

THE STATE IN THE GREAT TRANSFORMATION

Conference “Normative and Institutional Foundations of Economics”



March 4-6, 2020: Protestant Academy Tutzing

Call for Papers

In the continuous negotiation of the relationship between the state and the economy, a change is currently taking place. This change is partly creeping and partly already clearly perceptible: While the last decades have been characterized by a gradual displacement of the state in favour of market-economy principles, demands for a stronger role of the state in both steering and organizing economic activities have been increasing for some years now. This can be seen in the current political discourse, which is dominated across parties by the fight against climate change, the shaping of digital technological change and the emergence of new, and often right-wing, populist political movements. What kind of state is required for the transformative challenges of climate change and, more generally, planetary boundaries? What attitude and role should the state take when new technological possibilities drive massive social change? And what forms of statehood can be used to contain the phenomena that are sometimes described as the crisis of liberal democracy? What does it mean in this context, for example, if the European Union appoints a Commissioner whose core task is to put the economy "at the service of the people"?

Mirroring these topical issues, the economic and social sciences have increasingly questioned standard narratives that have supported or legitimised certain forms of statehood in recent decades. In this respect, the increasing importance of interdisciplinary, transformative research has played a major role. In the context of this research, it has become increasingly clear that the double movement described by Polanyi is of lasting relevance. Moreover, the idea that market solutions usually bring more efficiency and innovation is at odds with the crisis experiences of the last decade and the findings of recent innovation and growth research. Finally, the idea that democratically legitimized forms of statehood can emerge from certain economic forms is not only challenged by developments in China, but also by new forms of government in other parts of the world.

A stronger role for the state is not a panacea: neither its capacity nor its ability to act in the sense of public interests are self-evident. Always endangered and unstable, the state is dependent on prerequisites that are neither legally nor politically based. In light of the danger of usurpation of states by special interest groups a certain state scepticism is understandable. If the state and public organizations are about to be re-empowered, new forms of state embed-

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dedness and institutionalization might be required to overcome excessively dualistic views of the state, the market and civil society.

How can a transformative statehood develop in a situation of extreme tensions between supranational regulatory needs, discontent with public-sector institutions and the re-emergence of national interest as a centre of gravity of public policy? Is the development of rules for a sustainable economy possible under these circumstances? Can we envision institutional architectures that give the term public economy a new meaning, for example in the area of infrastructures for the digital economy and sustainable mobility? What role could new, hybrid forms of organization play? Submissions on the following topics are welcome:

- **National and European capacities to act in the face of global challenges**
- **The recipe for the Green New Deal: Control through taxation, investing to innovate - or laissez-faire?**
- **Government institutions and organisations against the background of digital challenges**
- **Findings from disciplinary and interdisciplinary transformative research on the possibilities and conditions of successful statehood**
- **Use cases: Sustainable mobility, energy system transformation, structural change, sustainable housing, promotion of innovation ...**

If you are interested, we kindly ask you to send us meaningful proposals for contributions of **max. 2,500 characters by 16th January 2019 at the latest** to the organisers of the event:

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Conference programme in preparation • www.ev-akademie-tutzing.de

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