

Leipzig European Winter School

March 19/20 2012

“Social relations in turbulent times”, the title of the European Sociological Association’s 2011 conference was nicely chosen. At present it is almost impossible to ignore social change dramatically accelerating around the globe. Think of the Arab spring, the Occupy Wall Street protests, the riots in the centre of British metropolises, the indignados, the euro crisis or the one EU member that is in danger of becoming a "failed state"; think of the power shifts in the IMF and the World Bank in favour of the former emerging nations or the growing precariousness and exhaustion of the middle classes in the rich Western nations.

Howsoever one might describe these developments in detail they share one thing: They have to do with institutions either having or causing problems. If institutions as guarantors of social stability coming under pressure it is really “crass social change” (Lars Clausen). Thus it is worthwhile to focus on institutions and their recent developments from the perspective of social sciences.

We cordially invite authors to present their PhD projects dealing with questions of political sociology, European sociology and especially with the tension between institutional developments and social action. On March 19/20, they will be able to discuss the approaches and results of their projects with the following seniors of European studies and Political Sociology:

Maurizio Bach (University of Passau)

Astrid Lorenz (University of Leipzig)

Steffen Mau (University of Bremen)

Georg Vobruba (University of Leipzig)

Each senior will discuss the project of three participants. In addition, there will be „Author meets Critics“ sessions where the participants will discuss some of the seniors’ most recent research results or publications.

Leipzig European Winter School 2012 cordially invites PhD students who have been working on their projects for at least 1 year to enter their applications until January 23rd, 2012. We require an abstract (in German or English, 300 words max.) which gives information about topic, aim and state of the study and which also names the supervisors. The participating PhD students will be chosen immediately after this deadline and will then be required to send a synopsis of about 5 pages until February 10th. Along with the invitation the participants will be sent the Seniors' texts for the „Author meets Critics“ sections.

The Leipzig European Winter School 2012 is scheduled directly after the Leipziger Buchmesse (March 15.-18.), it is thus possible to combine a visit to the book fair.

We regret that we cannot cover any expenses for your travel or accommodation.

Please send your abstracts to Jenny Preunkert (preunkert@uni-leipzig.de), she will also be happy answer any questions that may arise.

For more information you can check our website: www.uni-leipzig.de/lews

Jenny Preunkert and Georg Vobruba