

❖ Organizing Committee

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Venue

Universität Hamburg
Welckerstr. 8 | Room 2.16
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We are here: **Welckerstr. 8.**
Car Parking Deck next-door.

- **Train Station Dammtor** (walking distance 10 min. to Welckerstr. 8).
- Reference Point Hamburg **Opera** (vis-à-vis Welckerstr.).
- **Hotel Alster-Hof** (walking distance 5 min. to Welckerstr. 8).
- **Bus Station:** 109 | M4 | M5 (all departing from main train station, too)
Also very close: **Metro U1** (blue line), Station „**Stephansplatz**“
Metro U2 (red), Station „**Gänsemarkt**“

Website

www.wiso.uni-hamburg.de/hh-forecast

Conference Office

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Universität Hamburg
DER FORSCHUNG | DER LEHRE | DER BILDUNG



CONFERENCE

“FUTURES PAST.
ECONOMIC FORECASTING
IN THE 20TH AND 21ST
CENTURY”

OCTOBER 10-11 2018



Experience & Expectation ·
Historical Foundations of Economic Behaviour



Priority
Programme
SFB

❖ Futures Past. Economic Forecasting in the 20th and 21st Century

Few areas in economics are as controversial as economic forecasting. While the field has sparked great hopes for the prediction of economic trends and events throughout the 20th and 21st century, economic forecasts have often proved inaccurate or unreliable, thus provoking severe criticism in times of unpredicted crisis.

Despite these failures, economic forecasting has not lost in importance. Forecasting constitutes one of the most important activities carried out by institutes of economic research. Economic forecasts receive extensive media coverage and attain great public attention. Notwithstanding the challenges and difficulties economic forecasting faces, it apparently inhabits a crucial place in modern industrial societies.

This indicates that the role of economic forecasts is not solely to predict economic trends and events. Rather, forecasts seem to constitute a means of observing economic developments that helps actors to coordinate and stabilize their expectations of an uncertain future. Possibly, whether an individual forecast comes to pass is of minor importance. Yet, the credibility of forecasts appears to be of central importance.

The conference aims to bring together scholars from different disciplinary backgrounds to discuss the history of economic forecasting in the 20th and 21st century.

The purpose of this two-day interdisciplinary conference is to foster the exchange between forecasters, economists, historians, and other scholars from the social sciences and the humanities. Contributions from the fields of history, sociology, philosophy, psychology, and economics are equally welcome.

❖ Wednesday 10.10.2018

12:00-13:00	Registration
13:00-13:15	Welcoming Note: Anke Gerber (member of the Faculty Board)
13:15-13:30	Opening Remarks
13:30-14:30	Keynote: Jamie Pietruska (Rutgers University) “Economic Forecasting and the Quest for Certainty in the Long Gilded Age”
14:30-14:45	Coffee break (15 min)
14:45-16:15	Session I – “Culture of Prediction”? Economic Forecasting in Context (Köster) <ol style="list-style-type: none">Laetitia Lenel (Humboldt-University) “From Predicting to Creating the Future: Different Temporalities in Economic Forecasting”Vera Linke (Bielefeld University) „Promises to Pay: Assuring Stakeholder of Insurance Offices’ Future Solvency“Stefan Schwarzkopf (CBS) “Market Atmospheres: An Alternative Genealogy of Financial Barometers”
16:15-16:45	Coffee break (30 min)
16:45-18:15	Session II – Institutional and Interactional Dimensions of Economic Forecasting (Fritsche) <ol style="list-style-type: none">Christoph Behrens (Helmut-Schmidt-Universität) “Using Multivariate Random Forests to Study the Joint Efficiency of German Trade Forecasts”Olivier Pilmis (SciencesPo) “Changing One’s Mind – Forecast Revisions as Institutional and Informational Dynamics”Timo Walter (MPI Cologne) “Polysemous Expectations and the ‘Usefulness of Inaccurate Models’ (...)”
18:30	Taxi transfer to restaurant
19:00-21:30	Dinner “with a view”

❖ Thursday 11.10.2018

09:00	+ Coffee available
09:30-10:30	Keynote: Tara Sinclair (George-Washington-University) “Continuities and Discontinuities in Forecasting”
10:30-10:45	Coffee break (15 min)
10:45-12:15	Session III – Practices of Economic Forecasting: Foresight, Forecast, Foretalk (Lenel) <ol style="list-style-type: none">Jan Logemann (University of Göttingen) “Consumer Confidence Measurements: The Transnational History of an Economic Indicator”Werner Reichmann (University of Konstanz) “Social Interaction and Economic Forecasting”Michael Roos (Ruhr-Universität Bochum) “More Foresight, Less Forecasting in Macroeconomics”
12:15-13:45	Lunch & Walk
13:45-15:15	Session IV – Changes in Practice: The Effect of Crises on Forecasting Practices (Heinisch) <ol style="list-style-type: none">Michael Bauer (Federal Reserve Bank of SF) “Interest Rates Under Falling Stars”Jörg Döpke (Univ. of Applied Sciences Merseburg) “Has macroeconomics forecasters’ attitude and openness towards new methods changed after the Great Financial Crisis and the Great Recession? Evidence from a German survey”Marion Ronca (University of Zurich) “The economist as futurologist. The making and reception of the Perspektivstudien in Switzerland 1964-1975”
15:15-15:45	Coffee break (30 min)
15:45-17:00	Closing Discussion: “The History and Future of Economic Forecasting: Challenges and Opportunities”