***** Organizing Committee

Prof. Dr. Ulrich Fritsche

Chair of Applied Economics Department of Socioeconomics Faculty of Business, Economics and Social Sciences **Universitaet Hamburg** Welckerstr. 8 | DE-20354 Hamburg

+49 (0)40 42838-8685 UHH-forecast.WiSo@uni-hamburg.de

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Dr. Roman Köster

Assistant Professor at the Chair of New and Newest History of Western Europe **Department of History** Albert-Ludwigs-University of Freiburg Rempartstr. 15 | DE-79085 Freiburg

+49 (0)761 203-3451 Roman.Koester@geschichte.uni-freiburg.de

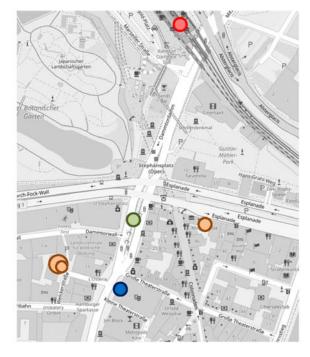
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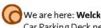
Laetitia Lenel, M.A.

Research Assistant at the Chair of Social and **Economic History Department of History** Humboldt-University of Berlin Unter den Linden 6 | DE-10099 Berlin

+49 (0)30 2093- 70615 laetitialenel@hu-berlin.de

Venue Universität Hamburg Welckerstr. 8 | Room 2.16 DE-20354 Hamburg





We are here: Welckerstr. 8. Car Parking Deck next-door.

- O Train Station Dammtor (walking distance 10 min. to Welckerstr. 8).
- Reference Point Hamburg Opera (vis-à-vis Welckerstr.).
- O Hotel Alster-Hof (walking distance 5 min. to Welckerstr. 8).
- O 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 Claudia.Ranft@uni-hamburg.de +49 (0)40 42838-8733





CONFERENCE

"FUTURES PAST. ECONOMIC FORECASTING IN THE 20TH AND 21ST **CENTURY**"

OCTOBER 10-11 2018





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- Welcoming Note:
- 13:15 Anke Gerber (member of the Faculty Board)
- 13:15-13:30 Opening Remarks
- 13:30- Keynote:
- 14:30 **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- Session I "Culture of Prediction"? Economic
- 16:15 Forecasting in Context (Köster)
 - 1. Laetitia Lenel (Humboldt-University) "From Predicting to Creating the Future: Different Temporalities in Economic Forecasting"
 - 2. Vera Linke (Bielefeld University) "Promises to Pay: Assuring Stakeholder of Insurance Offices' Future Solvency"
 - **3. Stefan Schwarzkopf** (CBS) "Market Atmospheres: An Alternative Genealogy of Financial Barometers"

16:15-16:45 Coffee break (30 min)

- 16:45- Session II Institutional and Interactional Di-
- 18:15 mensions of Economic Forecasting (Fritsche)
 - 1. 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"
 - **3.** Timo Walter (MPI Cologne) "Polysemous Expectations and the 'Usefulness of Inaccurate Models' (...)"
- 18:30 Taxi transfer to restaurant
- 19:00-Dinner "with a view"

21:30

* Thursday 11.10.2018

09:00 + Coffee available 09:30- Keynote: 10:30 Tara Sinclair (George-Washington-University) "Continuities and Discontinuities in Forecasting" 10:30-Coffee break (15 min) 10:45 **Session III – Practices of Economic Forecasting:** 10:45-Foresight, Forecast, Foretalk (Lenel) 12:15 1. Jan Logemann (University of Göttingen) "Consumer Confidence Measurements: The Transnational History of an Economic Indicator" 2. Werner Reichmann (University of Konstanz) "Social Interaction and Economic Forecasting" 3. Michael Roos (Ruhr-Universität Bochum) "More Foresight, Less Forecasting in Macroeconomics" 12:15-Lunch & Walk 13:45 Session IV - Changes in Practice: The Effect of 13:45-Crises on Forecasting Practices (Heinisch) 15:15 1. Michael Bauer (Federal Reserve Bank of SF) "Interest Rates Under Falling Stars" 2. 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? Evi-

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 re-

"The economist as futurologist. The making and reception of the Perspektivstudien in Switzerland 1964-1975"

- Coffee break (30 min)
- 15:45- Closing Discussion:

15:15-

15:45

17:00 "The History and Future of Economic Forecasting: Challenges and Opportunities"