

## Abstracts of Max Weber Book Roundtables 2020-2021

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### ABSTRACT

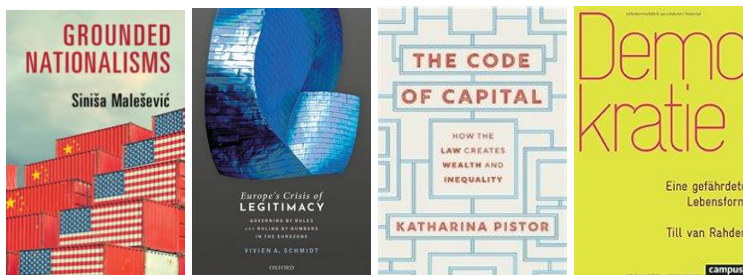
The Max Weber Book Roundtables introduce major new works in one or several of the four disciplines of the EUI.

The Programme aims to invite scholars who have written major works that we think will influence the intellectual debate for some time to come.

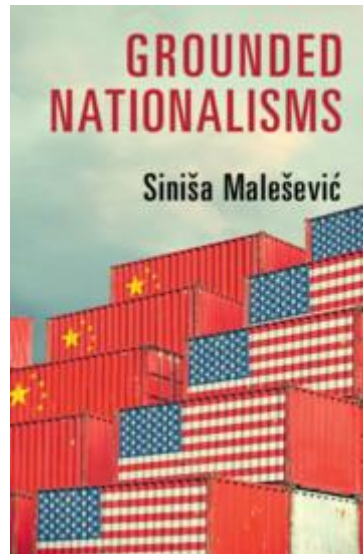
The Book Roundtable will involve the author(s), one or several members of the wider EUI community and one or more Max Weber Fellow to discuss the work.

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### Check out our Titles:



## Max Weber Book Roundtable November 2020



*Grounded Nationalisms*  
Siniša Malešević (University College Dublin)  
18 November 2020, 17:00-18:30  
Online, via Zoom  
Watch this book roundtable [online!](#)

### **Panellists:**

[Siniša Malešević](#) (University College Dublin), Professor of Sociology

[Veronica Anghel](#) (EUI), Max Weber Fellow, SPS Department; [Jelena Dzankic](#) (EUI), Part-time Professor in the Global Governance Programme (RSCAS) and Co-Director of the Global Citizenship Observatory; [Benjamin Goossen](#) (EUI), Max Weber Fellow, HEC Department; [Hanspeter Kriesi](#) (EUI), Part-time Professor (SPS Department) and Principal Investigator of the ERC-funded SOLID project.

### **Moderator:**

Dorothee Bohle (EUI), Director of Max Weber Programme and Dean of Postdoctoral Studies

### **Book Abstract**

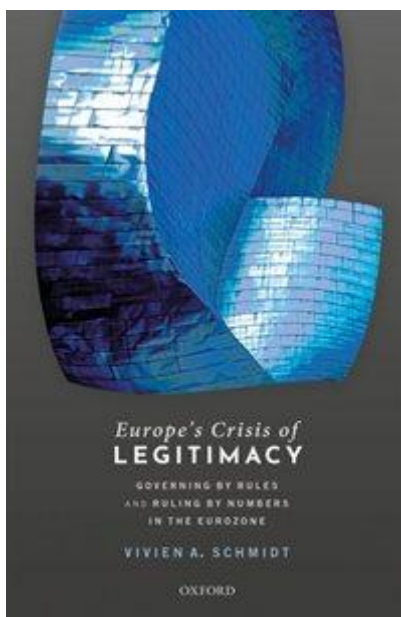
Globalisation is not the enemy of nationalism; instead, as this book shows, the two forces have developed together through modern history. Malešević challenges dominant views which see nationalism as a declining social force. He explains why the recent escalations of populist nationalism throughout the world do not represent a social anomaly but are, in fact, a historical norm. By focusing on ever-increasing organisational capacity, greater ideological penetration and networks of micro-solidarity, Malešević shows how and why nationalism has become deeply grounded in the everyday life of modern human beings. The author explores the social dynamics of these grounded nationalisms via an analysis of varied contexts, from Ireland to the

Balkans. His findings show that increased ideological diffusion and the rising coercive capacities of states and other organisations have enabled nationalism to expand and establish itself as the dominant operative ideology of modernity.

