

# CALL FOR PAPERS

»All I know is that I'm not a Marxist!«  
Karl Marx and Marxism

Academic conference organised by the doctoral candidates  
of the Hans-Böckler-Foundation

23rd-25th April 2018, Wuppertal



# CALL FOR PAPERS

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**Keynotes Prof. Dr. Gareth Stedman Jones (London), Prof. em. Dr. Woldietrich Schmied-Kowarzik (Kassel), PD Dr. Jan Gerber (Leipzig)**

Although after the collapse of the Soviet bloc every reference to Karl Marx seemed outdated, and the study of Marx seemed to become solely the domain of a select few, ever since the recent financial- and economic crisis Marx has been experiencing an astounding Renaissance. However, instead of taking him seriously as a thinker and trying to get to the bottom of his concepts or examining his criticism of historical-political developments for signs of analytical astuteness, cogency and modern relevance, current references to both him and his works often appears iconographic. Regardless of whether the reception of Marx stems from inside or outside universities, from social movements, lecterns, feature pages, or films: the debate about Marx's works very rarely does Marx justice.

Based on this realisation, the planned conference will make Marx's works, along with the various controversies which accompany it, the focus of attention, although some previously over-looked and now forgotten historical and journalistic works by Marx should also receive attention. So as not to deteriorate into a pure Marx exegesis, Marx's theory should also be put in relation to the interpretations made of it throughout the previous two centuries. The historical experiences which have done damage to the Marx's body of works and the ideas contained therein should now also be addressed, such as the political constellation of a form of Marxism-Leninism that has transformed into material form of rule. In light of present-day implementations of postfordian production methods (Crowdworking, Industry 4.0 etc.,) Marx's criticism of the political economy should additionally be questioned in terms of its modern relevance.

# **SUGGESTED THEMES**

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**Aside from contributions which seek to explore individual aspects of the Marxist body of work, we would also be happy to accept suggestions dealing with the following themes:**

- Polemic or: Criticism as the mind of passion
- History as material: from historical works to historical teleology
- Criticism of the political economy and postfordian means of production
- Theory and politics: from The Communist Manifesto to the Communist Party (China France...)
- The promise of 1917 and The Gulag Archipelago

# INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS

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The academic conference serves primarily as a platform for doctoral candidates from all sponsorship organisations for academic talent, and also for (young-) academics from all disciplines, who are involved in researching Marx's works and/or Marxism, as well as the problems stemming from such. Presentations based on dissertations or research projects which are still in progress are both possible and welcome. We invite any groups of people, from either inside Germany or elsewhere, who feel they match this description, to take part with their contribution.

We ask for an abstract (of maximum 500 words) and a short academic Curriculum Vitae to be sent, by no later than the 19th November 2017, to [WT2018@boeckler.de](mailto:WT2018@boeckler.de)

The abstract should contain the following information:

- Title of the contribution and academic discipline(s)
- Research question and findings
- Socio-political relevance
- Contact information

You will receive a reply regarding the received abstract by the 17th December 2017. We will aim to publish a selection of the contributions. A presentation/ abstract is not a prerequisite for participation in the conference. A letter of motivation indicating your interest in participation and specialist expertise is, however, requested. The Hans-Böckler-Foundation will cover all travel- catering- and accommodation expenses. There is no registration fee.

# PROGRAMME AND ORGANISATION

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Dr. Jens Becker (Düsseldorf)  
Markus Börner (Berlin)  
René Kluge (Berlin)  
Doris Maja Krüger (Berlin)  
Prof. Dr. Heinz Sünker (Wuppertal)

## **Contact Information**

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