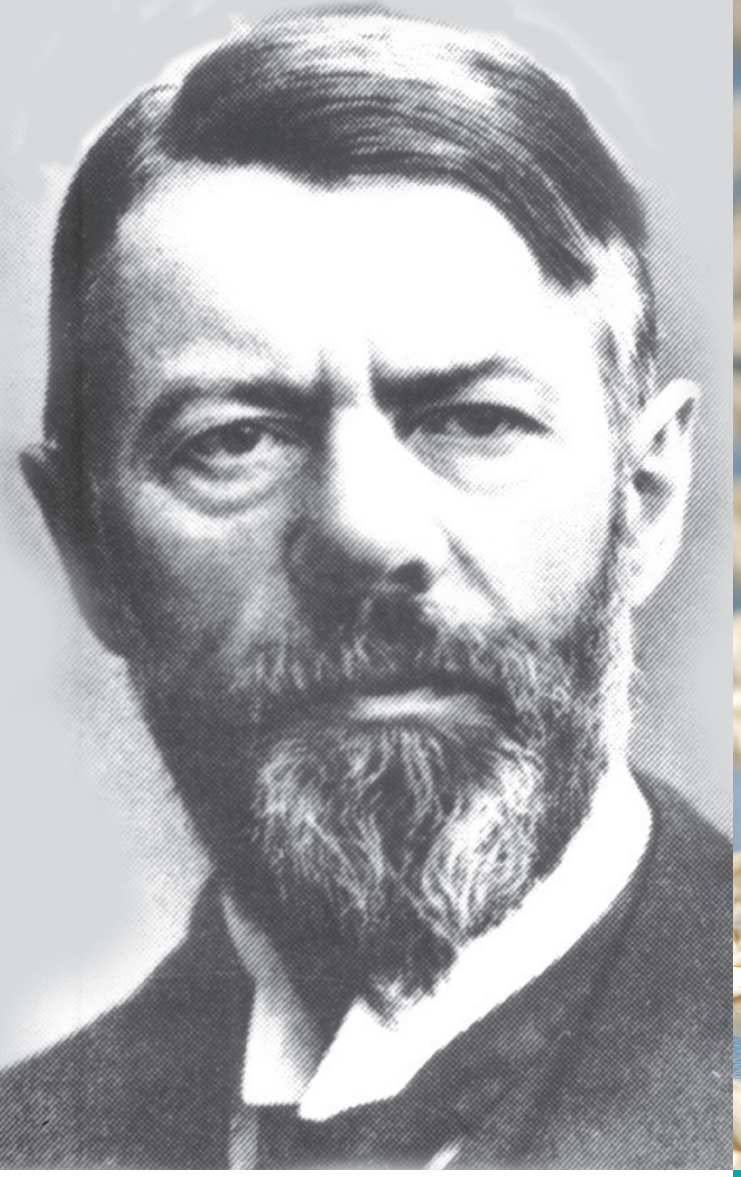

Organisation:

Prof. Dr. Martin Fuchs| Max-Weber-Kolleg Erfurt
PD Dr. Magnus Schlette | FEST, Heidelberg

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www.uni-erfurt.de/maxwe

UNIVERSITY OF ERFURT
Max Weber Center for Advanced
Cultural and Social Studies
Postfach 900221
99105 Erfurt, Germany
Phone: +49(0)361/737-2870
Fax: +49(0)361/737-2879
E-mail: diana.pueschel@uni-erfurt.de

Interrelational Selves and Individualization

January 5th, 3:00 p.m. - January 9th, 12:00 a.m.
Max-Weber-Kolleg Erfurt

Winter School, in cooperation with FEST - Protestant Institute for Interdisciplinary Research, Heidelberg

UNIVERSITÄT ERFURT

What do we mean when we talk about "the Self"? The Winter School intends to examine concepts of selfhood against the backdrop of the culturally diverse social imaginaries in which they are embedded. In an exemplary confrontation it will bring philosophical accounts of the self from the Indian context face to face with those rooted in the Western tradition. The idea is to examine whether these various perspectives may complement each other in contributing to an enriched understanding of individuation and individualization in the globalized world.

The key assumption for the design of the Winter School is that the exploration of concepts of the self has to be approached from an interactionist standpoint, thereby mutually entangling the self's encounter with the world and the socially mediated interrelation with other selves. The Winter School will pick up and discuss suggestions of a minimal self in relation or opposition to propositions of narrative, dialogical, relational or experiential selves. Considerations arising from this approach will include questions about the conceptual familiarity between terms such as self-awareness and self-esteem, self-determination and self-realization, self-cultivability and self-surrender, self-centeredness and self-transcendence. The discussion will delve into a confrontation of substantive with processual concepts of the self, scrutinize the liminality between self and non-self and reflect the embodiment of the self. It will focus on the tension between self-perception and the perception of others, dispute the dynamics of recognition and antagonism within the mutual relations of selves and ponder their contribution to the ideas of personhood.

The Winter School is connected to the research group "Religious Individualization in Historical Perspective" at the Max-Weber-Kolleg Erfurt, and to the research focus "Theology and Science" at the FEST - Protestant Institute for Interdisciplinary Research in Heidelberg. Whereas the research group at the Max Weber Centre pursues a comparative perspective in focusing on the various forms and semantics that processes of (religious) individualization may take, thereby being chiefly engaged with practices and ideas of individualization in various Indian as well as western religious contexts and lines of tradition, the work at the FEST focuses on how science-based naturalism impregnates popular and culturally orientating conceptions of man.

Target audience:

Doctoral students, post-doctoral researchers and advanced scholars in the Humanities and Social Sciences who are concerned with questions of self and individualization and who are interested in interdisciplinary exchange and especially familiar with recent philosophical debates. Participants will have the opportunity to participate in poster presentations to discuss their own research projects with the resource persons. Therefore the number of participants is limited. Presentations and discussions will be in English. There is no participation fee, but participants will have to pay travel costs and accommodation by themselves (assistance offered). Light food during the event (lunch, snacks, drinks) will be supplied for free.

Organizers

Prof. Dr. Martin Fuchs, Max-Weber-Kolleg Erfurt (Indian Religions, Anthropology, Sociology)

PD Dr. Magnus Schlette, FEST, Heidelberg (Philosophy)

Resource persons

Prof. Dr. Thomas Fuchs, University of Heidelberg, Germany (Psychiatry, Philosophy)

Prof. Dr. Jonardon Ganeri, New York University, USA (Philosophy)

Prof. Dr. Karen Joisten, University of Kassel, Germany (Philosophy)

Prof. Dr. Angelika Malinar, University of Zürich, Switzerland (Indology, Philosophy)

Prof. Dr. Chakravarthy Ram-Prasad, University of Lancaster, Great Britain (Philosophy)

Prof. Dr. Dan Zahavi, University of Copenhagen, Denmark (Philosophy)

Venue

Max Weber Centre of Advanced Cultural and Social Studies, University of Erfurt

Applications

Applications should be sent to Diana Püschel until November, 2nd 2015 by email (diana.pueschel@uni-erfurt.de). Applicants should include a short CV, list of main publications, if applicable, and a brief statement that provides information how the topic of the Winter School relates to their own research concerns. No participation fee, but participants must cover travel costs and accomodation by themselves.