

# European Sociological Association Research Network 09 Economic Sociology Mid-term Conference

September 3–5, 2025 \\ Weizenbaum Institute, Berlin (Germany)

## Conference Program

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## Conference Theme

### Exploring Solutions to the Challenges of Our Time: A Positive Turn in Economic Sociology?

In an era defined by profound economic, social, and environmental upheavals, economic sociology stands at a pivotal juncture. The world is grappling with multifaceted challenges such as escalating inequality, climate change, rapid technological change, and global health crises. These issues are deeply intertwined, reflecting the intricate relationships between economic systems and social structures, and they demand careful analysis to reveal both vulnerabilities and opportunities for resilience and potential solutions.

Traditionally, economic sociology has excelled in critiquing and deconstructing economic systems, offering profound insights into how economic activities are embedded within social relations and institutions. Scholars have illuminated the complexities of market dynamics, revealing how factors like power structures, cultural norms, and social networks influence economic behavior and outcomes. This perspective has been instrumental in understanding phenomena such as the social foundations of markets, the role of trust and cooperation in economic transactions, and the ways in which economic policies can produce unintended social consequences. By dissecting the underlying social mechanisms of economic processes, economic sociologists have shed light on issues such as systemic inequality, labor exploitation, and the commodification of various aspects of social life.

However, while sociologists have significantly contributed to practical solutions over the past decades—informing policies, guiding organizational practices, and inspiring social innovations—there is a growing call to further broaden and intensify this role. This involves leveraging analytical tools and theoretical insights to actively engage in crafting solutions. By adopting a more action-oriented approach, the discipline can enhance its impact in shaping economies and societies that are not only efficient but also equitable and sustainable.

This conference seeks to explore and amplify this “positive turn” in economic sociology, encouraging scholars to harness their expertise to propose even more actionable pathways forward. The aim is to provide a platform where critical analysis seamlessly intersects with creative problem-solving, fostering interdisciplinary collaborations that further bridge the gap between theory and practice. Through this approach, economic sociology can find new and enriched ways to engage with and address the pressing complexities of contemporary challenges.

## Quick View Schedule

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2025			
10:30 – 12:20	Registration & Welcome Snack		
12:20 – 12:45	Welcome & Introduction		
12:45 – 13:45	<i>Keynote</i> “How Can Zelizer Solve the Climate Crisis and What Does That Mean?” Mark Davis (University of Leeds)		
13:45 – 14:00	Short Break		
14:00 – 15:30	<i>Panel 1.1 – #Value</i> Rethinking Debt: Financialization, Households, and Environmental Governance	<i>Panel 1.2 – #Digital</i> Navigating Transitions: Digital Economies, Sustainability & Regulatory Limits	<i>Panel 1.3 – #Value</i> Market Uncertainty: Risk, Emotion & Economic Futures
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee Break & Snack		
16:00 – 17:30	<i>Panel 2.1 – #Value</i> Valuation, Innovation, and Governance in Contemporary Capitalism	<i>Panel 2.2 – #Ethics</i> Valuing Access: Participation and Inequality in Essential Infrastructures	<i>Panel 2.3 – #Ethics</i> Rethinking Economic Sociology: Public Engagement, Policy, and Transformation
	<i>Early Career Session 1 – #Value</i> Transforming Economic Relations: Cooperation, Financialization, and Transnational Care		
18:30	Social Dinner @ Schleusenkrug Müller-Breslau-Str. 14b, 10623 Berlin		

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2025			
09:30 – 11:00	<i>Panel 3.1 – #Digital</i> Individualisation & Socio-Economic Transformation: Culture, Identity & Digital Economies	<i>Panel 3.2 – #Green</i> Transformations at the Margins: Finance, Labor & the Green Transition	<i>Panel 3.3 – #Value</i> Constructing Value: Governance, Morality, and Innovation in Contemporary Economies
11:00 – 11:30	Coffee Break & Snack		
11:30 – 13:00	<i>Panel 4.1 – #Ethics</i> States in Transition: Policy, Taxation & Inequality	<i>Panel 4.2 – #Green</i> Imagining Fair and Sustainable Futures	<i>Panel 4.3 – #Work</i> Industrial Transformation: Strategies, Networks & State Roles
13:00 – 14:00	Lunch Break		
14:00 – 15:30	<i>Panel 5.1 – #Ethics</i> Contested Governance: Illicit Markets, Institutional Embeddedness & Resource Extraction	<i>Panel 5.2 – #Ethics</i> Moral Frameworks & Emotions in Economic Life	<i>Panel 5.3 – #Digital</i> The Sociology of Digital Payments: Infrastructure, Governance & Trust
	<i>Early Career Session 2 – #Value</i> Wealth & Investment: Imaginaries, Discourses & State Capacity		
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee Break & Snack		
16:00 – 17:00	<i>Keynote</i> “The Economic Sociology of the Polycrisis” Jens Beckert (Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies)		

