After the Catastrophe? International Conference on Economy, Law and Politics in Times of Crisis
Thursday 25 March - Saturday 27 March 2010

Venue: Goethe University Frankfurt, Campus Westend (“I.G. Farben Haus”), Grüneburgplatz 1, 60629 Frankfurt am Main, Room 1.314 (“The Eisenhower Room”)

Presented by
Exzellenzcluster "Die Herausbildung normativer Ordnungen"
Prof. Gunther Teubner, Universität Frankfurt
Prof. Alberto Febbrajo, Università di Macerata
Dr. Poul F. Kjaer, Universität Frankfurt

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Introduction:
Within the framework of the cluster project “Societal Constitutionalism in World Society” this international conference will be devoted to a sociological and legal analysis of the current financial crisis.
Should the crisis be understood as a result of the “blind” and “self-destructive” evolution of the economic system or should the central source be found in more general tendencies of de-differentiation occurring through the expansion of economic rationality beyond the borders of the economic system? Or is the crisis rather a symptom of the incapacity of the political and the legal systems to steer and regulate societal developments? Or is it a failure of risk perception and management for which individual and collective actors within and outside of financial organizations are responsible? Or are we rather dealing with a complex relation between these and other factors?
And what are the appropriate reactions to the crisis? The crisis makes it pertinent to analyse the role and capability of states as the saviour of last resort as well as to seek an increased understanding of the reasons for the obvious failure of the self-regulative efforts of the financial system, and to investigate how this failure might be corrected. Should the answer be found in a return to “traditionalist” state-regulation, an intensification of existing and so far half-hearted forms of self-regulatory measures or rather in a novel reconfiguration of the relationship between the two approaches? And what remedies can law and politics offer in this context? For example, is constitutionalism “beyond the state” offering a plausible answer? These and many other questions related to the crisis will be at the centre of attention of the conference.
Program:
Thursday 25 March 2010

Introduction
13.30 – 14.30: Gunther Teubner (Goethe University Frankfurt): A Constitutional Moment? The Logics of “Hit the Bottom”.

Session I: Causes and Dynamics of the Crisis I
14.30 – 15.30: Jean Clam (CNRS, Paris): What is a Crisis?
15.30 – 16.00: Coffee Break
16.00 – 17.00: Marc Amstutz (University of Fribourg): Disintegrating Boundaries. Systems Regulation in the Face of Global Crisis

Friday 26 March 2010
9.00 – 9:30: Coffee

Session II: Causes and Dynamics of the Crisis II
10.30 – 11.30: Alberto Febbrajo (University of Macerata): The Failure of Regulatory Institutions?
11.30 – 12.00: Coffee Break
13.00 – 14.30: Lunch Break

Session III: Forms of Crisis
15.30 – 16.30: Karl-Heinz Ladeur (University of Bremen): The Financial Market Crisis - A Network Failure?
16.30 - 17.00 Coffee Break
17.00 – 18.00: Urs Stäheli (University of Hamburg): Political Epidemiology and the Financial Crisis.

Saturday 27 March 2010
9.00 – 9.30: Coffee
9.30 – 10.30: Rudolf Stichweh (University of Lucerne): Towards a Theory of Function System Crises

Session IV: Reactions to the Crisis
10.30 – 11.30: Chris Thornhill (University of Glasgow): The Future of the State.
11.30 – 12.00: Coffee Break
12.00 - 13.00: Kolja Möller (University of Bremen): Struggles for Law in Crisis.
13.00 – 14.30: Lunch Break
14.30 – 15.30: Aldo Mascareño (University Alberto Hurtado, Santiago): There Is No Crisis (but evolving inviolate levels). Ethics of Contingency and Normative Expectations in Modernity
15.30 – 16.30: Poul F. Kjaer (Goethe University Frankfurt): Law and Order beyond National Configurations