

Unselde Lectures

am FORUM SCIENTIARUM der Universität Tübingen –
initiiert und gefördert von der Udo Keller Stiftung Forum Humanum

2010



Call for Applications / Call for Papers

International Interdisciplinary Summer School “The Capabilities Approach on Social Order”

with Martha Nussbaum, University of Chicago

Tübingen, June 21-25, 2010
Application deadline: March 31, 2010

Universität Tübingen
Udo Keller Stiftung Forum Humanum
Suhrkamp Verlag
Forum Scientiarum

EBERHARD KARLS
UNIVERSITÄT
TÜBINGEN



International Interdisciplinary Summer School “The Capabilities Approach on Social Order”

with Martha Nussbaum, University of Chicago

We kindly invite graduate students and junior scientists of law, economics, political science, cultural studies, the divinites, philosophy and history to apply for the Forum Scientiarum’s International Interdisciplinary Summer School on “The Capability Approach on Social Order”. Jointly organized by the Forum Scientiarum of the Eberhard Karls University of Tuebingen, the Udo Keller Foundation Forum Humanum, Hamburg, and the Suhrkamp Publishing House, this year’s Summer School is taking place in Tuebingen, Germany, June 21-25, 2010. The Summer School is part of the “Unselde Lectures at the Forum Scientiarum of Tuebingen University – initiated and sponsored by the Udo Keller Foundation Forum Humanum”.

Participants’ papers will be considered for publication in a conference volume.

Topic

What are sustainable principles of state government? What duties should be imposed on governmental actors? Which boundaries should be set for them? In recent years, the capability approach has become a widely accepted paradigm in western development policies. It is a subject of current discussion to which extent this normative framework can be applied to other social areas.

Pioneered by economist Amartya Sen, this approach to evaluating individual well-being and social arrangements focuses on the opportunities for citizens to exercise self-determination. This view contrasts with common theories that see development in terms of GNP growth or the access to income, resources and formal rights.

Martha Nussbaum, this year's Unselde lecturer, has extended the Capability Approach and has suggested a set of institutional guarantees that citizens of all societies should be afforded, placing emphasis on social contexts where due to asymmetry of power fair rules for all parties are not likely to be expected.

The scope, legitimacy and bare possibility of such a pluralistic, yet universalist theory of justice are at the heart of a vivid transdisciplinary discussion this summer school is aiming at. Application papers should address one or more of the following questions:

How can the Capability Approach be brought to fruition in combination with the findings and methods of various disciplines, such as economics, political science or law? How can capabilities be measured? What is the account of a catalogue of central human capabilities aiming at an overlapping consensus on values universal to humanity? How can perceived problems of the Capability Approach be solved?

Program

Twenty graduate students and junior scientists from all over the world will have the opportunity to discuss the above questions with Martha Nussbaum and present their own work to fellow participants. The first two days will focus on selected contributions by participants and readings assigned to the students in advance. The third and fourth day will

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be directed by Martha Nussbaum who will introduce her latest works on the Capability Approach and discuss these with the participants. On the third day, the students will also follow a colloquium at which Martha Nussbaum will debate with experts of welfare economics, international law and development theory.

Lecturer

Martha Nussbaum is Ernst Freund Distinguished Service Professor of Law and Ethics at the University of Chicago. The early written Aristotle interpretation already established her as a specialist in ancient philosophy. Shortly after, Nussbaum extended her area of research and published works concerning mainly modern moral-philosophic questions, concentrating on subjects where ethics, literature and feminism overlap. Her more recent work focuses on the meaning of emotions, i.e. experiences, to which she ascribes a wholly independent epistemic value. Moreover, she is well-known for her collaboration with Amartya Sen on the “Capabilities Approach” and the elaboration of her own version of this approach which elevates the enabling of human development to the criterion of social justice. Her recent work “Liberty of Conscience” is a discourse on religion and the legal system in the USA with regard to a “tragic burden” that is often imposed on religious minorities on the part of an unbending state.

Martha Nussbaum received numerous literary awards and honorary degrees from more than thirty colleges and universities in America, Asia and Europe. Visiting professorship held Professor Nussbaum inter alia in Paris (1984), Oxford (1986-1987), Oslo (1994 and 1998) and Harvard (2007). Selected essential publications: “Women and Human Development: The Capabilities Approach” (2000), “Upheavals of Thought” (2001), “Frontiers of Justice” (2006), “Liberty of Conscience” (2008).

Application procedure / Funding

To apply, participants need to submit a paper of up to 5000 words, prepared for blind reviewing. Additionally, a CV form, downloadable from our website, has to be completed. Application deadline is March 31, 2010. A letter of admission together with a detailed syllabus will reach successful applicants by April 30, 2010.

There is no program fee, accommodation is free. The Forum Scientiarum provides grants for covering travel expenses to selected participants, awarded by the Udo Keller Foundation Forum Humanum. Please find more information on financial assistance on our website.

Applications should be sent to unseld@fsci.uni-tuebingen.de or to our postal address: FORUM SCIENTIARUM, Doblerstrasse 33, 72074 Tuebingen, Germany. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us by e-mail or consult the website www.unseld-lectures.de/ss2010/