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2025			
09:00 – 10:30	<i>Panel 6.1 – #Work</i> Social Responses to Uncertainty: Categorisation, Control, and Collective Action	<i>Panel 6.2 – #Digital</i> Digital Platforms & Market Organization: Agency & Transformation	<i>Panel 6.3 – #Ethics</i> Economic Pluralism & Democratizing Consumption, Ownership, Organization
09:00 – 10:45	<i>Early Career Session 3 – #Green</i> Institutionalizing Sustainability: Corporations & Urban Governance		
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee Break & Snack		
11:00 – 12:00	<i>Keynote</i> “How Can Economic Sociology Become Relevant for Practice and What Tools Can it Use for This?” Andrea Maurer (University of Trier)		
12:00 – 13:00	Lunch Break		
13:00 – 15:30	<i>Panel 7.1 – #Value</i> Constructing Economic Value: Governance, Morality & Innovation	<i>Panel 7.2 – #Green</i> Spatial Economies: Housing, Platforms & Last-Mile Delivery	<i>Panel 7.3 – #Work</i> Precarity & Vulnerability: New Workplace Strategies

## Conference Themes

The conference is organized into **five thematic tracks**. Below are the themes with their scope and the sessions included in each:

<b>Theme 1 – #Ethics – Ethics &amp; Public Innovation for Just Economies</b>
<p>These panels look at moral frameworks, policy design and civic initiatives that reshape markets toward greater equity and access—spanning essential infrastructures, illicit economies, taxation and public engagement by sociologists.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>/ <i>Panel 2.2 “Valuing Access: Participation &amp; Inequality in Essential Infrastructures”</i></li> <li>/ <i>Panel 2.3 “Rethinking Economic Sociology: Public Engagement, Policy &amp; Transformation”</i></li> <li>/ <i>Panel 4.1 “States in Transition: Policy, Taxation &amp; Inequality”</i></li> <li>/ <i>Panel 5.1 “Contested Governance: Illicit Markets, Institutional Embeddedness &amp; Resource Extraction”</i></li> <li>/ <i>Panel 5.2 “Moral Frameworks &amp; Emotions in Economic Life”</i></li> <li>/ <i>Panel 6.3 “Economic Pluralism &amp; Democratizing Consumption, Ownership &amp; Organization”</i></li> </ul>
<b>Theme 2 – #Value – Re-imagining Value: Financial Innovation for Equitable Futures</b>
<p>From alternative metrics and moral finance to household debt and wealth imaginaries, these panels ask how valuation and financial tools can be redesigned to foster stability, fairness and shared prosperity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>/ <i>Panel 1.1 “Rethinking Debt: Financialization, Households &amp; Environmental Governance”</i></li> <li>/ <i>Panel 1.3 “Market Uncertainty: Risk, Emotion &amp; Economic Futures”</i></li> <li>/ <i>Panel 2.1 “Valuation, Innovation, and Governance in Contemporary Capitalism”</i></li> <li>/ <i>Panel 3.3 “Constructing Value: Governance, Morality, and Innovation in Contemporary Economies”</i></li> <li>/ <i>Panel 7.1 “Constructing Economic Value: Governance, Morality &amp; Innovation”</i></li> <li>/ <i>Early Career Session 1 “Transforming Economic Relations: Cooperation, Financialization &amp; Transnational Care”</i></li> <li>/ <i>Early Career Session 2 “Wealth &amp; Investment: Imaginaries, Discourses &amp; State Capacity”</i></li> </ul>
<b>Theme 3 – #Green – Building Resilient &amp; Green Transitions</b>
<p>Focusing on climate, energy and territorial disparities, this theme highlights social, institutional and financial strategies that accelerate the green transition while strengthening communities’ capacity to cope with crises.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>/ <i>Panel 3.2 “Transformations at the Margins: Finance, Labor &amp; the Green Transition”</i></li> <li>/ <i>Panel 4.2 “Imagining Fair &amp; Sustainable Futures: Networks, Scenarios &amp; Participation”</i></li> <li>/ <i>Panel 7.2 “Spatial Economies: Housing, Platforms &amp; Last-Mile Delivery”</i></li> <li>/ <i>Early Career Session 3 “Institutionalizing Sustainability: Corporations &amp; Urban Governance”</i></li> </ul>
<b>Theme 4 – #Work – Empowering Work in Transforming Industries</b>
<p>What concrete practices and policies can reduce precarity and foster decent work as industries digitalise and reorganise? Panels here examine labour strategies, state roles and collaborative networks that protect and empower workers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>/ <i>Panel 4.3 “Industrial Transformation: Strategies, Networks &amp; State Roles”</i></li> <li>/ <i>Panel 6.1 “Social Responses to Uncertainty: Categorisation, Control, and Collective Action”</i></li> <li>/ <i>Panel 7.3 “Precarity &amp; Vulnerability: New Workplace Strategies”</i></li> </ul>
<b>Theme 5 – #Digital – Digital Solutions for Inclusive Economies</b>
<p>How can digital infrastructures, algorithms and online communities be steered toward broader access, transparency and participation? This theme explores platform governance, the social impact of fintech, and regulatory paths that make technological change work for everyone.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>/ <i>Panel 1.2 “Navigating Transitions: Digital Economies, Sustainability &amp; Regulatory Limits”</i></li> <li>/ <i>Panel 3.1 “Individualisation &amp; Socio-Economic Transformation: Culture, Identity &amp; Digital Economies”</i></li> <li>/ <i>Panel 5.3 “The Sociology of Digital Payments: Infrastructure, Governance &amp; Trust”</i></li> <li>/ <i>Panel 6.2 “Digital Platforms &amp; Market Organization: Agency &amp; Transformation”</i></li> </ul>

