



“Perspectives on Wealth 2026”

Symposium booklet

The symposium “Perspectives on Wealth 2026” brings together scholars from all projects funded in the Volkswagen Foundation’s initiative *Perspectives on Wealth* as well as interested colleagues working in the field. With this initiative, the Foundation has sought to shift attention from poverty research to the multiple facets of wealth as a social, cultural, and political phenomenon. The symposium aims to serve as a platform to present and discuss (preliminary) findings, explore ways to increase the projects’ visibility and impact, and pave the way for future collaborations.

Programme

17 March 2025

Time	Title	Speaker/Project
09:00 - 09:30	Registration	
09:30 - 09:45	Welcome	A. Wessler (VW Foundation) D. Schieferdecker (FU Berlin)
09:45 - 10:45	Keynote #1 "Housing Insecurities: What is the Role of Homeownership Today?"	I. Helbrecht (HU Berlin) Chair: S. Reinhardt (FU Berlin)
10:45 - 11:15	Coffee break	
11:15 - 12:30	Panel #1 "Land, Space, and the Concentration of Wealth" From Colonial Transfers to Contemporary Deals: Land Acquisitions, Land Use, and Inequality in East Africa Land Concentration and (Hyper-)Wealth in Latin America. New Challenges and Historical Continuities in the Agricultural Sector Reconstructing Wealth in and through Space: A Methodological Approach	Land Acquisitions and Rising Land Inequality in Rural East Africa Turning Land into Capital. Historical Conjunctures of the (Re-)Production of Wealth in Latin America from the 19th to the 21st Century Wealth and Space - Contested Geographies of Wealth (Re-)Production in Latin America Chair: F. Carvalhaes (UFRJ)
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch break	

<p>13:30 - 14:45</p>	<p>Panel #2 "Influence through investment?"</p> <p>Conservation Philanthropism and Nature Tourism in the Global South</p> <p>Medium-Scale Farmers, Moral Economies, and the Social Measure of Wealth in Rural Africa</p> <p>The Economic Capacities of Wealth – Making Sense of Wealth between Entrepreneurship Studies and Sociology</p>	<p>Nature's Wealth or Nature for the Wealthy? Philanthropism and Ecotourism in the Global South</p> <p>Medium-Scale Farmers in Rural Africa: Transformations in Belonging, Property, Kinship and Power</p> <p>The Capital's Shadow: Wealth Concentration in Startup Ecosystems</p> <p>Chair: K. Y. Chiu (U Mannheim)</p>
<p>14:45 - 15:15</p>	<p>Coffee break (or recreational walk in the castle garden)</p>	
<p>15:15 - 16:45</p>	<p>Panel #3 "Families, Dynasties, and the Governance of Wealth"</p> <p>Wealth as a Social Relationship. Intergenerational Aspects of the Familial (Re)Production of Wealth</p> <p>Powering Wealth Project: Data Access and Insights from Two Dynasties</p> <p>Financial Elites, Career Trajectories, and the Governance of Wealth</p>	<p>Wealth as a Social Relationship. Intergenerational Aspects of the Familial (Re)Production of Wealth</p> <p>Powering Wealth. How Rich Families Shape the Energy Transition in Germany and Mexico. c. 1870-2024</p> <p>INFILTRATES: Influence of Financial Elites: Trajectories, Socialization, Values and the Repercussions of Wealth in Germany, France and the UK</p> <p>Chair: I. Pfusterer (FU Berlin)</p>
<p>16:45 - 16:55</p>	<p>Short break</p>	

16:55 - 18.05	<p>Plenary working session</p> <p>“Working towards a joint publication of the initiative?”</p>	D. Schieferdecker (FU Berlin)
18:05 - 18:30	Aperitif and poster gallery walk	
18:30 - 22.00	Dinner	

