

## **Call for Applications: Lucerne Master Class for PhD Students 2018**

When: May 28<sup>th</sup> – June 1<sup>st</sup> 2018  
Where: University of Lucerne, Switzerland | Hotel Seeburg  
Language: English  
Application Deadline: March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2018

### **Prof. Dr. Wendy Brown**

Class of 1936 First Professor of Political Science, University of California, Berkeley (USA)

## **Where Liberal Democracy Once Was: Liberal Authoritarianism in the Twenty-First Century**

### **The Scholar**

WENDY BROWN is Class of 1936 First Professor of Political Science at the Charles and Louise Travers Department of Political Science at the University of California, Berkeley. A renowned political theorist, Brown is an equally influential thinker when it comes to the study of nineteenth and twentieth century continental theory, critical theory, and theories of contemporary capitalism. Her oeuvre constitutes an important source for both critically reflecting on and standing in opposition to developments within Western democracies over the past two decades: *Politics Out of History* (2001), *Regulating Aversion: Tolerance in the Age of Identity and Empire* (2006), *Walled States, Waning Sovereignty* (2010), and her latest monograph *Undoing the Demos: Neoliberalism's Stealth Revolution* (2015).

### **The Topic:**

How might we grasp the novel fusion of libertarian freedom, white nationalism and authoritarianism appearing in right wing political formations across the EuroAtlantic today? What is the contribution of four decades of neoliberalism to building plutocratic political regimes rooted in neofascist popular sentiment, the very nightmare that the original neoliberal intellectuals aimed to prevent? What about contributions beyond those of neoliberal reason and policy? This bloc course will consider this problem by revisiting Hayek on neoliberalism, Nietzsche on nihilism, Marcuse on the psyches of late capitalist subjects, and Schmitt on space and horizons.

### **The Class**

The class will begin on May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at 1.00 pm and end on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018 at 1.00 pm. The daily schedule will be from 9.00 am - 12.30 pm and from 2.00 pm - 6.00 pm and on one evening (lecture & dinner) from 6.00 - 9.00 pm. There will be an afternoon for recreation in the Lucerne area. Participants will discuss Wendy Brown's recent work but also present and discuss their own projects.

### Participants

The Master Class addresses doctoral students from political science, philosophy, sociology, cultural studies and economics as well as other fields from within the humanities and social sciences. Applications from international and EU doctoral students and doctoral students from Switzerland are welcome.

### Costs

Tuition fee: 350 CHF

The organizing body of the Master Class, the Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences (GSL) at the University of Lucerne, will cover catering and accommodation expenses. The GSL will also try to cover travel expenses as well, however, this depends on the country of origin (for details please send an email to the GSL managing director, Christina Cavedon – christina.cavedon@unilu.ch). If applicants can muster support from their respective home institution, this is welcome.

### What Former Participants Say

*An intensive, insightful academic exercise that inspires as well as adds to one's own analytic avidity. The interconnection of disciplines opens up newer channels of approaching critical discourses. (Zainabu Jallo, Walter Benjamin Kolleg, University of Bern, Switzerland)*

*The Master Class was a one-time opportunity to discuss the work of an outstanding scholar and to get to know other PhD students working on related issues. (Sebastian Möller, University of Bremen, Germany)*

*I truly enjoyed the collegial atmosphere the Master Class promoted both between the participants from various countries and disciplines but also with the organizers and 'Master' professor Beckert. Every day we created real, critical academic dialogue and strove for a greater understanding of the topic and, as a result, of the world at large and of our place as scholars in making it a better place. The Lucerne Master Class most certainly lives up to its name. (Esko Suoranta, University of Helsinki, Finland)*

### Applications

Please send your application by **March 31<sup>st</sup>** to the following email-address:  
christina.cavedon@unilu.ch

Please provide a short statement of motivation (no more than one page), a CV and a short description (no more than one page) of your current dissertation project. Postdocs may be admitted on the basis of individual decision.

More information: [www.unilu.ch/masterclass](http://www.unilu.ch/masterclass)

### Support

The Master Class is supported by the Mercator Foundation Switzerland.