

# Altonaer Stiftung für philosophische Grundlagenforschung

## NECESSITY

### **Invitation**

The Centre for Legal Theory of the ASFPG invites you to attend a workshop ‘Necessity’. The workshop will take place at the Stiftung’s premises in Hamburg, Germany on **13th–16th May, 2016** beginning at 4.15 pm on Friday ending about 1.00 pm on Sunday.

### **The Stiftung**

The Stiftung is an independent foundation with legal capacity under the German Civil Code. Its commitment is to interdisciplinary work aimed at basic conceptual issues and practical problems in the areas of logic and metaphysics, legal theory and applied ethics of science and technology. It is organized accordingly into three centres. Further information regarding the Stiftung can be found at its web-site: **[www.asfpg.de](http://www.asfpg.de)**.

### **The Workshop**

We want in this workshop to explore ‘necessity’ in political and legal theory and practice. Taken in one or another of its types (or not), in the company it keeps with freedom, with contingency, with possibility, in its role in notions and practices of obligation, justification/ legitimation, approached from the perspective of need, (the list goes on) necessity’s compass points in many directions..

We envisage an exploration which goes by way participants’ own work whether that figures necessity as topic, theme, problem or question. For instance: where right is thought in terms of freedom and freedom is considered in relation to necessity, that which (legal) reason is thought to demand ‘by necessity and by right’ gives a point of entry to the practice of giving reasons for judgment in the superior courts as rationalisation of modern law’s violence/authority. Where legal obligation is the topic, necessity in ancient and modern contexts is central. Thematically linked to violence, freedom, judgment, and universality, necessity can be brought to the problem of error, mistake, wrong!, and judgment. On the theme of necessity, a focus on how the discourse of necessity is mobilised to

sustain regimes of austerity, is suggested. More broadly, necessity as the counterpoint of contingency is key to how political reflexivity is understood and how broadly it is cast. Questions of time, the collapse of urgency into emergency, the undercutting of democracy, market blackmail and the projection of 'false necessities' are raised; so too of the role of nation states, identities and histories in current crises of austerity, migration, war and terror.

The contact group for this workshop is Emiliios Christodoulidis (Glasgow), Stewart Motha (Birkbeck), and myself. The Administrative Assistant of the ASFPG is Ulrike Horway.

ASFPG workshops are relatively informal. Making space and time for the collective work of hearing and drawing on disparate approaches to the end of exploration of necessity's compass and benefiting each participant's theoretical endeavours is a general strategy of our workshops. The pre-circulation of papers (about two weeks before the workshop) and abstracts of proposed presentations for the workshop web site (the sooner the better) are required. Papers presented are not posted on the web-site. Modes of presentation are up to you. The space of the Stiftung is not well suited to power point presentations but they can be accommodated. If you wish to present in that way, please let us know beforehand.

### **Travel and Accommodation**

The Stiftung will pay all travel costs within Europe (economy air/rail fares including costs to and from home/hotel and airports), and arrange and pay accommodation for two or three nights at a nearby hotel. (We can arrange further nights at the hotel at your expense should you wish to extend your stay in Hamburg.) It also provides a workshop dinner, an opening reception and light lunches and refreshments during the workshop.

### **Invited Participants**

Angela Condello (Roma Tre, Rome)	Emilios Christodoulidis (Glasgow)
Basak Ertür (Birkbeck)	Marco Goldoni (Glasgow)
Stephanie Jones (Southampton)	Valerie Kerruish (ASFPG)
Gilbert Leung (Counterpress)	Hans Lindahl (Tilburg)
Stewart Motha (Birkbeck)	Andy Schaap (Exeter)
Johan van der Walt (Luxembourg)	Scott Veitch (Hong Kong)

### **Further Planning and Questions**

Please respond as soon as possible and at latest by **26th November, 2015** to Ulrike Horway [ulrike.horway@asfpg.de](mailto:ulrike.horway@asfpg.de) cc.valerie.kerruish@asfpg.de

Further planning of the workshop will follow your responses. Accordingly, if

you are able to attend please include in your acceptance at least a title, preferably a brief abstract or resumé of your proposed contribution. Questions and suggestions made to the contact group going to the planning and content of the workshop are welcome. Information and queries regarding administration of the workshop (refunds on travel expenses, addresses, dietary requirements and the like) are handled by our administrator, Ulrike Horway.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Valerie Kerruish  
ASFPG  
Hamburg.