Venice International University
VIU Summer School | Responsible Capitalism
Micro and macroinstitutional conditions of transformation

May 29 – June 1, 2017

Schedule:
Morning: 9:30 – 12:15*
Afternoon: 14:30 – 17:00*
The end of the sessions could be extend, if necessary.

Sunday, May 28

18:30: Welcome Cocktail at Venice international University

Monday, May 29

Morning: **Guido Palazzo**, University of Lausanne

Understanding the dark side of the force: Why do manager make unethical decisions?
This first session will provide an overview over the psychological insights on responsible and irresponsible behaviour. It will examine recent scandals from Volkswagen to Wells Fargo in order to discuss contextual constellations that promote unethical decision making. Strategies of fighting back such tendencies will also be discussed.

Afternoon: **Marie Laure Djelic**, Science Po

Limited Liability and the Responsibility Deficit in Contemporary Capitalism
In this session we look at the inscription of the principle of limited liability in contemporary capitalism – focusing both on its historical deployment and on the contemporary forms it takes and consequences it may have. Contemporary corporations have the double advantage of having legal personality and of enjoying limited liability. As "artificial persons" (persona ficta), corporations have essentially the same rights as us, "real" individuals. But when our personal responsibility is fully engaged to the level of the damage we may cause, corporations can often hide under limited liability to avoid the full brunt of the costs associated with the externalities they produce or the damage they cause. This "responsibility deficit" is arguably a key feature of contemporary capitalism and one to be remedied if we are to reinvent a sustainable form of capitalism.

Tuesday, May 30

Morning: **all present professors**

Presentation and discussion of research projects
This session is devoted to the presentation of the research projects of participants. While some students will present their work throughout the other sessions, this one is exclusively devoted to their own work.

Afternoon: **Fabrizio Ferraro**, IESE Business School

Institutional conditions for change in the financial sector
Organization theorists and economic sociologists have been studying the financial sector for years, but in the last decade, perhaps due to the increasing centrality of financial markets

and the 2008 financial crisis, the breadth and depth of our work in this area has grown exponentially. From this perspective, we will discuss the emergence and diffusion of novel forms of investing, practices, and organizational forms in the financial sector. We will discuss both the institutional conditions for change in the sector, and the implications that some of these changes might have for corporate governance and organizations

Wednesday, May 31

Morning: **Juliane Reinecke**, University of Warwick

Taming Wicked Problems? Understanding the Evolution of Transnational Governance and Social Movements Dynamics

This session will critically examine the role of private power in developing transnational governance solutions to wicked problems. Wicked problems are large scale social challenges caught in causal webs of interlinking variables spanning national boundaries that complicate both their diagnosis and prognosis, such as poverty, inequality, climate change, deforestation or conflict in global supply chains. To do so, we will focus on the political dynamics of how governance initiatives emerge and evolve out of conflicts between social movement actors and corporations. How do these dynamics shape definitions of who is responsible and what is sustainable or valuable? And given the multiplicity of private regulatory regimes, does the competition of social movement-led and industry-led initiatives lead to a race to the bottom or race to the top? Finally, we will discuss the implications of these types of governance dynamics to tame wicked problems

Afternoon: **all present professors**

Presentation and discussion of research projects

This session is devoted to the presentation of the research projects of participants. While some students will present their work throughout the other sessions, this one is exclusively devoted to their own work.

Thursday, June 1

Morning: **Francesco Zirpoli**, Università Ca' Foscari Venezia

The evolution of decision-making in global companies
This session will give particular attention to the implication of the fact that decision makers are often "multiply embedded" in organizations, in places, in informal social networks, in more formal associations, and so on. Interdependent decisions and actions of multiple agents acting in a distributed environment are profoundly altering both decision-making and the strategy implementation processes in ways that demand some rethinking of the governance and management conceptual toolkit. Sociological and organization theories, including theories of organizational politics, social movements, relational embedding and cognitive framing will be presented, discussed and applied to understand the conditions under which global firms confront with environmental, social and governance decisions.

Afternoon: **Giovanni Favero**, Università Ca' Foscari Venezia

Itinerant workshop
Walking through the city, we will discuss how Venice became Venice during the 20th century. The focus will be on the macro and micro conditions of the modern transformation in the perception of the historical urban centre into "a city like no other" to be preserved as it is. The tour will start from the San Giobbe Economics campus of Ca' Foscari University, formerly a slaughterhouse, and will end at Zattere with the view of an example of industrial architecture: the Stucky Mills. We will visit the Frari Church and the burial of Giuseppe Volpi, the founder of Porto Marghera. Together with a final glimpse to the last surviving squero building gondolas at San Trovaso, this provides a telling image of the complex relationship with tradition of modern Venice.