

The Future of Inequality

Low growth, oligarchic redistribution and the crisis of democratic capitalism

The dramatic increase in inequality in advanced capitalist countries is closely related to declining growth. Central banks have become the new masters of economic policy. They do not pursue a redistributive agenda and are well-insulated against political and electoral pressure. This central bank technocracy is strongly connected to a bloated financial sector, which is in itself a source of economic inequality. Governments are kept in check by central banks and private creditors, and have to prove themselves and their policies worthy of the confidence of “investors”. The result is, Streeck claims, a “market-conforming democracy”.

Moderator Stefan Svallfors, professor at the Institute for Futures Studies and comments by:

Ursula Berge, political director at Akademikerförbundet SSR. Former director of the think tank Agora she has also been a political expert at the Ministries of Culture and Employment as well as political editor for the newspaper Norrländska Socialdemokraten.

Andreas Bergh, PhD in Economics whose research concerns the welfare state, development economics, trust and social norms. He is currently affiliated with Lunds University and the Research Institute of Industrial Economics in Stockholm.



WOLFGANG STREECK

Wolfgang Streeck's research is located at the intersection between political science and political economy, on the one hand, and sociology, especially economic sociology, on the other. His interest is and has always been the tension between a democratic polity and a capitalist economy, as reflected in the constitution of the modern welfare state and in the regulation of labor relations and the employment relationship through trade unions and employer associations.

Source: Max Planck Institute of the Studies of Societies.

Photos: (WS) Max Planck Institute for the Studies of Societies; (AB) Labe Allwin; (UB) Denny Lorentzen.

Date: Monday the 2nd of June, 13.00–15.30 PM including a short mingle

Place: Spårvagnshallarna, Birger Jarlsgatan 57A, Stockholm

Registration: The seminar is free of charge, but we reserve the right to charge no-shows 300 SEK. Register at www.iffs.se/seminarie/anm2juni2014

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Organizer: The Institute for Futures Studies