

From social altruism to commercial exchange: Gift giving and the „embedded“ economy in the ancient world

Organizers: F. Carlà, M.Gori, D. Reinstein

Venue: Akademie der Wissenschaften,
Karlstr. 4, Heidelberg

Date: 23.–24. February 2012

Beginning: 23. February 2012, 9.00 am

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.

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Academy Conference



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Akademie der Wissenschaften
des Landes Baden-Württemberg

PROGRAM

THURSDAY, 23. FEBRUARY 2012

Panel 1: Theoretical Approaches

Chair: *Michael Satlow (Providence)*

9.00 **INTRODUCTION**

9.30 MARTIN RÖSSLER (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 leitourgia. 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 Euergetic: Did
Economy have a Role or Place in the Euergetic
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 LELLIA CRACCO RUGGINI (Torino)
The Evolution of Social Altruism in a Changing
World: From Pagan to Christian Euergetism

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)