

Prof. Dr. Jens Beckert

Seminar « Imagined Futures. Fictional Expectations and Capitalist Dynamics »

This seven week seminar focuses on my forthcoming book « Imagined Futures. Fictional Expectations and Capitalist Dynamics » (HUP 2015). The purpose is to discuss the chapters of the book. In addition some texts that were crucial for my own thinking on the topic or that provide interesting empirical illustrations of the argument will be read and discussed. I hope to receive valuable feedback from the discussions before the book is finally sent to the publisher.

All participants need to read thoroughly the chapters discussed and the additional literature. After a short introduction the discussion shall focus on the strengths and weaknesses of the argument and concrete suggestions for improvement. The last session focuses on the discussion of the research agenda following from the book.

The number of participants is limited to twelve. PhD students, postdocs and senior researchers are equally welcome.

Time: Wednesday 3:30pm to 5pm (with two exceptions)

Place: MPIfG, Seminar room 1

Week 1 : October 15

Chapter 1: Introduction

Chapter 2: The temporal order of capitalism

Additional reading:

Bourdieu, Pierre, 1979: *Algeria 1960*. Cambridge, MA: Cambridge University Press.
Part 1: The Disenchantment of the World, Chapter 1: Simple Reproduction and Cyclical Time, p. 8-30.

Koselleck, Reinhart, 2004: *Futures Past. On the Semantics of Historical Time*. New York: Columbia University Press. Chapter 1: Modernity and the Planes of Historicity, p.9-25.

Week 2: October 21 (Tuesday!) at 13:30pm to 15:30pm

Chapter 3: Expectations and uncertainty

Chapter 4: Fictional expectations

Additional reading:

Bronk, Richard, 2009: *The Romantic Economist. Imagination in Economics.* Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Chapter 8: Imagination and Creativity in Markets, p. 196-224

Searle, John, 1975: The Logical Status of Fictional Discourse. In: *New Literary History* 6, 319-332.

Week 3: October 29

Chapter 5: Money and credit: The promise of future value

Additional reading:

Orléan, André, 2014: *The Empire of Value. A New Foundation for Economics.* Cambridge, MA: MIT Press. Chapter 4: Money, p.107-139.

Week 4: November 5

Chapter 6: Investments: Imaginaries of profit

Chapter 7: Innovation: Imaginaries of technological futures

Additional reading:

Chong, Kimberley/David Tuckett, 2014: Constructing Conviction through Action and Narrative: How Money Managers Manage Uncertainty and the Consequences for Financial Market Functioning. In: *Socio-Economic Review Advance Access*, 1-26.

Brown, Nick/Alison Kraft/Paul Martin, 2006: The Promisory Past of Blood Stem Cells. In: *Biosocieties* 1, 329-348.

Week 5: November 11 (Tuesday!)

Chapter 8: Consumption: Value from meaning

Additional reading:

Campbell, Colin, 1987: *The Romantic Ethic and the Spirit of Modern Consumerism.* Oxford: Basil Blackwell. Chapter 5. Modern, Autonomous Imaginative Hedonism. P.77-96.

Week 6: November 26

Chapter 9: Forecasting: Creating the Present

Chapter 10 Economic theory: An imaginary not a crystal ball

Additional reading:

Morgenstern, Oscar, [1935] 1976: Perfect Foresight and Economic Equilibrium. In: Andrew Schotter (ed.) *Selected Economic Writings of Oskar Morgenstern*. New York: NYU Press, 169-183.

Reichmann, Werner, 2013: Epistemic Participation . How to Produce Knowledge about the Economic Future. In: *Social Studies of Science* 43, 852-877.

Sugden, Robert, 2009: Credible Worlds, Capacities and Mechanisms. In: *Erkenn* 70, 3-27.

Week 7: December 3

Chapter 11: Conclusion. Imagined Futures: The enchanted world of capitalism

Discussion : Imagined Futures. A research program