The concept of gift economy has a long tradition in the social sciences; since the publication of Mauss’ “Essai sur le don”, it has received extensive treatment in the academic disciplines of anthropology, sociology and economics. This workshop aims to show that forms of non-commercial exchange of goods are economic processes which, even in societies in which money and trade play an important role, are deeply embedded in the context of social, political and economic relationships. We intend to study the different mechanisms and motivations that lie behind the variants of gift exchange, employing antiquity as a source of examples which can help refine the theoretical frameworks developed by the social sciences, and to establish a network of scholars from different disciplines in order to facilitate communication between ancient history and the social and economic sciences, to provide a fundamental redefinition and contextualization of ideas which traditionally were influenced by modern categories such as “exchange”, “advantage” or “investment” and to overcome the difficulties created by the use of outmoded theoretical and hermeneutical approaches. Can we identify the economic principles which underlie the praxis of gift-giving and its material and non-material benefits? How far did pre-industrial societies in which there was an economic order based on money function as “embedded economies”, i.e. societies in which the economic sphere is not seen as separate from the political, but is fully integrated into society? Can we define gifts and the process of giving as capital and investment? How do the concepts of gift-giving and social altruism change in relation to general structural, political, social and religious changes? In line with these general principles, the workshop will not concentrate solely on social relationships or political interests which are defined to different extents through the exchange of gifts, but will also take into account religious practices, such as dedications to sanctuaries, and political relationships based on the exchange of gifts, e.g. in the form of euergetism.
THURSDAY, 23. FEBRUARY 2012

Panel 1: Theoretical Approaches
Chair: Michael Satlow (Providence)
9.00  INTRODUCTION
9.30  MARTIN ROSSLER (Köln)
The Gift in Cross-Cultural Perspective – Anthropology’s Endless Enigma
09.55  MARCEL HÉNAFF (San Diego)
Is There Such a Thing as a Gift Economy?
10.20  BEATE WAGNER-HASEL (Hannover)
The Birth of the Theory of Gift-Giving
10.45  COFFEE BREAK
11.15  MICHAEL HAUS (Kassel)
The Blessings of Giving and Receiving – Michael Walzer’s Theory of Justice and the Gift Relationship
11.40  DAVID REINSTEIN (Essex)
The Signaling Power of Anonymous Contributions
12.05  DISCUSSION

Panel 2: Gift and Exchange in the Bronze Age
Chair: Dirk Wicke (Mainz)
14.30  MAJA GORI (Heidelberg-Paris)
Circulation, Collection and Alienation of Bronze Artefacts in Late Bronze Age Europe. The Hoards Phenomenon as Ritual Gift.
14.55  LOUISE STEEL (Lampeter)
Greeting Gifts in Cyprus at the Beginning of the Late Bronze Age
15.20  LUCA PEYRONEL (Milano)
The Role of Silver in the Embedded Economies of the Ancient Near East during the Middle and Late Bronze Age: An Archaeological Approach
15.45  COFFEE BREAK

16.15  SILKE KNIPPSCHILD (Bristol)
The Gift in Ancient Diplomacy
16.40  DISCUSSION

Panel 3: Gift Giving in the Greek World
Chair: Kai Trampedach (Heidelberg)
17.25  LUCIO BERTELLI (Torino)
The Ratio of Gift-Giving in Homeric Poems
17.50  IRENE BERTI (Heidelberg)
Religious Gifts in Ancient Greece
18.15  DISCUSSION
19.00  DINNER (AT THE ACADEMY)

FRIDAY, 24. FEBRUARY 2012

Panel 3: Gift Giving in the Greek World (continued)
Chair: Kai Trampedach (Heidelberg)
09.00  LUCIA CECCHET (Trento-Heidelberg)
Gift-giving to the Poor in Ancient Greece: a Form of Social Aid?
09.25  THOMAS BLANK (Mainz)
Philosophy as leitourgía. Sophists, Fees and the Civic Role of paideia
09.50  DISCUSSION

Panel 4: Gift Giving in the Roman World
Chair: Marietta Horster (Mainz)
10.30  KOENRAAD VERBOVEN (Gent)
‘Like Bait on a Hook’. Ethics, Emics and Etics of Gift-Exchange in the Roman World
10.55  COFFEE BREAK
11.30  SABIEN COLPAERT (Bruxelles)
Putting the “E” of Economic in Energetic: Did Economy have a Role or Place in the Energetic Practice in the Greek City during the Imperial Period?
11.55  ANDREAS M. FLECKNER (Hamburg)
The peculium – a Legal Device for Donations to personae alieno iuri subiectae?
12.20  MARTA GARCÍA MORCILLO (Lampeter)
Between Reciprocity and Obligation: Donatio sub condicione in Roman Law and Practice
14.30  MICHAEL SATLOW (Providence)
Tithes and Markets in Roman Palestine
14.55  DISCUSSION

Panel 5: Late Antiquity and the Christianization of Economy and Society
Chair: Mischa Meier (Tübingen)
15.40  LEELIA CRACCO RUGGINI (Torino)
16.05  CARLOS MACHADO (São Paulo)
Giving in the Name of God: Roman Aristocrats and the Economic of Salvation
16.30  COFFEE BREAK
17.00  FILIPPO CARLÀ (Mainz)
Exchange and the Saints: Gift-Giving and Commerce of Relics
17.25  LUIGI CANETTI (Bologna)
Christian Gift and Gift Exchange from Late Antiquity to the Early Middle Ages
17.50  DISCUSSION

Conclusion
18.30  MISCHA MEIER (Tübingen)