18 March 2025

Time	Title	Speaker/Project
09:00 - 10:15	<p>Panel #4 “Politicians, Policies, and Publics”</p> <p>Politician Characteristics, Tax Policy, and the Wealth Distribution</p> <p>Truth or Myth? A Critical Examination of Prevailing Narratives Opposing an Increased Inheritance Tax</p> <p>What Do People Talk About When They Talk About Wealth and Inequality</p>	<p>Politicians, Policies, and the Reproduction of Wealth</p> <p>The Deserving Rich - A Multidisciplinary Analysis of the (Re-)production of (German) Wealth</p> <p>WealthTalks: The (Re-)Production of Wealth Inequality in Everyday Conversations</p> <p>Chair: G. Ribeiro (UFRJ)</p>
10:15 - 10:45	Coffee break	
10:45 - 12:00	<p>Panel #5 “Seeing Wealth: Perceptions, Fairness, and Speculative Futures”</p> <p>Wealth Concentration and Social Cohesion</p>	<p>Wealth and Social Cohesion from a Relational Perspective</p>

	<p>Wealth and Perception of Fairness</p> <p>Digital Twins and Speculative Futures of Wealth</p>	<p>Wealth Inequality: Attitudes, Opportunities, and Behavior</p> <p>Smartness as Wealth</p> <p>Chair: S. Reinhardt (FU Berlin)</p>
12:00 - 13:00	Lunch	
13:00-14:00	<p>Keynote #2</p> <p>“What kind of society breeds $r > g$?”</p>	<p>J. Beckert (MPI, U Cologne)</p> <p>Chair: D. Schieferdecker (FU Berlin)</p>
14:00 - 15:30	<p>Workshop 2a</p> <p>“Communicating Core Findings of the Initiative in Social Media?” (Break-out room 1)</p>	<p>Dr. Lorenz Adlung (NaWiK)</p>
	<p>Workshop 2b</p> <p>“Communicating Core Findings of the Initiative into the Wider Public?” (Break-out room 2)</p>	<p>Dr. Tobias Meier (NaWiK)</p>
	<p>Workshop 2c</p> <p>“Reflecting on the Impact of your Project” (Break-out room 3)</p>	<p>A. Wessler (VW Foundation)</p>
15:30 - 16:00	Coffee break	
16:00-17:00	<p>Roundtable “Turning the Lens Upward: How Far Has the Field Advanced—And Where Do We Go Now?”</p>	<p>F. Pfeffer (LMU Munich, ISI)</p> <p>I. Stamm (TU Berlin)</p> <p>S. Kerr (Joseph Rowntree Foundation)</p> <p>S. Glauser (Russell Sage Foundation)</p> <p>Chair: N. Kottmann (VW)</p>

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Abstracts

Abstracts are presented in order as they appear in the programme.

Keynote #1

“Housing Insecurities: What is the Role of Homeownership Today?”

We are living in times of polycrisis. Most Western countries are not only facing a severe housing crisis, with a shortage in housing supply and unaffordable prices, which generate housing insecurities. But also economic challenges like tariffs or inflation and new geopolitical wars and conflicts in Europe as well as globally lead to an increase in feelings of insecurity and societal instability. In these times of polycrisis homeownership takes on a new meaning: economically, emotionally but also in family relations and practices of intergenerational justice. Whereas homeownership was traditionally seen as a bedrock of private wealth and security, nowadays the rates of homeownership are declining – making it particularly difficult for younger generations to get access to the housing market. In this presentation I will scrutinize the multifaceted roles of homeownership today and discuss various trajectories between private wealth, public welfare, family practices and matters of intergenerational justice.

Panel #1 Land, Space, and the Concentration of Wealth

From Colonial Transfers to Contemporary Deals: Land Acquisitions, Land Use, and Inequality in East Africa