## Keynote Speakers

The conference features three keynote talks by leading scholars, one on each day, highlighting the “positive turn” in economic sociology from different angles. Below are the keynote titles and abstracts, along with speaker information:

### Wednesday, September 3, 12:45-13:45

#### *How Can Zelizer Solve the Climate Crisis and What Does That Mean?*

This paper embraces the spirit of the conference, namely the possibilities for a “positive turn” in economic sociology, by showing how the ‘relational’ approach pioneered by Viviana A. Zelizer has been instrumental in shaping actionable pathways forward in the face of the climate crisis. In refusing the instrumental and utility optimising behaviour of an apparently ‘rational actor’, Bourdieu’s (2005: 209) “anthropological monster” beloved by orthodox economics and its behaviour models, Zelizer introduces a range of key concepts – relational work, relational packages, earmarking, boundary marking – that provide the basis for a sociological understanding of how people understand and use money. Drawing on examples from empirical projects in the UK’s crowdfunding and household decarbonisation (‘retrofit’) sectors, this paper argues that the insights found in Zelizer’s work have profound significance for solving the climate crisis and, in so doing, can encourage scholars to harness their sociological expertise in pursuing apparently economic questions.

- / **Mark Davis** is Professor of Economic Sociology in the School of Sociology and Social Policy, University of Leeds (UK). His research applies insights from new economic sociology to problems of sustainability and climate change. Mark’s work helped to co-create the Community Municipal Investment (CMI) product that to date has raised £12M for local authority-led net zero projects. Recently, he co-led the team that developed the relational approach to energy research, targeting domestic retrofit. His latest book is *Crowdfunding and the Democratization of Finance* (Bristol University Press 2021).

### Thursday, September 4, 16:00-17:00

#### *The Economic Sociology of the Polycrisis*

The current polycrisis poses also to economic sociologists the question what kind of knowledge they should strive for. The new economic sociology set out to understand how economic processes are anchored in institutions, networks or culture. Often economic sociologists followed economics in treating efficiency as the unquestioned normative goal of economic activities. In light of today’s crises, however, this no longer seems sufficient. In recent years, we have already seen how economic sociologists brought issues of social inequality more clearly into focus, thereby moving closer to the field of political economy. More recently the climate crises and the interconnectedness of economic stagnation and democratic backlash have been addressed also by economic sociologists. In my presentation I will ask, how economic sociologists can engage with urgent social issues, without losing sight of what Max Weber once referred to as the value neutrality of science.

- / **Jens Beckert** is Director at the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies in Cologne, Germany, and Professor of Sociology at the University of Cologne. His research focuses on the fields of economic sociology, sociology of wealth and more recently on issues of climate change. In 2018 he was awarded the Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Prize for his work reinvigorating the social sciences with an interdisciplinary perspective, especially at the intersection of sociology and economics. His most recent book *How we sold our future. The failure to fight climate change come out with Polity Press in 2024.*

**Friday, September 5, 11:00-12:00**

*How Can Economic Sociology Become Relevant for Practice and What Tools Can it Use for This?*

Economic sociology has quite successfully developed by offering new theoretical concepts and empirical studies focusing on the classical coordination forms: markets and firms (hierarchies). The reason for this can be seen in the overall aim to provide more realistic analyses of markets than standard economics as well as classical sociology. As a result, economic sociologists have ignored alternative forms of organizing the economy and to address topics such as sustainability. The question to deal with in this paper is what we as economic sociologists can contribute to practical solutions that enhance sustainability and what tools do we have to reach this. We will see that action-based explanations can be seen as a tool that helps to theorize sustainability as a social problem and to explore various social factors or constellation that help to deal with it. We are not going to look for a one best way instead we start by the observation that alternative forms have some limits and are difficult to establish so they will not substitute markets and firms but could complement them and give new perspectives and directions. In this sense, the practical relevance of economic sociology could be to theorize and empirically study the conditions under which alternative forms emerge and continue to function.

- / *Andrea Maurer* is professor of sociology at Trier University, Germany. She has been working on sociological theory and economic sociology over the last 30 years. Her work has grown out of the macro-micro-movement and the aim of providing more realistic analyses of economic issues. Recently, she began to think about how the Commons approach, Weberian institutionalism and mechanism approach could enhance economic sociology. She has published many monographs, edited books as well as articles in the field of economic sociology. The most recent publications are Action-based explanations as a basis for the analysis and design of the social world, in *The British Journal of Sociology*, vVol. 76/1 2025 (open access); *Max Weber's Sociological Thought on the Economy* (ed.), Agenda Press 2024; *Economic Sociology for the 21st century*, Springer Nature 2021.