### **About the Speaker**

Siniša Malešević is a Professor and Chair of Sociology at the University College, Dublin, and Senior Fellow at CNAM, Paris. He is an elected member of Royal Irish Academy and Academia Europaea. Previously he held research and teaching appointments at the Institute for International Relations (Zagreb), the Centre for the Study of Nationalism, CEU (Prague), National University of Ireland, Galway, the London School of Economics, the Institute for Human Sciences (Vienna), Université Libre de Bruxelles and Uppsala University. His recent books include *Grounded Nationalisms: A Sociological Analysis* (Cambridge University Press, 2019), *The Rise of Organised Brutality: A Historical Sociology of Violence* (Cambridge University Press, 2017) and *Nation-States and Nationalisms: Organisation, Ideology and Solidarity* (Polity Press 2013). He is author of 10 books, 8 edited volumes and over 100 peer-reviewed journal articles and book chapters. His work has been translated into 13 languages.

## Max Weber Book Roundtable December 2020



### *Europe's Crisis of Legitimacy: Governing by Rules and Ruling by Numbers in the Eurozone*

Vivien Schmidt (Boston University)

2 December 2020, 17:00-18:30

Online, via Zoom

Watch this book roundtable [online!](#)

#### **Panellists:**

[Vivien Schmidt](#) (Boston University), Jean Monnet Professor of European Integration; Professor of International Relations and Political Science; [Paul Dermine](#) (EUI), Max Weber Fellow, LAW Department; [Sebastian Diessner](#) (EUI), Max Weber Fellow, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies; [Brigid Laffan](#) (EUI), Director and Professor at the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies

#### **Moderator:**

[Dorothee Bohle](#) (EUI), Director of Max Weber Programme and Dean of Postdoctoral Studies

#### **Book Abstract**

This volume examines the interrelationship between democratic legitimacy at the European level and the ongoing Eurozone crisis that began in 2010.

Europe's crisis of legitimacy stems from 'governing by rules and ruling by numbers' in the sovereign debt crisis, which played havoc with the eurozone economy while fueling political discontent. Using the lens of democratic theory, the book assesses the legitimacy of EU

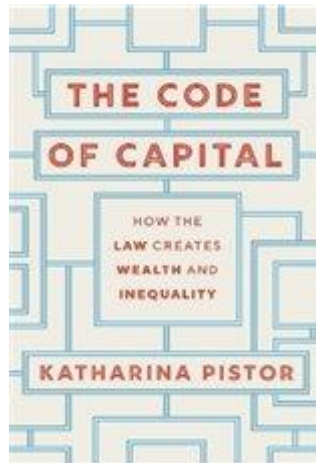
governing activities first in terms of their procedural quality ('throughput),' by charting EU actors' different pathways to legitimacy, and then evaluates their policy effectiveness ('output') and political responsiveness ('input'). In addition to an engaging and distinctive analysis of Eurozone crisis governance and its impact on democratic legitimacy, the book offers a number of theoretical insights into the broader question of the functioning of the EU and supranational governance more generally. It concludes with proposals for how to remedy the EU's problems of legitimacy, reinvigorate its national democracies, and rethink its future.

**About the Speaker:**

Vivien A. Schmidt is Jean Monnet Professor of European Integration and Professor of International Relations and Political Science in the Pardee School at Boston University, where she also served as Founding Director of its Center for the Study of Europe. Her work focuses on European political economy, institutions, and democracy as well as political theory (with a special focus on the role of ideas and discourse in political analysis). In addition to her latest book *Europe's Crisis of Legitimacy: Governing by Rules and Ruling by Numbers in the Eurozone* (Oxford 2020), recent publications include *Resilient Liberalism in Europe's Political Economy* (co-edited, Cambridge 2013), and *Democracy in Europe* (Oxford 2006; La Découverte 2010 Fr. trans.)—named in 2015 by the European Parliament as one of the '100 Books on Europe to Remember.' Recent honors and awards include decoration as *Chevalier* in the French Legion of Honor, the European Union Studies Association's Lifetime Achievement Award, and a Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship for her new project on the 'rhetoric of discontent,' a transatlantic investigation of the populist revolt.