Project: Land Acquisitions and Rising Land Inequality in Rural East Africa

This contribution investigates the nexus between land acquisitions and land inequality in East Africa through a combination of systematic literature review and comparative case studies. Drawing on a systematic review of existing research, we first examine how land acquisitions are empirically linked to land inequality, highlighting key mechanisms, gaps, and areas of debate. Empirically, we focus on contrasting case studies in Kenya and Uganda, which reflect very different types and temporalities of land deals. These include “old” land acquisitions in Kenya, some dating back to the colonial period and characterized by multiple ownership transfers, and more recent land acquisitions in Kenya and Uganda, emerging since the early 2000s. Within these case studies, we analyze land use changes using satellite imagery to trace how land

acquisitions reshape land cover, agricultural patterns, and resource access. These spatial analyses are complemented by qualitative field research, which explores the social, economic, and institutional dynamics through which land deals influence local communities and exacerbate patterns of land inequality among different sections of the population – potentially leading to conflicts. By integrating a systematic review with spatial and participatory qualitative insights from diverse case studies, this contribution provides a nuanced understanding of how historical and contemporary land acquisitions interact with land use dynamics to produce differentiated patterns of (land) inequalities across East Africa.

Land Concentration and (Hyper-)Wealth in Latin America. New Challenges and Historical Continuities in the Agricultural Sector

Project: Turning Land into Capital. Historical Conjunctures of the (Re-)Production of Wealth in Latin America from the 19th to the 21st Century

Land concentration in Latin America is a constant topic on the political agenda; also in Europe. Within the framework of the Mercosur Agreement, the EU is concerned with how to deal with Latin American agribusiness and factory farming (e.g. chicken). Similarly, the technological package of genetically modified seeds and agrochemicals represents a new form of land control by transnational corporations such as Bayer/Monsanto. These new expressions of land concentration are part of a long historical continuum of land ownership and hyper-wealth, whose changing historical semantics and practices shed light on historical similarities and differences, which will be presented in this lecture.

Reconstructing Wealth in and through Space: A Methodological Approach

Project: Wealth and Space - Contested Geographies of Wealth (Re-)Production in Latin America

Wealth is not merely located in space; rather, it is actively produced, secured, and multiplied through spatial arrangements, legal frameworks, and corporate organisation. However, empirical research on wealth inequalities still faces a significant methodological challenge: the actors, assets, and relationships through which wealth operates are often fragmented across registries, company records, and uneven territorial data infrastructures, particularly in Latin American contexts. Our presentation introduces a methodological approach developed in the WEALTH & SPACE project that reconstructs wealth in and through space using firm-related data. Rather than treating company data as an obvious representation of economic reality, the approach recognises that they are partial traces requiring systematic

reconstruction. Combining relational analysis of firms, ownership structures and corporate linkages with spatial referencing and contextual interpretation allows us to move from isolated entities to broader constellations of wealth accumulation. The approach focuses on three core methodological steps: (1) identifying and harmonising heterogeneous firm datasets, (2) reconstructing ownership relations, corporate clusters and territorial anchors, and (3) linking these patterns to the socio-spatial dynamics of investment, land control, urban development and uneven regional transformation. Particular attention is given to issues of opacity, missing data and cross-country comparability. These are not considered merely as technical obstacles, but as integral features of how wealth is organised and concealed. Drawing on exemplary evidence from Latin American cases, the presentation demonstrates how this methodological strategy reveals spatialised wealth structures that remain largely inaccessible to conventional inequality metrics. We will argue that reconstructing firm-based wealth data opens up a promising avenue for critical socio-spatial research into wealth accumulation, concentration and power relations.

Panel #2 Influence through investment?

Conservation Philanthropism and Nature Tourism in the Global South

Project: Nature's Wealth or Nature for the Wealthy? Philanthropism and Ecotourism in the Global South

Wealth by super-rich philanthropists, flowing through international conservation NGOs, and generated by the luxury nature tourism industry, has become a significant driver of change in and around conservation areas in the Global South. While many of these areas are rich in biodiversity, the decision-makers and funding for conservation efforts typically come from the Global North. This has led to a situation where a small number of wealthy individuals from North America and Europe exert considerable influence over decisions that impact vast regions of the planet. This concentration of power at times raises doubts and causes concern, but stakeholders also argue that without private wealth, it will be impossible to protect biodiversity in the long term. Based on media research and field work in Chile, Tanzania and Ecuador, the aim of our project is to unravel the transformative effects of wealth utilized for biodiversity conservation on a local, regional and global scale, focusing on billionaire philanthropists, international conservation NGOs, and the luxury nature tourism industry. We examine actors and distributional effects, and analyze the material realities, practices, and discursive framings. We hope to generate new insights that have the potential to inform policies addressing the urgent issues of biodiversity conservation and social justice.