# Detailed Conference Program

## Wednesday, September 3, 2025

12:20–12:45

*Welcome & Introduction*

12:45–13:45

*Keynote*

Chair: Alexandra Keiner (Weizenbaum Institute)

- / *“How Can Zelizer Solve the Climate Crisis and What Does That Mean?”* — Mark Davis (University of Leeds)

13:45–14:00

*Short Break*

14:00–15:30

*Panel 1.1 – #Value – Rethinking Debt: Financialization, Households, and Environmental Governance*

Chair: Asa Maron (University of Haifa)

- / *“Queering Debt: Towards a Queer Political Economic Analysis of Lebanon’s Financial Collapse”* — Hossein Cheaito (Geneva Graduate Institute)
- / *“Mapping Household Indebtedness: A Mixed-methods Study of Debt and Financialization in a Peripheral Hungarian Village”* — Judit Durst (HUN-REN Centre for Social Sciences/UCL), Balázs Gosztonyi (MPI for Social Anthropology/ MLU Halle-Wittenberg), Anikó Nagy (Hungarian Judicial Academy)
- / *“The Scent of ESG. Climate Change and Environmental Degradation in Credit Risk Management”* — Malte Grunicke (Goethe University)

14:00–15:30

*Panel 1.2 – #Digital – Navigating Transitions: Digital Economies, Sustainability & Regulatory Limits*

Chair: Asaf Darr (University of Haifa)

- / *“Reconnecting for Sustainable Work Platforms: A Participatory Action Research (PAR)”* — Melike Kaplan (Aalborg University)
- / *“Solutions According to Condition (SATOC) for Formulating a Gradual Transition Process to Circular Economy for Mitigating Plastic Pollution”* — Kaya Swann (Istanbul Technical University)
- / *“Digital Regulatory Ambiguity: A Multidimensional Embeddedness Frame for Analyzing the Digital Economy”* — Ilan Talmud (University of Haifa)
- / *“We Made a Positive Turn... and Ended Up in a Dead-End”* — Radosław Tyrała, Łukasz Afeltowicz, Maria Nawojczyk (AGH University of Krakow)



## Wednesday, September 3, 2025

14:00–15:30

### *Panel 1.3 – #Value – Market Uncertainty: Risk, Emotion & Economic Futures*

Chair: Christina Hecht (Technical University Berlin)

- / *“This Group is Easily Frightened or Excited”: Emotion Language in News Media Discourse about Investors* — Ella Lillqvist, Merja Porttikivi (University of Vaasa)
- / *“Rethinking the Generalization of Money Earmarking: The Role of Age and Class”* — Matilde Massó Lago, Loreto Vázquez Chas, Nerea Domínguez Sanisidro (University of A Coruña)
- / *“Rising Costs of Living, Monetary Erosion and Unstable Prices - Toward a Sociology without Inflation”* — Florian Penz (Vienna University of Economics and Business)

15:30–16:00

### *Coffee Break & Snack*

16:00–17:30

### *Panel 2.1 – #Value – Valuation, Innovation, and Governance in Contemporary Capitalism*

Chair: Erez Marantz (TAU)

- / *“Courts, Vaccines, and Calculation: A Case Study in the Legal Constitution of Economic Value”* — Dmitrii M. Zhikharevich (University of Vienna)
- / *“Valuation Entrepreneurs and the Value of Social Investment in the US and Finland: Pathways and Limits in the Financialization of Social Policy”* — Asa Maron (University of Haifa)
- / *“The Value(s) of Trust and Risk – The Impact of the Blockchain on the Governance of Global Food Supply Chains”* — Bianca Roth, Filippo Reale (German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment)
- / *“Tokenization Beyond the Market: A Sociological Approach to Civic Blockchain for the Circular Urban Economy”* — Cristina Toti, Irene Domenicale, Sowelu Avanzo, Cristina Viano, Claudio Schifanella (University of Turin)

16:00–17:30

### *Panel 2.2 – #Ethics – Valuing Access: Participation and Inequality in Essential Infrastructures*

Chair: Davide Grasso (University of Turin)

- / *“Digital capital and the Reproduction of Social Inequality: An Exploratory Micro-Analysis”* — Malte Doehne, Andre Meyer, Katja Rost (University of Zurich)
- / *“Beyond the Bill: Explaining Household Price Perceptions in the Drinking Water Sector”* — Lien Dieleman, Frédéric Vandermoere, Robbe Geerts (University of Antwerp)
- / *“Moral Metrics: Algorithmic Commensuration and the Emotional Architecture of Social Sustainable Investment (SSI)”* — Maria Gretzky (The Open University of Israel)

