

**For what it's worth.**  
**Challenging and negotiating value in literature and in economic theory**  
International and interdisciplinary conference

**ORGANIZATION AND CONTACT**

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**DATE AND VENUE**

June 1-3, 2017, University of Mannheim, Germany, L 7, 3-5, Room 4.58

**DESCRIPTION**

The concept of value is at the heart of economic thought; it is part of most economic debates since the 18<sup>th</sup> century and has been conceptualized from different perspectives. The idea of economic value, understood as exchange value, has been the object of recent discussions not only concerning the determinants but also concerning the necessary presuppositions of its existence. In a similar way, literary theory is closely linked, since its beginning, to the attempt of establishing esthetic values (*Werturteile*). Axiological statements, as well as discussions concerning their formation, relevance and legitimacy, can be found throughout the history of literary thought. In addition, literary texts themselves are in constant interaction with the moral and social values of their time, which they reflect and represent in an either oppositional or affirmative way.

The concept of value thus plays a crucial and defining role in both the literary and the economic sphere. Both spheres face tensions between different values: moral, esthetic or exchange values, social or individual values, growing or decreasing values. Furthermore, there is an antagonism between given values and occurring processes of (re-/de-)valuation. These tensions bring to light a number of sometimes contradictory models of negotiation and valorization. The conference takes its starting point in the interdisciplinary study of the various, often interwoven, layers of these negotiations of value.

Our principal assumption concerns the challenging of established moral and social values: Both literature and economics, confront us with values that may differ from moral and social values, question them in explicit and implicit ways or on the other hand may express, explore or spread declining or increasing values. Our focus lies on the semantics and the poetics of these contestations, rooted in the assumption that literature and economic thought share an “amoral” tradition of contesting and challenging social values. At the same time, we will analyze how, on the contrary, literary and economic discourses participate in legitimizing official discourses by appropriating them with their proper means and assimilating them to their models of representation. Focusing on the discussion of values (meaning moral, social and economic values, past or present values etc.) in economic theory and on the representation of economic value in literature the conference seeks to explore models of valorization that try to shape an idea of inter-subjectivity and social relations based on an affective regulation or “economy” of desire and ethics.

## PROGRAM

**THURSDAY, JUNE / 1<sup>ST</sup> / 2017**

**15:00-15:20** Agnieszka Komorowska / Annika Nickenig / Claire Pignol  
Welcome and Introduction

### **Panel 1: Valuable Relations: Economic Theory and Cultural Studies**

**Chair: Frederik Kiparski**

**15:20-16:00** Esther Schomacher (Zeppelin University, Friedrichshafen, Germany):  
Can we really *read* money? On concepts of money and value in today's cultural studies –  
and their genealogy

**16:00-16:40** Verena Rauen (University of St. Gallen, Switzerland):  
Priceless? The Intertwinedness of Moral Values and Economic Prizes in the Philosophy  
of Economics

**16:40-17:00 Coffee Break**

**Chair: Annika Nickenig**

**17:00-17:40** Helmut Pfeiffer (Humboldt-University of Berlin, Germany):  
Psychic and textual hypotheses: Montaigne's „De la vanité“

**17:40-18:20** Claire Pignol (University Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, PHARE, France):  
“The discovery of money, it has been as an atomic bomb”. Economic and moral values in  
*Secondhand Time: The Last of the Soviets* of Svetlana Alexievich

**18:30 Welcome Reception / Apéro**

**FRIDAY, JUNE / 2<sup>ND</sup> / 2017**

### **Panel 2: The *homo oeconomicus* in the Early Modern Period**

**Chair: Esther Schomacher**

**09:00-09:40** Idoia Zorroza (University of Navarra, Spain):  
The Market Description of Francisco de Vitoria: between economy and moral

**09:40-10:20** Annika Nickenig (Humboldt-University of Berlin, Germany):  
Precious Values. Negotiations of Worth in Early Modern Spain

**10:20-10:40 Coffee Break**

**Chair: Verena Rauen**

**10:40-11:20** Shifra Armon (University of Florida, USA)  
The Perfect Touch: Real and Symbolic Capital in Alonso Jerónimo de Salas Barbadillo's  
*El caballero perfecto* (1620)

**11:20-12:00** Agnieszka Komorowska (University of Mannheim, Germany):  
Negotiating economic and moral values in Spanish Literature from the 17<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup>  
Century: Honor, Friendship, Happiness and their “pretium justum”.

**12:00-13:30 Lunch Break**

**13:30-15:00** Discussion Session: Preparation of an international research group

### **Panel 3: Economic anthropology in the 18th century**

**Chair: Claire Pignol**

**15:00-15:40** Laurent Jaffro (Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, PHARE, France):  
Diderot on Family Values and Fortune

**15:40-16:20** Laurie Bréban (University of Paris 1 Phantéon-Sorbonne, PHARE, France):  
Women and the debate on luxury in the French novels of the eighteenth century

**16:20-16:40 Coffee Break**

**Chair: Claudia Gronemann**

**16:40-17:20** Beatrice Schuchardt: (University of Siegen, Germany):  
Negotiating values in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century Spanish Debate on Luxury: Private Vice or  
Public Benefit?

**SATURDAY, JUNE / 3<sup>RD</sup> / 2017**

### **Panel 4: Individualism and Interest. Negotiating Value in the 19th Century**

**Chair. Ulfried Reichardt**

**09:30-10:10** Christophe Reffait (University of Picardie, CERCLL, France):  
The measure of self-value

**10:10-10:50** Marie-Laure Massei (University of Paris 1 Phantéon-Sorbonne, CRHXIX, France):  
Locating value and worth in Jane Austen’s novels

**10:50-11:10 Coffee Break**

**Cahir: Justus Fetscher**

**11:10-11:50** Annette Disselkamp (University of Lille 1, CLERSE, France):  
Theodor Fontane, or how a traveler and writer views the change of values  
in the 19th century

**11:50-13:20 Lunch Break**

**Panel 5: Imagination and (Inter)Space. Negotiating Value in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> Century**

**Chair: Agnieszka Komorowska**

**13:20-14:00** Thomas Skowronek (Humboldt-University of Berlin, Germany):  
Oblomov Machines. Making Imagination work in 19th Century Economic and Literary Discourses

**14:00-14:40** Claudia Gronemann (University of Mannheim, Germany):  
“Producing belief in the creative power of the artist”: the author as player in the literary business focused through the lens of contemporary French fiction