

Organisation, inhaltliche Rahmung und Moderation des Panels: Silke van Dyk (FSU Jena)

Titel: Beyond property?

Podiumsgäste: Brenna Bhandar (SOAS, University of London), Massimo De Angelis (University of East London), Timo Daum (Berlin)

Kurzbeschreibung des Panels

Das Plenum „Beyond Property?“ wird den Zusammenhang von Eigentumsverhältnissen, Wachstum und sozialer Frage in globaler Perspektive erkunden und damit die verbreitete Engführung der sozialen Frage auf die Verteilung von Ressourcen überwinden. Zugleich gilt es, eigentumstheoretische Perspektiven stärker als dies bislang geschehen ist, auf ihre wachstumspolitischen Implikationen zu befragen. Welche Rolle, so die Ausgangsfrage des Plenums, wird das Privateigentum für den Kapitalismus der Zukunft spielen? Welche Bedeutung kommt in diesem Zusammenhang Gemeingütern, digitalen Plattformen und Sharing Economies zu, durch die Ökonomien des Nutzens und Teilens jenseits von Eigentumstiteln die Nischen linker Alternativprojekte verlassen haben? Wie sind solche Ökonomien im globalen Norden und Süden strukturiert und eingebettet? Weisen sie über den Kapitalismus und seine Wachstumsdynamiken hinaus oder beobachten wir vielmehr neue Modi der Ökonomisierung als Antworten auf säkulare Stagnationstendenzen im Gegenwartskapitalismus? Um diesen Fragen nachgehen zu können, ist die Diskussion globaler Eigentumsverhältnisse auf eine historische, für (post-)koloniale Verhältnisse sensible Analyse angewiesen. Das Plenum bringt Brenna Bhandars Analyse der globalen Durchsetzung kapitalistischer Eigentumsrechte in Form eines *Racial Capitalism* mit zwei konkurrierenden Diagnosen zum Wandel des Gegenwartskapitalismus ins Gespräch: mit Massimo de Angelis Entwurf einer *postkapitalistischen Ökonomie des Gemeinsamen* einerseits und Timo Daums Diagnose eines *Plattformkapitalismus* jenseits privater Eigentumsverhältnisse andererseits.

Kurzbeschreibung (englisch):

The plenum "Beyond Property?" will explore the relationship between property relations, growth and socio-economic issues in a global perspective and thus surmount the widespread narrowing of the social question to the distribution of resources. At the same time, proprietary theoretical perspectives need to be questioned more closely than has been the case to date about their implications for future growth policy. What role, so the initial question of the plenum, will private property play for future capitalism? What is the significance in this context of common goods, digital platforms and sharing economies, through which economies of use and sharing beyond property titles have left the niches of left-wing alternative projects? How are such economies structured and embedded in the global North and South? Do they transcend capitalism and its growth dynamics, or do we rather observe new modes of marketization as responses to secular stagnation in contemporary capitalism? In order to be able to pursue these questions, the discussion of global property relations is dependent on a historical analysis that is sensitive to (post-)colonial conditions. The plenary will discuss Brenna Bhandar's analysis of the global enforcement of capitalist property rights as a racial capitalism with two competing diagnoses on the transformation of contemporary capitalism: Massimo de Angeli's draft of a post-capitalist economy of the common on the one hand and Timo Daum's diagnosis of platform capitalism beyond private ownership on the other.

Vorträge

Brenna Bhandar: Colonial lives of property. Racial Regimes of Ownership

Brenna Bhandar aims to explore Cedric Robinson's concept of the racial regime, and to consider it specifically in the context of relations of ownership and possession. Based on her recently published book *Colonial Lives of Property*, she will draw on historical and contemporary examples of indigenous land dispossession to elaborate on how both property and race possess histories that are forged through an articulation with each other. This entanglement, haunted by the figure of the possessive individual, leads to several questions about the conditions necessary for freedom. She will speculate on whether de-proprietation, or the estrangement of property from its current legal and social forms might offer some ways forward.

Timo Daum: Capitalism beyond property? The recuperation of General Intellect through Capital

In his presentation Timo Daum enters with the observation that for a long time two prerequisites seemed to be necessary for capitalist market economy to function properly: crystal clear property titles on the one hand and scarcity on the other. In the meantime, free information and user generated content has become ubiquitous. In his 2015 book, *Post-Capitalism*, Paul Mason concludes that "an economy based on information, with its tendency to zero-cost products and weak property rights, cannot be a capitalist economy". In this development, which could be described as the triumphal rise of general intellect, Marx' famous term developed in the *Grundrisse* to describe the ever increasing amount of general social knowledge embodied in capitalist production, lies what Marx calls the inner frontier of Capitalism and its reproductive model based on the exploitation of the workforce in direct labor. However, this development does not seem to be accompanied by a crisis of capitalism, let alone its end or transformation into some post-capitalism, zero marginal cost society or commonism. Timo Daum claims that the reality is rather a mutation of capitalism towards a form that is based on digital platforms which generates billions in cash harvesting general intellect itself. The ruling class of the digital world (as Nenad Romic called the Silicon Valley digital oligarchy a couple of years ago) is apparently giving rise to a new digital capitalism with its own rules, laws and backed by an inexhaustible capital base. The communist utopia described in the *Grundrisse*, the global triumph of general intellect, is actually becoming a reality – albeit, as Daum claims, firmly within a capitalist framework.

Stefan Meretz, Simon Sutterlützi: Transcending property. An invitation to an utopian perspective

Based on their recent book "Transcending capitalism. An invitation to re-think Utopia and Transformation" Meretz & Sutterlützi address the function of property in capitalist societies and discuss how disposal could be organised in a post-capitalist commons-based society. By conceptualising the commons not just as common goods but as a social system based on contribution and open disposal, they demonstrate their potential for the radical transformation of life, work, (global) coordination and society as a whole. They hope that this utopian perspective sheds new light on the questions of property, commons and construction of a degrowth society.