New obscurities in a Globalized World

Everything in (Dis)Order

16th KARLSRUHE DIALOGUES
10–12 February 2012
The financial markets in London, New York, and Tokyo have gone mad. The euro has to be “saved”. Civil rights – the foundation pillars and precondition of democracy – are being vehemently demanded in the Arabian world. In countries like Russia, indicators for the demand for change are becoming apparent. Meanwhile, a growing disinterest in democracy coexists in the “West” with an increase in calls for grass-roots democracy. In short: Social and political upheavals are shaking the whole world. Is the present order losing control? Are our societies in a position to deal with the diversity of upheaval and change?

The 16th Karlsruhe Dialogues will focus on current forms of the *New Obscurity* (Jürgen Habermas) and examine their effects on individuals and societies under sociological, psychological, communal, and medial aspects. Do societal, political, and economic upheavals lead to collective insecurity and to anxiety about the future? Particular attention will be paid to the *World Risk Society* (Ulrich Beck): According to Beck, more risks already appeared in the process of modernization than states are able to handle.

The negative aspects of progress appear to dominate societal change. At the same time, it seems more impossible than ever to make precise predictions regarding economic and social developments, or the direction of society as a whole. How does a community deal with a situation in which everything has become “certainly uncertain”? It seems that not only the kind of upheavals changed at the beginning of the twenty-first century, but also the context in which they manifest themselves and society’s ability to deal with them.

In the financial sector, risks are part of daily routine. Rating agencies assess the credit worthiness of entire states, and banks are subject not only to operational risk, but to market, credit, and liquidity risks. The economic *Limits to Growth* (Dennis Meadows) which not only Europe is currently experiencing, are closely related to the crisis of our established orders. Have they – in the face of increased cuts to the welfare state – already reached the limits of their endurance? The increasing level of social youth protests around the world suggests a growing dissatisfaction with politics, but also an absence of viable solutions and a lack of economic perspectives.

The three-day event examines the subject from different perspectives for a broad audience. It focuses an international approach, using a composition of presentations on basic principles, short statements, papers and discussions. The symposium will be accompanied by cultural events intended to contrast the impressions gained and to enrich them through additional aspects seen from an artistic perspective. Additionally, a thematic film night in cooperation with the television channel ARTE and the ZKM | Zentrum für Kunst und Medientechnolgie Karlsruhe (Center for Art and Media Karlsruhe) will be included as well as a reading and a performance in the Badisches Staatstheater Karlsruhe.

The ZAK is honoured and appreciative to be partnered by the Stiftung Kunst und Kultur of the Sparda-Bank Baden-Württemberg that supports the Karlsruhe Dialogues as the main supporter together with the city of Karlsruhe since 2005. The ZAK wishes to express its thanks for the generous support that makes this top-class symposium possible. We are looking forward to our future partnership.

Most events within the Karlsruhe Dialogues can be attended without an entrance fee.

We would be very happy to welcome you!

**Presented by:**
ZAK | Centre for Cultural and General Studies
Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (KIT)

**Registration appreciated:** [www.zak.kit.edu](http://www.zak.kit.edu)
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**Convenorship:**
Prof. Dr Caroline Y. Robertson-von Trotha

**Organisation:**
Rubina Zern M.A., Swenja Zaremba M.A.

**Conference languages:** German, English; simultaneous interpreting.
Opening reception of the 16th Karlsruhe Dialogues  

- SpardaEvent-Center, Baumeisterstraße 21

7.30 p.m.  

Welcome addresses  
Hon. Senator Dr h. c. Thomas Renner  
*Chairman of the Board of Sparda-Bank Baden-Württemberg eG*

Wolfram Jäger  
*Deputy Mayor for Cultural Affairs of the City of Karlsruhe*

Prof. Dr sc. tech. Dr h. c. Horst Hippler  
*President of KIT*

Introduction  
Prof. Dr Caroline Y. Robertson-von Trotha  
*Director of the ZAK | Centre for Cultural and General Studies at KIT*

Opening keynote lectures  

Do We Need a New Economic Order?  

**Dr Karen Horn** (Germany)  
*Economic journalist and Head of the Berlin Office of the Cologne Institute of Economic Research*

**Prof. Dr Margrit Kennedy** (Germany/Great Britain)  
*Monetary expert and founder of MonNetA*

Discussion  

Musical programme  

**Fritz Feger: Risky Ethnic-Classical-Minimal-Techno-Pop**

Fritz Feger plays electro-acoustical chamber music that can take the form of an associative tone collage, a rhythmic meditation, or a song. His instruments include a cello, his voice, chance objects that happen to be present, and background noises – this audio material is recorded live and then electronically manipulated. Stylistically, he is influenced primarily by ethnic music, jazz, minimalist music and Electronica/D&B. The rich imagery of his music may derive from his many years of work as a composer for the theatre: with houses such as Hamburg’s Thalia Theater, Vienna’s Burgtheater and the playhouses of Hamburg, Bochum, and Stuttgart, among others.

