free University of Berlin: Unintended Austerity? Financialization of the State and Harmonization of European Public Sector Accounts

**Mirjam Büdenbender**, Scientific Advisor to Sören Bartol, Member of the German Bundestag: Populism, Financialization and Housing in Russia and Poland: A Historical Analysis

**Daniel Mertens**, Goethe University Frankfurt: The Financialization of Social Policy: Trends and Coalition

COMMENTATOR

**Dieter Plehwe**, WZB Berlin Social Science Center

**PANEL IX**  
ROOM 6.01

### MAINTAINING AUSTERITY: LACK OF STATE CAPACITY

CHAIR

**Brendan O'Rourke**, Dublin Institute of Technology

**David Macdonald**, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives: Out of the Shadows: the Income, Gender and Historical Distribution of Canadian Tax Expenditures

**Fariya Mohiuddin**, Tax Justice Network: Enabling Tax and Transparency Failures

**Heather Whiteside**, University of Waterloo: Beyond Austerity: Pro-Public Strategies vs. PPP Scandals

COMMENTATOR

**Lukas Haffert**, University of Zurich

12.45 p.m.

Lunch Break

1.45 p.m.

**PANEL X**  
CONFERENCE HALL

### WHY COPING IS NOT ENOUGH: BEYOND ADAPTING TO AUSTERITY

CHAIR

**Laura Horn**, Roskilde University

**Jim Stanford**, Centre for Future Work at the Australia Institute: Thinking Big: Getting Ready for the Next Crisis

**Hans Jürgen Urban**, IG Metall: Limits and Options for a Path Change for a Different Europe

2.45 p.m.

Coffee Break

> Friday Part III

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3.15 p.m.

**PANEL XI**  
CONFERENCE HALL

### IMPLEMENTING AUSTERITY

CHAIR

**Angela Wigger**, Radboud University

**John Shields**, Ryerson University: Austerity and Social Innovation: The Case of Social Innovation Labs (SILs) and Social Impact Bonds (SIBs)

**Donna Baines**, The University of Sydney: Marketizing Autonomy: Zero-Sum Social Policy, Going Gig and The National Disability Insurance Program (Australia), (co-authored with Fiona Macdonald, Jim Stanford)

**Lukas Haffert**, University of Zurich: The Persistent Effects of Consolidation Programs on Public Spending

COMMENTATOR

**Heather Whiteside**, University of Waterloo

**PANEL XII**  
ROOM 6.01

### AUSTERITY AND POPULISM

CHAIR

**Stephen McBride**, McMaster University

**Ingo Schmidt**, Athabasca University: Whoever Is Not Prepared to Talk About Neoliberal Capitalism Should Also Remain Silent About Populism

**Hans Jürgen Bieling**, University of Tübingen: Austerity-induced Populism or Populist-induced Politics of Austerity?

**Hilary Wainwright**, Editor, Red Peppers: Populism and the New Politics from the Left

COMMENTATOR

**Carlo Fanelli**, York University

4.45 p.m.

Coffee Break

5.15 p.m.

**PANEL XIII**  
CONFERENCE HALL

### FIGHTING AUSTERITY: STRUGGLES AND RESISTANCE

CHAIR

**Hilary Wainwright**, Editor, Red Peppers

**Christoph Sorg**, Berlin Graduate School of Social Sciences: "You Are Not A Loan": Resistance Against Debt Since the North Atlantic Financial Crisis

**Rolf Rosenbrock**, Der Paritätische Gesamtverband: Fighting Poverty: The Role of Non-profit Welfare Organizations in Germany

**Frieder Otto Wolf**, European Memorandum Group: Good and Well-placed Austerity vs. Bad and Misplaced Austerity – Surprising Distinctions

**Laura Horn**, Roskilde University: The Class Politics of Austerity – Whose Work, Whose Bodies?

6.45 p.m.

CONFERENCE HALL

### WRAPPING UP

**Bryan Evans**, Ryerson University

7.00 p.m.

End of Conference

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## INFORMATION

### CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

#### Bryan Evans

Ryerson University

#### Stephen McBride, Nour Afara

McMaster University

#### Dieter Plehwe, Moritz Neujeffski

WZB Berlin Social Science Center

#### Markus Schreyer

Division for Economic and Social Policy,  
Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES), Berlin

### CONFERENCE ORGANISATION

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**We kindly request that you register by 15 February 2019  
by e-mail at [wirtschaftspolitik@fes.de](mailto:wirtschaftspolitik@fes.de).**

There is no conference fee and participants shall cover their own travel and accommodation expenses.

Photographs and film footage of guests and colleagues at the event can be published on the FES website, in social networks or in FES publications. Your participation in the event constitutes a declaration of consent to this on your part.

**Simultaneous translation English-German/German-English  
will be available only in the conference hall.**

## HOW TO GET HERE

Bus 100, 187 to Lützowplatz

Bus M29 to Hiroshimasteg

Bus 200 to Tiergartenstraße

Unfortunately there are no parking facilities.

If there are any questions concerning barrier-free access to the event, please contact the FES colleague responsible for organisation.