Watch this book roundtable [online!](#)

## Max Weber Book Roundtable February 2021



*The Code of Capital: How the Law Creates Wealth and Inequality*

Katharina Pistor (Columbia Law School)

3 February 2021, 17:00-18:30

Online, via Zoom

Watch this book rountable [online!](#)

### **Panellists:**

[Katharina Pistor](#) (Columbia Law School), Edwin B. Parker Professor of Comparative Law; [Katarzyna Doniec](#) (EUI), Max Weber Fellow, SPS; [Martijn Hesselink](#) (EUI), Professor of Transnational Law and Theory, LAW; [Alvaro Pereira](#) (EUI), Max Weber Fellow, LAW; [Giacomo Tagiuri](#), Max Weber Fellow, LAW

### **Moderator:**

[Dorothee Bohle](#) (EUI), Director of Max Weber Programme and Dean of Postdoctoral Studies

### **Book Abstract:**

Capital is the defining feature of modern economies, yet most people have no idea where it actually comes from. What is it, exactly, that transforms mere wealth into an asset that automatically creates more wealth? *The Code of Capital* explains how capital is created behind closed doors in the offices of private attorneys, and why this little-known fact is one of the biggest reasons for the widening wealth gap between the holders of capital and everybody else.

In this revealing book, Katharina Pistor argues that the law selectively “codes” certain assets, endowing them with the capacity to protect and produce private wealth. With the right legal coding, any object, claim, or idea can be turned into capital—and lawyers are the keepers of the code. Pistor describes how they pick and choose among different legal systems and legal devices for the ones that best serve their clients’ needs, and how techniques that were first perfected centuries ago to code landholdings as capital are being used today to code stocks, bonds, ideas, and even expectations—assets that exist only in law.

A powerful new way of thinking about one of the most pernicious problems of our time, *The Code of Capital* explores the different ways that debt, complex financial products, and other assets are coded to give financial advantage to their holders. This provocative book paints a troubling portrait of the pervasive global nature of the code, the people who shape it, and the governments that enforce it.

**About the Speaker:**

Katharina Pistor is a leading scholar and writer on corporate governance, money and finance, property rights, and comparative law and legal institutions.

Pistor is the author or co-author of nine books. Her most recent book, [\*The Code of Capital: How the Law Creates Wealth and Inequality\*](#), examines how assets such as land, private debt, business organizations, or knowledge are transformed into capital through contract law, property rights, collateral law, and trust, corporate, and bankruptcy law. *The Code of Capital* was named one of the best books of 2019 by the *Financial Times* and *Business Insider*.

Pistor publishes widely in legal and social science journals. In her recent essay “From Territorial to Monetary Sovereignty” in the *Journal on Theoretical Inquiries in Law* (2017), she argued that the rise of a global money system means a new definition of sovereignty: the control of money. She has served on the editorial boards of the *Journal of Institutional Economics*, *European Business Organization Law Review*, *American Journal of Comparative Law*, and *Columbia Journal for European Law*.

Pistor is a prominent commentator on cryptocurrency and has testified before Congress on the lack of regulatory oversight of proposed international cryptocurrencies. As the director of the Center on Global Legal Transformation, Pistor directs the center’s work to develop research projects and organize conferences to examine ways in which law shapes global relations and how they, in turn, transform the law.

Before joining Columbia Law School in 2001, Pistor held teaching and research positions at Harvard Law School, the Harvard University Kennedy School of Government and the Max Planck Institute for Foreign and International Law in Hamburg. She has been a visiting professor at the University of Pennsylvania Law School, New York University Law School, Frankfurt University, London School of Economics, and Oxford University.