Medium-Scale Farmers, Moral Economies, and the Social Measure of Wealth in Rural Africa

Project: Medium-Scale Farmers in Rural Africa: Transformations in Belonging, Property, Kinship and Power

Since the early 2000s, many parts of Sub-Saharan Africa have witnessed a rapid rise of so-called medium-scale farming, often driven by urban professionals, politicians, civil servants, entrepreneurs, or retirees investing capital accumulated outside agriculture. Scholars and policymakers are divided on its effects: some project entrepreneurial activity and accumulation associated with medium-scale farming as the basis for broad-based growth and the reduction of poverty and inequality; others link medium-scale farming to patrimonial politics, the capture of rural rents at the expense of the rural poor, the distortion of economic performance and urban bias. This presentation, part literature review, part preliminary results, engages with these two diverging readings by inquiring what constitutes wealth and how wealth is socially defined, measured, and morally evaluated in the context of medium-scale farming. It traces how wealth in Africa has been described as not reducible to financial assets, productivity or profit but rather as embedded in social relations and moral authority. It develops from this first attempts for a relational perspective on African wealth and an analysis of the social evaluations, moral expectations, and institutional arrangements that shape how wealth is performed, perceived and defined and when wealth is seen as productive, legitimate, or problematic.

The Economic Capacities of wealth - Making Sense of Wealth Between Entrepreneurship Studies and Sociology

Project: The Capital's Shadow: Wealth Concentration in Startup Ecosystems

Given the centrality of capital in entrepreneurship and of entrepreneurial activity to wealth accumulation, one would expect a plethora of research on entrepreneurship and wealth. Yet, as we show in our literature review, there is a surprising lack of engagement with wealth in entrepreneurship research, and, conversely, sociological studies of wealth rarely address entrepreneurship. Concretely, we review the discourses in the seven leading journals in both fields. We show that in entrepreneurship research, wealth is primarily conceptualized in non-financial terms ("socio-emotional wealth") or in terms of strategies of "value creation" through entrepreneurial activity, while its fundamental role in enabling and shaping entrepreneurial activity at large remains a blind spot in the literature. Similarly, in the sociological discourse on wealth, entrepreneurship is seen as one of many sources of income and wealth, and as a means of legitimizing its accumulation. The structural power of wealth in entrepreneurial activity, as well as its shaping of intergenerational legacies, however, is rarely addressed. Overall, the social embedding of wealth and its capacity to direct and structure entrepreneurial action are surprising research gaps, which we address by studying the role of wealth in start-up economies.

Panel #3 Families, Dynasties, and the Governance of Wealth

Wealth as a Social Relationship. Intergenerational Aspects of the Familial (Re)Production of Wealth

Project: Wealth as a Social Relationship. Intergenerational Aspects of the Familial (Re)Production of Wealth

This collaborative project examines wealthy families in the D-A-CH-region, conceptualizing wealth not merely as an economic condition but as a dynamic field of social relations. Due to specific field constraints, we conducted family-related individual interviews with multiple members instead of full family interviews—a method that proved empirically fruitful. Our relational perspective reveals that familial practices of doing family and doing wealth are intertwined with each family's particular history and accumulation. Despite heterogeneity, three recurring tensions (control/trust; tradition/renewal; proximity/distance) shape all cases to varying degrees. Regarding wealth accumulation, two main groups emerge (entrepreneurially or part-time capital-investing wealth accumulation). All participants possess solid economic, cultural, and social capital enabling long-term expansion. The transfer and preservation of wealth appear as ongoing processes rather than single events—especially when transferors remain alive during succession. These processes involve not only material assets but also normative expectations such as achievement, financial independence, and responsibility. Contrary to common stereotypes, descendants do not enjoy unrestricted consumption; parents regulate economic resources to foster autonomy and responsibility while mobilizing their cultural, social, and economic capital to support education and development. This disciplinary logic serves simultaneously to protect both children and family wealth.