## Wednesday, September 3, 2025

16:00–17:30

### *Panel 2.3 – #Ethics– Rethinking Economic Sociology: Public Engagement, Policy, and Transformation*

Chair: Frédéric Vandermoere (University of Antwerp)

- / *“‘Building Back Better’ our Bioeconomic Futures? Doing Economic Sociology at the Intersections of Bioeconomy and Digital Economy agendas”* — Alexander I. Stigl (University of Galway)
- / *“The Role of Economic Sociology in Spain within the European Union: Public and Policy Dimensions”* — Manuel Ahedo (University Rey Juan Carlos)
- / *“Is Economic Sociology a Public Sociology?”* — Filippo Barbera (University of Torino)
- / *“Beyond Embeddedness: Economic Sociology, Neoliberal Capitalism and the Possibility of a Social-Ecological Transformation”* — Francesco Laruffa (SOFI Göttingen)

16:00–17:30

### *Early Career Session 1 – #Value – Transforming Economic Relations: Cooperation, Financialization, and Transnational Care*

Discussants: Ella Lillqvist (University of Vaasa), Matilde Massó Lago (University of A Coruña), Daniel Maman (Ben Gurion University)

- / *“From Stability to Crisis and back. Relational Perspectives on Cooperation”* — Jonas Stark (Zeppelin University)
- / *“Transnationalizing Care – and Its Crisis? The Nursing Care Chain from Mexico to Germany between State Strategy and Private Profit”* — Leoni Schlender (University Kassel)
- / *“Cryptocurrency Investment in the Context of the Financialization of Everyday Life”* — Nerea Domínguez Sanisidro (University of A Coruña)

18:30

*Social Dinner @ Schleusenkrug Müller-Breslau-Str. 14b, 10623 Berlin*

## Thursday, September 4, 2025

09:30–11:00

### *Panel 3.1 – #Digital – Individualisation & Socio-Economic Transformation: Culture, Identity & Digital Economies*

Chair: Nargiz Hajiyeve (Azerbaijan State University of Economics)

- / *“Trade”-off between Relative Salience of Economy and Culture: Comparative Analysis of Electoral Politics in Western Democracies between 1890 and 2024* – Osman Demirbağ, Sebastian Kohl (Freie Universität Berlin)
- / *“Therapeutic Culture and Neoliberalism in Türkiye: An Emerging Landscape of Marketized Mental Health Services”* – İlknur Ekiz Ataşer (KTO Karatay University)
- / *“Digital Economies and Economic Recovery: The Case Study of Post Crisis Greece”* – Marizeta Antonopoulou (University of Athens)

09:30–11:00

### *Panel 3.2 – #Green – Transformations at the Margins: Finance, Labor & the Green Transition*

Chair: Max Haller (University of Graz)

- / *“Between Piety and Precarity: A Sociological Inquiry into Türkiye's Savings-Based Finance Sector”* – Gökhan Alper Ataşer (Selcuk University)
- / *“Markets for Environmental Conservation. Carving New Economic Sociology Tools to Conceptualize and Assess Environmental Policies”* – Stéphanie Barral (INRAE)
- / *“Who is Afraid of the Green Transition? Brown Jobs and Labour Market Concern Due to the Green Transition in Advanced Democracies”* – Sebastian Koos, Sophia Stutzmann (University of Konstanz)

09:30–11:00

### *Panel 3.3 – #Value – Constructing Value: Governance, Morality, and Innovation in Contemporary Economies*

Chair: Johanna Mair (Hertie School)

- / *“Seeing Time-Honoured Business as Community Economy: A Case Study of Long-Established Businesses in Hong Kong”* – Chong Gao (Hong Kong Shue Yan University)
- / *“Zoom”ing into the Middle: Organizational Relations and Digital Mediation in Telework Practices* – M. Fatih Karakaya, M. Ali Akyurt, Melike Akbıyık, Z. Zeynep Sadıkoğlu (Istanbul University)
- / *“From Critique to Possibility: A Relational Approach to Rethinking Global Labor Governance”* – Tamar Barkay (Tel Hai College & ChainGE Lab), Yaniv Ron-El (Tel-Aviv University)

11:00–11:30

*Coffee Break & Snack*

## Thursday, September 4, 2025

11:30–13:00

### *Panel 4.1 – #Ethics – States in Transition: Policy, Taxation & Inequality*

Chair: Vivian Carstensen (Bielefeld University of Applied Sciences and Arts)

- / *“Tax Behavior in the Formation of a State with a Change of National Border. The Case of the Greek Economy”* – Virginia-Anastasia Fournari (University of Thessaly)
- / *“Tax Policy and the Transformation from the Developmental State to Neoliberalism: The Struggle over Tax Exemptions in Israel during the 1980s”* – Yaron Hoffmann Dishon (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev)
- / *“Why Industrial Policy Needs Political Capital: A Conceptual Reframing”* – Nicos Souliotis (National Centre for Social Research)

11:30–13:00

### *Panel 4.2 – #Green – Imagining Fair and Sustainable Futures*

Chair: Ella Lillqvist (University of Vaasa)

