



Venice International University
VIU Summer School | Responsible Capitalism
Micro and Macro-institutional conditions of transformation

June 16 - 19, 2020

Schedule:

Morning: 9:30 – 12:15*

Afternoon: 14:30 – 17:00*

**The end of the sessions could be extended, if necessary.*

Monday, June 15

18:30: Welcome Cocktail at Venice international University

Tuesday, June 16

Morning: Guido Palazzo, HEC Lausanne

Storytelling and societal change

This session will discuss the impact on language, discourse and storytelling on human behaviour. How does the way we make sense of the world influence ethical and unethical decisions and how can we use the insights on the narrativity of human existence as a leverage for societal change?

Afternoon: Francesco Zirpoli and Francesco Rullani, Università Ca' Foscari Venezia

The evolution of decision-making in global organizations

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 organizations -and organizational fields that they constitute - confront with environmental, social and governance decisions and evaluations.

Wednesday, June 17

Morning: Juliane Reinecke, King's Business School

Taming Wicked Problems? Understanding the Evolution of Transnational Governance and Social Movement 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? 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 problem.

Afternoon: **Elisa Giuliani**, University of Pisa

Contemporary capitalism: Debunking ‘the greatest good for the greatest number’ rhetoric of economic development processes

This session seeks to promote radical change to theorizing and planning economic development processes. There are two important wicked problems characterizing contemporary capitalism, which, if not properly addressed, could result in social and political catastrophe. The first is related to the burgeoning evidence of business-related human rights (BHR) regressions – i.e. deterioration, suffered by given individuals or social groups in their universal human rights, as a result of business firms’ operations (observed e.g. in the form of modern slavery; child labour; premature deaths due to industrial toxic emissions and business-induced climate change; failure to respect indigenous communities’ rights, etc.) The second is the increase (or persistence at record levels) of within-country economic inequality in many countries worldwide, and the rise of extreme wealth. Most accounts consider them two separate problems, requiring different solutions. But what if they are connected, and their nexus is crucial to the current functioning of capitalism? How can both problems be solved without undermining economic growth and its related benefits? Addressing these questions seems timely given that it has become progressively more evident that growth alone cannot lift people out of human misery.

Thursday, June 18

Morning & Afternoon sessions: **all present professors**

Presentation and discussion of research projects

This day is devoted to the presentation of the research projects of participants. The format will be group discussions with 3 students per table and 1-2 professors per table (depending on how many students and professors are present). 45 minutes per student: 20 minutes presentation and 25 minutes discussion (including a break, we would have 2 ½ hours in the morning and again 2 ½ hours in the afternoon). With this format, each student can present twice in front of different Professors. No powerpoint.

Friday, June 20

Morning: **Johanna Mair**, Hertie School of Governance/ Stanford University

Transformative Processes in Action

In this session we put the spotlight on organizations that adopt alternative organizational forms and therefore are often considered as the hope to ensure diversity within capitalism. In our conversation we will not rest on discussing the specific form or non-conformist actions these organizations take on but rather examine enabling conditions for their emergence and how what they do triggers transformation. At the centre of attention are mechanisms and processes that enable endogenous change. Using our readings as a starting point we will also revisit the potential of studying gradual processes of transformation that lead to new social orders. We will discuss theoretical opportunities and implications for research designs to push forward this line of inquiry.

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.



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