No entrance fee  

Please register.
Symposium of the 16th Karlsruhe Dialogues

9.30 a.m. Welcome addresses

Gerd Stracke
Vice-President of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry Karlsruhe

Prof. Dr Caroline Y. Robertson-von Trotha
Director of the ZAK | Centre for Cultural and General Studies at KIT

Opening keynote addresses

Liquid Times: Living in an Age of Uncertainty
Prof. Dr Zygmunt Bauman (Poland/Great Britain)
Professor Emeritus of Sociology, University of Leeds

Diversity of Modernity and Transnational Public – Another Obscurity in the Face of Endangered Democracy
Prof. Dr Kenichi Mishima (Japan)
Professor of Social Philosophy, Keizai University Tokyo

11.00 a.m. Risk as a Condition of Our Society

Prof. Dr Britt-Marie Drottz-Sjöberg (Norway)
Professor of Psychology, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim

The Risk Perception Gap. Why We Get Risk ‘Wrong’ and What We Can Do About It
David Ropeik (USA)
Instructor in the Harvard Extension School’s Program on Environmental Management

12.30 p.m. Lunch break

1.15 p.m. Democracy Challenged and the Challenge of Democracy
Prof. Dr Surendra Munshi (India)
Retired Professor of Sociology, Indian Institute of Management Calcutta (IIMC), Fellow of Bertelsmann Stiftung

The Fight Against Fraud and Corruption – From Italy to South Africa and the Caribbean
Helen Mary Garlick (Great Britain)
Barrister for serious and complex fraud, bribery and corruption, Special Prosecutor to the Turks and Caicos Islands investigation into government corruption

After ‘Arabellion’: Is a New Order of Freedom Possible for the Middle East?
Shimon Stein (Israel)
Israeli diplomat and former ambassador for Israel in Germany, Senior Researcher at Tel Aviv University and

Fehim Taştekin (Turkey)
Journalist at the “Radikal” newspaper, Istanbul

26 Years after Chernobyl: Has Russia Learnt from the Catastrophe?
Dr Ivan Blokov (Russia)
Campaign Director Greenpeace Russia

New Nuclear World Order – Worst Case Scenario or Challenge?
Dr Olli Heinonen (Finland)
Former Deputy Director General of IAEA

Less is More: On Growth and Its Limits
Ilija Trojanow (Bulgaria/Germany)
Writer, Translator, Publisher

No entrance fee

Please register.

The ‘Stephanus-Buchhandlung’ will be offering a special selection of books at their table.
The ARTE film night sheds light on a cross-section of current manifestations of the *New Obscurity*, which shapes our lives in diverse ways. The evening will begin with the recent documentary film “Der Domino-Effekt – Kippt der Euro?”, which investigates the political significance of the euro for the European Union. The film depicts the events of the previous months, during which the EU was forced to recognise that the financial crisis had developed into a crisis of legitimation on an unprecedented scale. “Für eine andere Welt” takes a look at the recent, worldwide civil unrest and its young activists, who are attempting to attract attention to their dissatisfaction with globalization and related issues. The documentary “Freiheit oder Sicherheit – Der Antiterrorkampf und seine Folgen” explores the development and legitimacy of numerous anti-terror laws passed in the wake of September 11; the film seeks to discover the extent to which these laws represent an attack on citizens’ basic civil rights and, thus, a threat to democracy. The French short film “Das Jahr 2008” illustrates the difficulties involved in discovering the source of global crises and illustrates the complexity of the globalized system. The evening closes with the political activists Andy Bichlbaum and Mike Bonanno, who use fun guerrilla tactics to combat cronyism, lobbyism and corruption: their film “Die Yes Men regeln die Welt” uses provocative parodies to expose the negative consequences of globalization and the free market.
Morning panel discussion

• SpardaEvent-Center, Baumeisterstraße 21

11.00 a.m. Rebellion and Outrage in Europe – (not) a Generational Question?
Moderation René Aguigah
Deutschlandradio Kultur

Introductory note:
Dr. h.c. Karl-Markus Gauß (Austria) (TBC)
Writer

Wolfgang Gründig (Germany)
Spokesman of the ‘Stiftung für die Rechte zukünftiger Generationen’ [Foundation for the rights of future generations], member of Think Tank 30

Ophélie Latil (France)

Internet activist, founder of ‘Génération Précaire’

Valentine Umansky (France)
Communications officer of ‘Génération Précaire’

Nuran David Calis (Germany)
Theatre, film and book author

Fabio Gándara Pumar (Spain)
Founder of the Spanish protest movement ¡Democracia Real YA!

Book-Reading

• MITTLERES FOYER (Badisches Staatstheater Karlsruhe), Baumeisterstraße 11

2.15 p.m. Ilija Trojanow: EisTau

With enormous writing skill Ilija Trojanow narrates the story of a man who loves the glaciers so much that he despairs of their dying. The author of The Collector of Worlds leads us to the consequences of the most serious global change of our present times: In his book-reading, a “narrative” with musical accompaniment, he deals with the effects of climate change and radicalises the idea of responsibility for each individual.

No entrance fee

Please register.

Theatre/Performance

• STUDIO (Badisches Staatstheater Karlsruhe), Baumeisterstraße 11

8.00 p.m. Quizoola!

by Tim Etchells. German translation by Thomas Oberender
World premiere at the ICA London (Forced Entertainment).
German premiere 1996 at the Staatstheater Stuttgart. With members of the theatre company. Arrangement: Jan Linders

What is love? Do you believe in the writings of Darwin? Are you afraid of yourself? Two actors in a duel: One has an almost endless list of questions and forces the other to answer them. By uttering a specific phrase, their roles are exchanged: through this, the questioner becomes the responder. The text sets out only the questions; the order and the answers are unpredictable. Quizoola! has been developed by Forced Entertainment, ‘Britain’s most brilliant experimental theatre company’ (The Guardian).

The performance is in German. Followed by public discussion.

Admission: € 5.-