- / *“Open Production Networks: Critical Considerations on Theoretical Explanatory Models of a Phenomenon”* – Sissy-Ve Basmer-Birkenfeld (Helmut Schmidt University / Leuphana University)
- / *“Scenarios of the Digitally Networked Society: Navigating Futures of Work, Trust and Autonomy”* – Philipp Köbe (Witten/Herdecke University)
- / *“(Re-)Imagining the Good Economy. Economic Imagination in the German Political Discourse on Decarbonization”* – Lisa Suckert (University of Antwerp)
- / *“Can Participation Change Behavior? Evidence from a Systematic Review and Factorial Survey on Low-Carbon Transitions”* – Elisabeth Mello, Giacomo Bazzani (University of Florence)

11:30–13:00

### *Panel 4.3 – #Work – Industrial Transformation: Strategies, Networks & State Roles*

Chair: Josh Hurwitz (University of Liverpool Management School)

- / *“Managerial Strategies and Policy Tools in the Process of Industrial Transformation: The Case Studies of the (Former) Indesit in Campania and the B/S/H Bosch Hausgeräte in Berlin-Brandenburg”* – Paola De Vivo, Giovanna Lusini (University of Naples Federico II)
- / *“The Divergent Influence of Partners and Communities: How do Firms Learn from Peers to Form Distant Ties?”* – Erez Aharon Marantz (TAU), Lisha Liu (Shanghai Jiao Tong University)
- / *“Run on Resources: State Developmental Agency and Transnational Mega-Projects following the Russo-Ukrainian War in the Black Sea Area”* – Mihai Varga (Freie Universität Berlin), Aron Buzogany (BOKU University Vienna)

## Thursday, September 4, 2025

13:00–14:00

*Lunch Break*

14:00–15:30

*Panel 5.1 – #Ethics – Contested Governance: Illicit Markets, Institutional Embeddedness & Resource Extraction*

Chair: Juhana Venäläinen (University of Eastern Finland)

- / *“The State of the Art of Illicit Market Activities in Post-Soviet Conflict Zones: Economics, Governance, and Geopolitical Implications”* – Nargiz Hajiyeva (Azerbaijan State University of Economics)
- / *“Embeddedness – From Analytical Concept to Institutional Design Tool”* – Piotr A. Zwarycz (University of Zielona Gora)
- / *“Geopolitics and Resources: The Power of the Ancestral Philosophy of Alli kawsay (Buen Vivir) in the Indigenous Movements of Colombia”* – Eduardo Erazo Acosta, Vanessa Arteaga Bernal (University Nariño)

14:00–15:30

*Panel 5.2 – #Ethics – Moral Frameworks & Emotions in Economic Life*

Chair: Andrea Maurer (University of Trier)

- / *“The Morality of False Economics: An Alternative Approach”* – Jakob Berding (Freie Universität Berlin)
- / *“What Patterns Emerge Among Students Regarding their Socio-structural Background and their Way of Working? What Implications do These Have for Fair and Sustainable Working Environments? A Quantitative Study of University Students from Germany and Switzerland from Generations Z and Y”* – Vivian Carstensen, Nilgün Dağlar-Sezer (Bielefeld University of Applied Sciences and Arts / HSBI)
- / *“The Four Types of Subjective Wellbeing and Happiness. A Theoretical Approach Based on Weberian Action Theory”* – Max Haller (University of Graz)

## Thursday, September 4, 2025

14:00–15:30

### *Panel 5.3 – #Digital – The Sociology of Digital Payments: Infrastructure, Governance & Trust*

Chair: Daniel Maman (Ben Gurion University)

- / *“Sanctions, Financial Infrastructures and Authoritarian Control in Russia”* – Roxana Ehlke (JLU Gießen)
- / *“Making Cents of(f) Mobile Payments: How Payment Apps Re-Intermedialize Money and Shape User Experience?”* – Tatjana Graf, Markus Unternährer (University of Lucerne)
- / *“Payment Cards for Asylum Seekers as Containment Infrastructures”* – Alexandra Keiner (Weizenbaum Institute)
- / *“Beyond Payments: Marketing Technology for Data Monetization”* – Antonia Steigerwald (University of Lucerne)

14:00–15:30

### *Early Career Session 2 – #Value – Wealth & Investment: Imaginaries, Discourses & State Capacity*

Discussants: Filippo Barbera (University of Torino), Sebastian Koos (University of Konstanz), Max Haller (University of Graz)

- / *“The Crafting and Contestation of State Capacity in Post-War Germany: Towards a Sociology of Public Investment and the Household Analogy”* – Clara Heinrich (Freie Universität Berlin)
- / *“Utilising Metaphors in Researching Imaginaries of Financial Markets and Brokerage Platforms Among Retail Investors”* – Karel Němeček (Masaryk University)
- / *“Discourses of Wealth – Perspectives on Wealth in Investment-Related Online Texts”* – Katriina Karvo (University of Vaasa)

