Comparison, Analysis, Critique –
Critical Perspectives on the Diversity of Contemporary Capitalism(s)

10/11 February 2012
Jugendherberge Wiesbaden

Convened by Ian Bruff (Loughborough University), Matthias Ebenau (Queen Mary, University of London), Christian May (Goethe-Universität Frankfurt), and Andreas Nölke (Goethe-Universität Frankfurt), supported by the Assoziation für kritische Gesellschaftsforschung (AkG), the British International Studies Association's International Political Economy Working Group (BISA-IPEG) and Goethe-Universität Frankfurt.

Friday, 10 February 2012

12.00 – 13.00: Registration and coffee

13.00 – 13.20: Welcome & introduction

Ian Bruff & Matthias Ebenau
What’s at Stake in the Comparative Capitalisms Debate? Notes and Questions on International and Comparative Political Economy


Jan Drahokoupil
How do Market Economies Differ and Why Does it Matter?

Ian Bruff & Eva Hartmann

Hans-Jürgen Bieling
Varieties of Capitalism, Regulation Theory and Neo-gramscian IPE – Complementary or Contradictory Perspectives of Globalised Capitalism?

David Coates (tabled paper)
Behind and Beyond the Literature on the Diversity of Contemporary Capitalism: Economic Theory and (neo-)Institutionalist Political Economy

Thomas Sablowski (tabled paper)
From Regulation Theory to “Varieties of Capitalism”: A Critical Intellectual History

14.40 – 15.00: Coffee break
15.00 – 16.20: Panel II – Rethinking the role of institutions

Christian May & Andreas Nölke
*Critical Institutionalism in Comparative Capitalisms Research*

Terrence McDonough
*Social Structures of Accumulation and Capitalist Variation*

Christel Lane & Geoffrey Wood (tabled paper)
*Diversity Within Capitalism and Change*

16.20 – 16.40: Coffee break

16.40 – 18.00: Panel III – Uneven, combined and dependent capitalist development

Nicholas Taylor
*Historicizing the Varieties of Capitalism Approach: The Uneven and Combined Development of Labour Forms*

Anne Tittor
*Peripheral Capitalism and Social-structural Heterogeneity: On the Timeliness of Long-forgotten Categories from Debates on Dependency*

Oliver Weiss
*The Value of Dependency Theory for VoC Debates*

Jane Hardy (tabled paper)
*Varieties of Capitalism or Combined and Uneven Development? Crisis and Recession in Central and Eastern Europe*

18.15 – 19.15: Mitgliederversammlung der Assoziation für kritische Gesellschaftsforschung (General Meeting of the Association for Critical Social Research, AkG)

(AkG is an inter-disciplinary social science association of critical academics from the German-speaking countries and one of the principal sponsors of this conference. The meeting is open for interested non-members; translation will be made available where required.)

from 19.30: Conference dinner
Saturday, 11 February 2012

8.30 – 10.10: Panel IV – Social forces in contemporary capitalisms

Adam Fishwick
Beyond and Beneath the Hierarchical Market Economy: Global Production and Working Class Conflict in Argentina’s Automobile Industry

Eva Hartmann
The Social Foundation of International Competition

John Kannankulam & Fabian Georgti
Varieties of Capitalism or Varieties of Relationships of Forces?

Stefanie Wöhl
Gender Divisions in International Political Economy

10.10 – 10.30: Coffee break

10.30 – 12.10: Panel V – Space and scale in contemporary capitalism

Joachim Becker & Johannes Jäger
European Integration in Crisis: A Regulationist Perspective on Varieties of Capitalism

Jamie Gough
Temporal, Scalar and Territorial Difference Within Capitalism: Construction by Fundamental Contradictions of Capitalism

Bob Jessop
Capitalist Diversity, Variety, and Variegation: the World Market and Governance Failure

Ines Wagner & Nathan Lillie
Organized Capitalism and Spaces of Exception

12.10 – 13.10 Lunch

13.10 – 14.50: Panel VI – Beyond the core capitalisms

Uwe Becker
Changing Open Capitalist Varieties: Theoretical Considerations and Illustrations from the Development of the ‘BRICs’

Hans-Jürgen Burchardt & Nico Weinmann
Thinking About an Empirical Unease: “Varieties” Instead of Capitalism? Labour Market Integration and State Labour and Social Policy in Latin America
Matthias Ebenau
*All “Varieties” are Equal? A Critique of Eurocentrism in VoC and CC*

Roy Karadag
*The West is not Enough: The Historical Sociology of Global Capitalist Varieties*

14.50 – 15.10: Coffee break

15.10 – 16.40: Panel VII – Alternative views on ‘traditional’ cases in CC research

David Bailey & Saori Shibata
*Varieties of Contestation: A Comparative and Critical Political Economy of Fictitious Commodification During the Global Economic Crisis*

Stefanie Hürtgen
*Nothing but Variations? Limits of the “Varieties” Approach for European Labour and Trade Union Research*

Julia Lux
*Varieties of Capitalism: A gender perspective*

16.40 – 17.30: Round-up discussion and further collaboration