Weber/ Simmel Antagonisms: Staged Dialogues
Thursday 11 - Friday 12 December 2015
University of Edinburgh

A conference organized by the Max Weber Group of the British Sociological Association & Sociology Edinburgh

Much has been said about the strong oppositions between Simmel and Weber as founding fathers of sociology – as well as about their shared concerns. Capitalism and culture, ‘worlds’ and their tensions, rationalization and objectivation, the city, music, the methodology of the social sciences and ideal types, equally exercised their thought and yielded very different creatures.

But rather than merely intellectual or methodological quarrels, the antagonisms between Simmel and Weber engaged their whole way of being and acting in the world – the constantly renewed aspiration yet impossibility of reconciliation with oneself and the world, for Simmel; agonic tension, struggle with oneself and the world, for Weber. This is perhaps the reason why Weber/Simmel antagonisms have had continuity in social theory and shaped some of its major currents of thought. More importantly perhaps they spur us to be and act in the world in very different ways: hence this conference, which does not only explore these differences, but stages them, under the format of imagined dialogues.

Draft Programme
Thursday 10 December (1:30 – 6:30 pm + evening reception)
Friday 11 December (9 am – 5:30 pm)

Dialogues will be staged on:
- Weber and Simmel’s stances, their views on conflict and personality (Thursday afternoon)
- Arts (Friday morning)
- Money, capitalism and law (Friday afternoon).

They will be staged by:
Thomas Kemple and Austin Harrington (on conflict); Vincenzo Mele and Gregor Fitzi (on personality); Valerio Zanardi, Matias Zarlenga (on sociology); Olli Pyyhtinen and Carlos Frade (on Weber’s and Simmel’s philosophical and political stances); Barbara Thériault and Rosalie Dion (on writing sociology); John Parker and Hilary Stanworth (on the picture frame); Nigel Dodd and Geoff Ingham (on money); Arthur Bueno and Mariana Teixeira (on reification); Claudius Härpfer and Tom Kaden (on norms and laws); Scott Lash and Uta Gerhardt (on capitalism); and Alejandro Romero and Ricardo Duque (on the sociology of music), Francesca Montemaggi (on religion), Lisa McCormick (on musical aesthetics).

The conference will also feature the annual lecture of the Max Weber Studies journal, and the launch of the ‘Young Weberians’ network.

Venue: Old Library (Geography building), University of Edinburgh, Drummond Street, Edinburgh, EH8 9XP
Number 16 on the University Central Area map:
http://www.ed.ac.uk/polopoly_fs/1.20490!/fileManager/campus_maps.pdf

Cost of attendance:
- BSA members £50
- Non BSA members £60
- Concessionary rate (students) £30

Booking your place:
Online registration is now available. Please book your place by following the link
http://portal.britsoc.co.uk/public/event/eventBooking.aspx?id=EVT10442

For further information, please contact
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