15:30–16:00

### *Coffee Break & Snack*

16:00–17:00

### *Keynote*

Chair: Giacomo Bazzani (University of Florence)

- / *“The Economic Sociology of the Polycrisis”* – Jens Beckert (Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies)

## Friday, September 5, 2025

09:00–10:30

### *Panel 6.1 – #Work – Social Responses to Uncertainty: Categorisation, Control, and Collective Action*

Chair: Stéphanie Barral (INRAE)

- / *“Categorisation as the Iterative Substitution of Ambiguity for Arbitrariness”* – Joshua Hurwitz (University of Liverpool Management School)
- / *“Navigating Projectification: Mechanisms of Labour-Control and Organisational Resilience in Network-Organisation-Models”* – John Sokol (Instituto Universitario de Lisboa)
- / *“When the Regime Shakes: Multilevel Analysis and Collective Actions in the Wake of the L'Aquila Earthquake”* – Lorenza Giorgetti, Davide Grasso, Alessandro Sciallo (University of Turin)

09:00–10:30

### *Panel 6.2 – #Digital – Digital Platforms & Market Organization: Agency & Transformation*

Chair: Tamar Barkay (Tel Hai College & ChainGE Lab)

- / *“PPC Specialists as a New Intermediary Class: Algorithms, Value, and Agency in the Digital Advertising Market”* – Natalia Chrobak (University of Science and Technology Krakow)
- / *“Local Constituents of Online Marketplaces”* – Asaf Darr (University of Haifa)
- / *“What Makes Platform-Based Market Organization Successful? The Social Construction of Market Design and the Case of Decentralized Platforms”* – Sebastian Koth (Weizenbaum Institute)
- / *“Analysis of the Activities of Global Consulting Firms in Terms of Agenda-Setting and Policy-Setting in Digital Transformation Processes in Poland”* – Oskar Lubiński (Nicolaus Copernicus University)

09:00–10:30

### *Panel 6.3 – #Ethics – Economic Pluralism & Democratizing Consumption, Ownership, Organization*

Chair: Yaniv Ron-El (Tel-Aviv University)

- / *“The Enduring Appeal of Small Portions: An Economic Sociological Exploration of the Sachet Economy and Tingi Culture in the Philippines”* – Roxanne Doron (University of the Philippines Manila)
- / *“Reimagining Capitalism – Variety of Democratic Organising and its Reverberations Beyond Organisational Boundaries”* – Johanna Mair, Sébastien Mena, Ignas Bruder, Thalita Kalix Garcia (Hertie School)
- / *“From Passive to Collective Actors: Can Consumer Self-Organization Democratize the Economy?”* – Nicholas Pohl, Victoria Becerril Nito, Philip Balsiger, Fabian Petutschnig (University of Neuchatel)
- / *“Reconfiguring Ownership: Towards Alternative Imaginaries of Economic Prosperity”* – Juhana Venäläinen (University of Eastern Finland)

## Friday, September 5, 2025

09:00–10:45

### *Early Career Session 3 – #Green – Institutionalizing Sustainability: Corporations & Urban Governance*

Discussants: Lisa Suckert (University of Antwerp), Alexander I. Stingl (University of Galway), Mihai Varga (Freie Universität Berlin)

- / “Sustainability, Territory, and Networks: The Cases of Salento and Terni-Narni” — Giorgia Panico (University of Salento)
- / “Institutionalizing Social Sustainability: The Role of Large Enterprises in Advancing the SDGs” — Alda Staprāne-Medne (University of Latvia)
- / “From Entrepreneurial to Sustainable Urban Governance. Innovating Urban Governance in the City of Mannheim, Germany” — Maria Stadler (Fraunhofer ISI)
- / “Exploring Social Innovation in the Energy Transition: Insights from Energy Communities in Portugal” — Francisca Teixeira (IS-UP / FLUP)

10:30–11:00

### *Coffee Break & Snack*

11:00–12:00

### *Keynote*

Chair: Matilde Massó Lago (University of A Coruña)

- / “How Can economic Sociology Become Relevant for Practice and What Tools Can it Use for This?” — Andrea Maurer (University of Trier)

12:00–13:00

### *Lunch Break*

13:00–14:30

### *Panel 7.1 – #Value – Constructing Economic Value: Governance, Morality & Innovation*

Chair: Chong Gao (Hong Kong Shue Yan University)

- / “Harnessing Automation for Postcapitalism? From Reclaiming the Promises of Generalized Automation to Rebuilding a Political Project” — Yannick Rumpala (Université Nice Côte d'Azur)
- / “Algorithmic Management and the Quest for Decent Work: Opportunities and Challenges in the European Gig Economy” — Lucian Sfetcu (Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi)
- / “Autonomy as a Commodity: Platform Narratives of Purchase and Pursuit” — Lilian Leupold (Technische Universität Dresden)



## Friday, September 5, 2025

13:00–14:30

### *Panel 7.2 – #Green – Spatial Economies: Housing, Platforms & Last-Mile Delivery*

Chair: Manuel Ahedo (University Rey Juan Carlos)