Pistor is a research associate with the Centre for Economic Policy Research and has served as principal investigator of the Global Finance and Law Initiative (2011–2013) and member of the board of directors (2011–2014) and 2019 fellow of the European Corporate Governance Institute. In 2015, she was elected a member of the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences.

In 2012 she was co-recipient (with Martin Hellwig) of the [Max Planck Research Award](#) on International Financial Regulation, and in 2014 she received the Allen & Overy Prize for the best working paper on law of the European Corporation Governance Institute. She is also the recipient of research grants by the Institute for New Economic Thinking and the National Science Foundation.

## Max Weber Book Roundtable May 2021

jointly organized with the "[Democracy in the 21st century](#)" cluster



*Democracy: A Fragile Way of Life*  
Till van Rahden (University of Montreal)  
19 May 2021, 17:00-18:30  
Online, via Zoom or Hybrid TBC  
Watch the book roundtable [online!](#)

### **Panellists:**

[Till van Rahden](#) (University of Montreal), Associate Professor; [Benno Gammerl](#) (EUI), Professor of History of Gender and Sexuality; Elias Buchetmann (EUI), PhD Graduate, HEC; Carolin Lerch (EUI), PhD Researcher, LAW; [Tommaso Milani](#) (EUI), Max Weber Fellow, HEC

### **Moderator:**

[Lucy Riall](#) (EUI), Professor of History of Europe in the World (19th to 20th centuries)

### **Book Abstract:**

After the Cold War ended, liberal democracy was often taken for granted. Now it is in crisis: many citizens distrust representative government and parliamentary politics, the people's parties all over Europe are losing members and votes, twitter and Instagram are crowding out public debates and civility. Across the globe, studies have appeared on the crisis of democracy. Challenging the sense of despair that has informed recent conversations, Till van Rahden's new book suggests that instead of analysing how democracies die, it might prove more useful to explore what keeps them alive. Drawing on the history of the Federal Republic of Germany as a case study to think about democracy as a way of life, it argues that Postwar Germany's democratic miracle allows us to better understand the cultural and social foundations of democracy in public controversies, in democratic aesthetics, and in everyday life. It contends



that no matter how stable a democratic government might appear to be, without democratic forms and spaces that allow for democratic experiences in everyday life it will wither away.

**About the Speaker:**

Till van Rahden is an Associate Professor at the Université de Montréal where he held the Canada Research Chair in German and European Studies from 2006 to 2016. Since January 2021 he is also a Non-Resident Senior Fellow at the “Forschungskolleg Humanwissenschaften,” an Institute for Advanced Studies of the Goethe University. In 2018, he was a LFUI-Guest Professor at the University of Innsbruck, and in 2016, he held fellowships at the “Leibniz Institute for European History” and the “Institut für die Wissenschaften vom Menschen.” He specializes in European history since the Enlightenment and is interested in the tension between the elusive promise of democratic equality and the recurrent presence of moral conflicts.

In 1993, he received an M.A. in American history from The Johns Hopkins University, and in 1999, he completed his dissertation at the University of Bielefeld which received the “Fraenkel Prize in Contemporary History” and was published as *Jews and other Germans: Civil Society, Religious Diversity and Urban Politics in Breslau, 1860-1925* (The University of Wisconsin Press, 2008). He has co-edited *Juden, Bürger, Deutsche: Zur Geschichte von Vielfalt und Differenz 1800-1933* (Mohr Siebeck, 2001), *Demokratie im Schatten der Gewalt* (Göttingen, 2010), *Autorität: Krise, Konstruktion und Konjunktur* (Fink, 2016); *Emanzipation und Recht: Zur Geschichte der Rechtswissenschaft und der jüdischen Gleichberechtigung* (Klostermann, 2021). Recent publications include: “Lumpen sammeln: Siegfried Kracauer und die Geschichte des 19. Jahrhunderts,” in *Historische Zeitschrift* 307 (2018), pp. 319-340, *Demokratie: Eine gefährdete Lebensform* (Campus, 2019), *Vielheit: Juden und die Ambivalenzen des Universalismus seit der Aufklärung* (Hamburger Edition, 2022).