

Max Weber Programme
Academic Practice Workshop
27 January 10.30-12.30, VF, CR

The Intellectual and the Public: In and Out of the Ivory Tower

Some of the questions that we would like to address are: What is the relationship between academia and politics? What, if any, are the obligations of the scholar to the political community in which he or she moves? Should our work speak to pressing political issues, and if so should it claim special authority by virtue of our status as “experts”? What is the role of “experts,” particularly in a democracy? And for those of us who are engaged in politics, how do we see that engagement in relationship to our work? Are there significant differences across our four disciplines in the kind of public involvement that is possible and desirable?

We will hear remarks by Tito Boeri, a Professor of Economics at Bocconi University in Milan, frequent editorialist, and contributor to lavoce.info. The workshop will be 90 minutes long. After a brief introduction, Professor Boeri will take the floor for approximately 15 minutes. His remarks will be followed by those of three Max Weber Fellows from history (David Bainton), political science (Nenad Stojanovic), and law (Jernej Letnar-Cernic), who will speak for about 10 minutes each. Alexia Katsanidou (SPS) will open the floor for discussion by suggesting possible risks entailed in scholarly involvement in politics. We plan on leaving at least a half hour for discussion and further comment by other Max Weber Fellows.

Organizers: [Giunia Gatta](#) and [Alexia Katsanidou](#), MWP Fellows