- / *“Socio-Spatial Vulnerability of Energy and Housing Within Demography and Decommodification. A Case-Study on Portugal freguesias”* – Luca Biserna (Università degli Studi di Torino)
- / *“The Field around Airbnb in Cape Town. On Spatial and Temporal References”* – Christina Hecht (Technical University Berlin)
- / *“The Conjunctural Geographies of Digitization. Amazon and Deliveroo Last Mile Logistics in Bologna”* – Maurilio Pirone (University of Bologna)

13:00–14:30

### *Panel 7.3 – #Work – Precarity & Vulnerability: New Workplace Strategies*

Chair: M. Fatih Karakaya (Istanbul University)

- / *“Challenges in Addressing Gender Sexual Harassment of Frontline Service Workers by Customers in Scotland’s Tourism and Hospitality Sector”* – Paul Prescott (University of Strathclyde Glasgow)
- / *“Small Projects, Big Plans: Following Projects and Workers in the Arts Sector in Portugal”* – Filipe Reis, Patrícia Santos (University Institute of Lisbon)
- / *“From Flexibility to Fragility: The Pandemic’s Impact on UK Gig Workers”* – Sviatlana Kroitar (University of Leicester)
- / *“Coworking Spaces as a Framework for Economic Sociology: Shaping New Labour. Strategies in Modena and the Motor Valley through Two Case Studies”* – Eugenio Capitani (University of Modena and Reggio Emilia)

## Practical Info

### Registration

On September 3, registration will take place at the entrance of the Weizenbaum Institute. The location will be clearly signposted, and we will also send you an email before the conference with detailed directions from the airport and the main train station to the Institute. If you plan to arrive later or join us on a different day, no worries, you'll be able to register at any time during the conference.

### Panels

Please keep your talk to 15 minutes in panels with three presentations and 10 minutes in panels with four, to allow time for discussion. Upload your presentation to this [drop-off folder](#) by September 1. You will not be able to view the folder contents. If the server is briefly unavailable due to updates, please try again later. Alternatively, you can email your presentation to [alexandra.keiner@weizenbaum-institut.de](mailto:alexandra.keiner@weizenbaum-institut.de) or bring it on the day of your session. Files can be transferred via USB stick or you can connect your own laptop.

### Early Career

These workshops provide a supportive and constructive platform for presenting research proposals and early-stage studies. The goal is to help participants refine and strengthen their projects through in-depth discussion with assigned discussants and peers. Each presenter has 12 minutes for their presentation, followed by feedback from designated discussants and open discussion with the audience. Presenters are encouraged to focus on core research questions, methodological choices, and points where feedback is most needed. Presenters may also submit a brief written summary or working paper (maximum 2,000 words). Please upload your summary or working paper to the [appropriate folder for your workshop](#) by August 25, so the assigned discussants have sufficient time to prepare their comments.

### Discussants & Chairs

Please arrive early to meet the presenters and check for any updates. Please start on time and introduce each speaker by name, affiliation and presentation title. Stick to the schedule and give presenters 5- and 1-minute warnings.

Moderate the discussion by encouraging inclusive and respectful participation. If needed, you may open with a question to spark conversation. This conference places special emphasis on constructive feedback and supporting emerging scholars. Please help to foster a collegial and welcoming atmosphere, particularly for those presenting for the first time. Thank you for your efforts and time in improving the conference.

### Get together, September 2

For those arriving on Tuesday evening and who would like to say hello in advance, we suggest an informal get-together at [Café am Neuen See](#), which is not far from the Weizenbaum Institute. We'll meet there on September 2, from 18:00 onwards. Drinks and food (including vegetarian options) are available for purchase at your own expense. The address is Lichtensteinallee 2, 10787 Berlin

### Weekend Social Event, September 6

As announced in the Call for Papers, we are organizing a guided tour in English at the former [Tempelhof Airport](#) for participants staying in Berlin over the weekend. The tour will last approximately two hours and will conclude around 2:00 PM. The cost of the tour is €17.50 per person.

## Organizers and Contact



RN 09 ECONOMIC SOCIOLOGY

### European Sociological Association, Research Network 09 Economic Sociology

- / *Coordinators:* Giacomo Bazzani (University of Florence), Alberto Veira-Ramos (UC3M)
- / *Board:* Matilde Massó Lago (University of Leeds), Ella Lillqvist (University of Vaasa), Fatih Karakaya (Istanbul University), Daniel Maman (Ben Gurion University), Marlina Rycombel (University of Warsaw), Meropi Tzanetakis (University of Manchester), Mihai Varga (Freie Universität Berlin)



### Weizenbaum Institute, Berlin

**Local Host:** Alexandra Keiner : [alexandra.keiner@weizenbaum-institut.de](mailto:alexandra.keiner@weizenbaum-institut.de)

**Conference Language:** English

**Information:** [ESA RN09 website](#)

For any inquiries, please contact [esa2025berlin@gmail.com](mailto:esa2025berlin@gmail.com)