



Zurich, October 2, 2017

**Zurich Doctoral Workshop with Prof David Miller (Oxford)**

**Call for Papers**

26<sup>th</sup> of January 2018

Center for Ethics

University of Zurich

**The Role of Political Philosophy**

This Zurich Doctoral Workshop asks what the role of political philosophy is and, in particular, in how far it should aim to provide guidance on current political developments. This question has become pertinent for two reasons. First, populist movements across (Western) democracies have put into question the consensus on the values of a liberal, pluralist democracy, which many political philosophers have long taken for granted. This urges us to renew the debate of the question what the starting point of political philosophy should be. In addition, political philosophers stand accused of having said too little on the numerous political crises that we have been faced with recently, from the financial crisis to the refugee crisis. Political philosophy, some claim, has lost its sense for politics.

David Miller, who will be chairing this Zurich Doctoral Workshop, is one of the philosophers who have recently given most thought to the question how idealised political philosophy should be, how results from ideal theory can and should be applied and what contributions political philosophy should aim to make. This one-day workshop will consist of a lecture by David Miller as well as four to six presentations by graduate students, each followed by comments of the chair and a discussion.

Contributions to this workshop are expected to centre around the questions concerning the role of political philosophy - what this role is, what its relation to political science should be, whether this changes in times of (political) crises and to what extent contemporary political philosophy is (or should be) impacted by the current challenging of liberal democratic values.

Please send your **abstract (maximum length is 500 words)** to [mira.wolf-bauwens@uzh.ch](mailto:mira.wolf-bauwens@uzh.ch) and [friedemann.bieber@philos.uzh.ch](mailto:friedemann.bieber@philos.uzh.ch) by **November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017**. Acceptance notes will be sent by mid-November. Submitted abstracts should be formatted for blind review (free of personal and institutional information).

Accepted papers are due via email in PDF form by **December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017**. Submissions are limited to 7,500 words (20 double-spaced pages). They will be circulated in advance of the workshop and participants are expected to read them. Please note that travel costs and other expenses cannot be reimbursed.

Please do not hesitate to contact us ([mira.wolf-bauwens@uzh.ch](mailto:mira.wolf-bauwens@uzh.ch) or [friedemann.bieber@philos.uzh.ch](mailto:friedemann.bieber@philos.uzh.ch)), if you have any questions.

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