

An International Conference

European Business and Economic Ethics: Diagnosis – Dialogue – Debate

Is there a European Business and Economic Ethics Approach?

Organised by the

Berlin Forum in cooperation with the

Heidelberg Academy of Sciences and Humanities

6th – 8th September 2007

The economic reality in Europe today is increasingly determined by pan-European and global forces that transcend the once predominant level of the nation state. As a result, the “economic ethical reality” has changed as well: economic actors, non-governmental organisations, governments – and the scientific community – have to look beyond national borders in addressing ethical issues. However, despite existing examples of transnational cooperation and discourse, the field of business and economic ethics in Europe remains largely confined to national contexts or to bilateral relations. This conference aims to stimulate dialogue between scholars from different European countries, and thereby to strengthen scientific cooperation in this field. At the same time, it seeks to highlight the possible profile of a European business and economic ethics facing predominant US-American approaches. The conference welcomes scholars from all disciplines dealing with questions of business and economic ethics. Its main focus is academic rather than application-oriented, directing attention mainly towards theoretical perspectives on business and economic ethics.

Programme

Thursday, 6th September 2007

14:00 Welcome and Conference Opening:

Opening address by a member of the presiding committee of the Heidelberg Academy of Sciences and Humanities

Part I – Diagnosis

14:30 Keynote lecture

“European economic ethics research: a diagnosis”

Adela Cortina, University of Valencia (Spain)

16:30 Keynote lecture

“European business ethics research: a diagnosis”

Luc van Liedekerke, Catholic University, Leuven (Belgium) / President of the European Business Ethics Network

Friday, 7th September 2007

Part II – Dialogue

09:30 – 11:00 / 11:30 – 13:00 Parallel sessions in different discussion groups, introduced by presentations of a European perspective on topics such as state-economy relations, importance of the adjacent (social) sciences, corporate social responsibility (CSR) etc.

Part III – Debate

14:15 – 15:45 *Plenary session:*

“Philosophical and religious traditions in European business and economic ethics”

Marcel Hénaff, University of California (USA)

Stefano Zamagni, University of Bologna (Italy) / Johns Hopkins University (USA)

16:15 – 18:00 *Plenary session:*

“The role of state-market relations in European business and economic ethics”

Bernard Perret, Laboratoire de sociologie du changement des institutions Paris (France)

Michael Wohlgemuth, Walter Eucken Institute Freiburg (Germany)

20:00 *Reception*

Saturday, 8th September 2007

Part III – Debate (continued)

09:00 – 10:30 *Plenary session:*

“European values”

Jan Tullberg, Stockholm School of Economics (Sweden)

Hans Joas, Max Weber Center of the University of Erfurt (Germany) / University of Chicago (USA)

11:00 – 12:00 *Podium discussion*

For online registration and information concerning accommodation and transportation in Heidelberg see www.berlinerforum.org.

For any further inquiries, please contact christian.scherer@uni-erfurt.de.

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