

CALL FOR PAPERS

Economic downturn: end of consumer society or business as usual?

ESA CONSUMPTION RESEARCH NETWORK INTERIM MEETING 2010

Hotel and Spa Dorpat, Tartu, 25-28 August 2010

The global economic downturn has changed consumption, production and promotion patterns all over the world. Some even say – either with regret or joy depending on who is speaking- that the consumption boom, as we used to know it, will never come back.

Tartu, the academic capital of Estonia is situated in the Baltic region - one of the areas of the EU that has suffered remarkably in the economic crisis. We find it a good venue for gathering sociologists of consumption from all over Europe to present their new research (be it linked to the economic downturn theme more or less directly), discuss the present and future of consumer cultures in Europe and elsewhere, as well as network and cooperate in the best tradition of the ESA Sociology of Consumption group.

Please see the conference website at www.consumption2010.edicypages.com

We invite papers that address various aspects of the sociology of consumption. Possible themes include but are not limited to:

- Food and consumption
- Ethical and political consumption
- Spaces of urban and excess consumption
- Consumption inequalities and exclusions
- Sustainable consumption
- Material culture
- Sociology of taste
- Markets of consumption
- Cultural stratification
- Arts participation
- Consumption and the body
- Theories of consumption
- Gender and consumption
- Children's consumer culture

Deadlines

We invite abstracts of 250 words by February 15, 2010. Abstracts should be sent via the submission form on the conference website. Please include in the abstract information about the theoretical framework of the research, the methodology employed, and the contribution of the paper.

Letter of acceptance and preliminary programme will be sent to participants by 15th March.

Registration and payment of conference fee should be made by July 1, 2010.

Full papers' deadline is August 1, 2010. The papers will be stored on the meeting website.

Conference fee, registration and accommodation

The conference fee is 180 euros and should be paid by July 1st 2010 to the conference account at the University of Tartu, the details of which will be specified soon. The fee includes conference materials, all meals and evening entertainment.

Participants are kindly asked to make reservations directly to Hotel Dorpat. The booking e-mail address is info@dorpat.ee. Please include in your e-mail the identification word ESA2010. See also www.dorpat.ee. The hotel is new and modern, 1 minute from the intercity bus station, 5 minutes from the Town Hall and the University Main Building (the main landmarks of city centre).

Since the pre-booking done by organizers includes a limited number on rooms, please book your hotel by July 1, 2010.

The room price is 48 euros per single room, 60 euros per twin room. The payment will be made directly at the hotel. All major credit cards or cash in euros will be accepted.

Other hotel options are available within walking distance at the city centre.

Hotel Barclay, www.barclay.ee

Equivalent to four stars, single room around 68 EUR.

Hotel London, www.london.ee

Four stars, single room 59 EUR

Hotell Pallas, www.pallas.ee

Three stars, single room 41 EUR

Hotel Tartu, www.tartuhotell.ee

Two plus or three stars, single room 48 EUR, 15% off through online booking, discount with ITIC, ISIC card

All prices are as of November 2009. They may change slightly depending on your time of booking.

Additional information on the city www.visittartu.com

Getting to Tartu.

There are two international flights to Tartu Airport: from and to Riga and from and to Stockholm. The schedules however can be tricky, please check <http://www.tartu-airport.ee/eng>. The airport is 9 km from the city, from there take a taxi to Hotel Dorpat.

A more flexible way is to come to Tallinn Airport, which has numerous connections all over Europe. From there take a taxi to the Tallinn Bus Terminal (“Bussjaam” in Estonian, pronounce not “jam”, but “yaam” with a long A), not more than 10 minutes. Taxis are right outside the terminal exit. From the Bus Terminal either go to platform 1 from where every full hour and half hour express buses go to Tartu (ticket ca 10 EUR, the full hour ones have wifi, if you have a bit of luck) and in most cases you can buy a ticket at the bus or buy a ticket in the terminal from the ticket offices on your right hand side and then go to platform 1.

In Tartu Hotel Dorpat is practically next door to Bus Terminal, 1 minute walking to the hotel entrance.

Working schedule

Registration and reception on Wednesday August 25^h at the Hotel Dorpat.

Each session will be assigned a discussant. Papers will be pre-circulated by August 15th.

Sessions will start at 9.00 am on Thursday 26th and continue until lunch at 12.30-13.30 on Saturday 28th August.

Conference dinners and evening entertainment will take place outside Dorpat Hotel elsewhere in the city on Thursday and Friday night.

Further information:

Queries can be made on the conference website. They will be answered by e-mail.

Looking forward to seeing you all in Tartu!

Organizing committee:

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