2 Day Workshop:
Social Justice, the Financial Crisis, and the Eurozone

The repercussions of the global financial crisis in Europe have demonstrated how vulnerable the existing governance structure of the Eurozone had been to exogenous economic shocks and economic discrepancies between participating states. As a consequence of these events, some significant changes have occurred in the mechanisms for the governance of the Eurozone, e.g. in the form of ‘conditional’ lending to indebted Eurozone member states and in the establishment of the European Stability Mechanism (ESM). New institutions and practices have been met with profound popular resistance in countries affected by the sovereign debt crisis.

Some recent normative proposals have suggested that the crisis, and the flaws in the governance of the Eurozone which it has unveiled, call for a significant move away from national fiscal autonomy and for the introduction of a “Eurozone basic income scheme”. By and large, however, political theorists and philosophers have not offered a sustained discussion of the normative principles or institutional arrangements that we should seek under conditions of joint monetary authority. This is particularly surprising, since the European sovereign debt crisis has shed a new perspective on the nature of the EU as an institution: is it mainly an intergovernmental project or does it have a supranational/federal mission? Or, third still, should understand it as a form of democracy, as recently advocated by some scholars? This workshop aims at filling this gap. Organised by the Sofja Kovalevskaja Research Group on Background Justice between States, the workshop seeks therefore to address the following questions:

- What conception of social justice applies to states that share monetary currency arrangements?
- What is the relationship between social justice and democratic accountability in the context of the European Union?
- What value should be attached to fiscal autonomy and ‘positive sovereignty’ of individual participating states?
- Do we need ‘more’ or ‘less’ Europe to solve the crisis and empower its losers?
- When and under what conditions should states assume joint liability for government finances?
- What institutional setup is most likely to robustly realise our considered moral judgements?

Speakers:

Richard Bellamy (UCL/EUI)
Francis Cheneval (Zürich)
Glyn Morgan (Syracuse)
Jürgen Neyer (Europa-University Viadrina)
Miriam Ronzoni (Manchester/Darmstadt)
Waltraud Schelkle (LSE)
Juri Viehoff (Zürich)
Organisers: Miriam Ronzoni, Juri Viehoff

Date: May 9th-10th, 2014

Location: Technical University of Darmstadt

The event is funded by the Humboldt Foundation through a Sofja Kovalevskaja Award Scheme

Attendance is free. Places are limited and will be assigned on a first come, first serve basis. To register please email Martina Dingeldein at dingeldein@pg.tu-darmstadt.de