

Economy of Communion

RESEARCH

Summer School

Netherlands, Aug. 23-27, 2017



CALL FOR PAPERS

This multidisciplinary Summer School will reflect on 'economy' and 'communion', two words that are frequently perceived as being very distant from each other both in academic literature and applied sciences. The primary proposal and provocation behind this Summer School, therefore, is precisely to generate the space to examine these terms together and to focus on their interplay: an 'economy of communion'.

This perspective therefore calls for the elaboration and development of a reflection on the 'Economy of Communion (EoC)' in the strict sense of the word, as the actual lived experience which has emerged in a thousand or so companies over 25 years. It also involves a reflection on wider concepts including capitalism, business, management, sharing and cooperation. Indeed, by investing business companies with new responsibilities, the EoC also challenges received views about the economy. Chiara Lubich, who first proposed this initiative in Brazil in 1991, called on businesses to 'directly take care' of poverty around them through generating profits and then sharing them in common. In doing so she was, perhaps subconsciously, bringing about a potential revolution in the way of understanding the company's mission, profits, and thus of capitalism itself. What she proposed went far beyond any narrow concept of philanthropy or CSR. She envisaged a revolution which is based on personal freedom and engenders rich solidarity, fraternity and communion. It does so, not on the fringes, but precisely within capitalist structures, thus addressing perhaps one of the main failures of capitalism today: its inability to reproduce the very social foundations on which the economy, and society depends.

An economy that gives prominence to the sharing of wealth implicitly contains a different economic culture, a new understanding of the firm, and a new conception of the organization of economic activities. Researchers are invited to therefore examine the narrowly defined EoC, that is those thousand companies in the world that identify specifically with this economic model, and the movement of thought and action around it, as the tip of an iceberg, consisting of that broader movement that strives to give birth to another economy, which has made of sharing and communion its lifestyle.

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POSSIBLE TOPICS

Scholars and students (senior or junior scholars, PhD or Master students) in Economics, Management, Social Sciences or any other connected discipline, are invited to present their research in one of the workshops of the Summer School. Papers from different disciplinary (economical, organizational, behavioral, philosophical) and methodological (theoretical, empirical, experimental, narrative, case-studies) approaches are welcome.

Possible topics for proposals can notably include (but are not limited to):

- ✓ Beyond Homo economicus: the diverse anthropologies of the economic agent;
- ✓ Economic agent, social values and institutions;
- ✓ Managing with values and social innovation;
- ✓ Case studies from EoC and Civil economy companies;
- ✓ Poverty alleviation, human development, global justice;
- ✓ Gift, gratuity, reciprocity, sharing, trust, happiness and well-being, relationships;
- ✓ Meritocracy, incentive, prices and motivation.

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

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INFO

Abstract: 1 page

Deadline for abstract submission:

June 15th, 2017

Acceptance by: July 1st, 2017

Submission: www.edc-online.org or
<https://goo.gl/forms/0m1Dg9h4s13x26jJ2>

Information: schools@edc-online.org

Venue: Marienkroon Conference Center,
Abdijlaan 8, 5253 VP Nieuwkuijk
Netherlands

Cost for the whole Summer School
(from August 22 at night to 27 at noon): 215 €

Scholarships can be granted for the
EoC Research Summer School if needed,
apply to schools@edc-online.org when accepted.

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Associazione Internazionale per una
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