Workshop: “Between ethics and efficiency? The political theory of corporate governance”

When? – December 8th/9th, 2016
Where? – Vorhölzer Forum, Archisstraße 21 (5th floor), 80333 München

In political theory, questions about corporate governance have made a comeback in debates about the nature of corporations, the conceptualization of economic power, human rights responsibilities of corporations, and questions about workplace democracy. As recent scandals such as the Global Financial Crisis or VW’s diesel emissions scandal show, wrongdoing by or within business corporations can have wide-ranging consequences for the societies within which they operate. Such events cause not only massive economic harm, but also moral harm, for example by illegitimately infringing on the rights of third parties or by polluting the environment. This interdisciplinary workshop brings together experts from the fields of philosophy, political theory, business ethics and law in order to discuss these themes. The aim is to discuss cutting-edge research (work in progress) from these fields and to explore further possibilities of interdisciplinary inquiry.

Papers for most presentations will be pre-circulated and we will go directly into the discussion. Participation is free, but registration is required (first come, first serve). Abstracts available upon request. Please email lisa.herzog@hfp.tum.de to register.

Program

Thursday, December 8th
2.00pm Welcome and introduction
2.30pm Maha Atal, University of Cambridge
“Corporations of Our Making: Nicholas Onuf and the Politics of CSR”
3.30pm Lisa Herzog, Bavarian School of Public Policy, Munich
“Cultural power and corporate governance”
4.30pm Coffee break
5.00pm Christian Neuhäuser, University of Dortmund
“Workplace democracy, market competition and self-realization”
6.00pm Drinks
7.30pm Dinner for speakers

Friday, December 9th
9.00pm Rutger Claassen, University of Utrecht
“The Corporation in Liberal-Democratic Thought”
10.00pm Coffee break
10.30pm David Ciepley, University of Denver / Notre Dame University
“Corporations as Franchise Governments”
11.30pm Abraham Singer, University of Rochester
“On the Relative Insignificance of the Corporation’s Governmental Provenance”
12.30pm Lunch
1.30pm Gregory Jackson, FU Berlin
“The German experience: co-determination between political ideal and economic reality”
2.30 Pierre-Yves Néron, Lille Catholic University:
“What is so special about workers? Justice, corporate governance and the democratization of the firm”
3.30pm Final discussion: Corporate governance from a perspective of political theory – where to go next?
4pm End of program