



AUTONOMY: THEORIES AND PRACTICE

Interdisciplinary Conference

University of St.Gallen

13th and 14th November 2015

Room 09-012

Autonomy has always been a controversial concept. Already in 1984, psychoanalyst Arno Gruen discussed its developmental and political implications in his book *The Betrayal of the Self: The Fear of Autonomy in Men and Women*. In what could be read as a response to Gruen, Richard Sennett published his essay *Together: The Rituals, Pleasures and Politics of Cooperation* in 2012. Based on these two theoretical pillars, our conference aims to initiate an interdisciplinary discussion on the complex process of self-determination in an increasingly globalised and technological world.

Some political and cultural discourses of the 20th century have shown a clear propensity towards regionalization. This tendency comes along with an almost inflationary use of concepts such as “integration,” “assimilation,” and “self-determination.” However, such terms point to the problematic nature of negotiated relationships oscillating between autonomy and symbiosis, between self-determination and the acceptance of rules, as well as between the integration into a larger whole and differentiation from it.

Psychology and Sociology are not the only areas of research that come into question in the discussion of *autonomy*. In cultures that have already warned us of the appearance of the “transparent citizen”, the *surveillance* of collaborators in enterprises has been a recurrent theme. At the same time, economists and sociologists have analysed the psychological and philosophical consequences of a business world that seems to demand more and more autonomy and flexibility from its members.

The conference provides thus an interdisciplinary platform to explore the relevance of the concept of *autonomy* in political science, cultural and literary studies, psychology, philosophy, art, Latin American studies, and economics. Our event addresses students as well as an interested public audience. The language of the symposium will be English.

Campusplan - Map of the Campus



University of St.Gallen
Dufourstrasse 50
9000 St.Gallen

How to get there

- ❖ From the train station (~5 min):
 - Bus line 5 to stop “Dieraruerstrasse/Universität”
 - Bus line 9 to stop “Gatterstrasse/Universität”
- ❖ From the hotel (WBZ-HSG)
 - Bus line 9 to stop “Gatterstrasse/Universität”
 - On foot along the “Guisanstrasse” (~10 min)

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Please register under cls-hsg@unisg.ch

PROGRAM



FRIDAY, 13th November

- 4 pm WELCOMING SPEECH
- 4.15 **Prof. Dr. Matías Martínez** (University of Wuppertal)
The Autonomy of the Literary Text
- 5.00 **Prof. Dr. Ludger Mees** (University of the Basque Country)
Regional Autonomy in Spain: Historical Problems and Current Challenges
- 5.45 COFFEE BREAK
- 6.10 **Javier Montilla** (Journalist and Writer)
Catalonia: Autonomy, Nationalism or Populism?
- 6.40 **Dr. Carlos Garrido Castellano** (University of Lisbon)
Instituent Autonomy. Creativity, Critique and Collectivism in Latin America
- 7.10 DINNER AT THE RESTAURANT "WIENERBERG"



SATURDAY, 14th November

- 9.30 am **Dr. Mario Della Costanza** (University of St.Gallen)
Losing Autonomy: We-Usages in Politics, Publicity and Poetry
- 10.00 **Prof. Dr. Yvette Sánchez** (University of St.Gallen)
The Market Facing the Autonomy of Art
- 10.30 SELECTED WORKS OF THE ART COLLECTION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ST.GALLEN
- 11.15 COFFEE BREAK
- 11.45 **Dr. Mirjam Weis** (University of Constance)
Autonomy and Self-Regulation in School Contexts in Germany and Chile
- 12.15 LUNCH BREAK
- 13.30 **Dr. Michael Festl** (University of St.Gallen)
The Dialectic of Autonomy. Jonathan Franzen's 'Freedom' and its Contribution to a Notorious Philosophical Problem
- 14.00 ARTISTIC INTERMEZZO
- 14.30 **Prof. Dr. Gustavo Guerrero** (University of Cergy-Pontoise)
Post-autonomy in Literature (20th and 21st century)
- 15.15 CONCLUDING REMARKS