Powering Wealth Project: Data Access and Insights from Two Dynasties

Project: Powering Wealth. How Rich Families Shape the Energy Transition in Germany and Mexico, c. 1870-2024

The Powering Wealth Project researches dynastic strategies of wealthy families and their impact on energy transition in Germany and Mexico from 1870 until today. Since the project is explorative, the extent of data accessibility is a crucial challenge. In Germany, testaments are oftentimes safeguarded by opaque laws and bear little content on the question of “what is inherited”. While testaments in Mexico are richer in information, access is a logistical issue. These challenges are reflected in the cases of two wealthy dynasties, one from Germany one from Mexico. The cases illustrate the complex interplay between dynastic strategies - decisions on how, when, to whom and why assets are passed on - and energy transitions - decisive events in the creation and redistribution of wealth. They point to preliminary findings showcasing the different energy histories of Germany and Mexico, as well as differences in the articulation of “insiders and outsiders”. While some Mexican dynasties were founded by immigrants, this does not seem to be the case in Germany.

Financial Elites, Career Trajectories, and the Governance of Wealth

Project: INFILTRATES: Influence of Financial Elites: Trajectories, Socialization, Values and the repercussions of wealth in Germany, France and the UK

This presentation introduces INFILTRATES, a comparative research project examining how financial and strategic consulting elites are formed, how they acquire legitimacy, and how they exercise influence across economic and political fields in Germany, France, and the United Kingdom. While existing research has extensively documented rising wealth concentration and the expansion of finance into public goods, less attention has been paid to the concrete social mechanisms through which these dynamics are stabilized and defended. Drawing on key literatures on financialization, asset manager capitalism, elite reproduction, and meritocracy, the presentation reviews current knowledge on recruitment, socialization, career mobility, and policy influence among financial elites. The project advances the field by integrating these strands within a single analytical framework and by combining qualitative methods with large-scale comparative elite data. It investigates selection mechanisms and 'soft skills' in recruitment, the formation of elite worldviews and values, patterns of mobility into corporate and political leadership, and the role of lobbying and think tanks in shaping policy agendas on taxation, regulation, and public services. Beyond reviewing the literature, the presentation briefly outlines the project's structure and progress to date, including the constitution of the international research consortium and the initiation of data collection. By focusing on how wealth is not only accumulated but legitimized and governed, INFILTRATES speaks directly to contemporary debates on inequality, democratic accountability, and the political economy of wealth in Europe.

Panel #4 Politicians, Policies, and Publics

Politician Characteristics, Tax Policy, and the Wealth Distribution

Project: Politicians, Policies, and the Reproduction of Wealth

The Politicians, Policies and the Reproduction of Wealth (PoWER) project studies the link between politician characteristics and the tax policies they pass; in particular whether tax policies benefit the interests of the wealthy and thereby increase inequality. We undertake case studies of politician characteristics, tax policies, and wealth distributions in Brazil, Germany, South Africa, and the UK, as well as collect selected information on these for 50 democracies. Our preliminary findings show connections between politician characteristics and their behavior. For instance, across 50 democracies, finance ministers that cut taxes are more likely to enjoy a post-politics career in the finance sector. From our case studies, we find that members of parliament (in South Africa), are more likely to ask questions in parliament on topics that match the sectors in which they have financial investments. We have also obtained very preliminary insights on the overall bias of tax policy-making towards better-off citizens. We find some preliminary evidence of how regressive tax policy is often rendered opaque by making it less specific in party platforms (although it is not less likely to be passed); and by diluting progressive initiatives with deferral strategies

and technical amendments.

Truth or Myth? A Critical Examination of Prevailing Narratives Opposing an Increased Inheritance Tax

Project: The Deserving Rich - A Multidisciplinary Analysis of the (Re-)production of (German) Wealth

Our article examines the truth claims of dominant narratives surrounding inheritance taxation in Germany. Focusing on three particularly influential narratives - double taxation, capital flight, and the adverse effects on business assets - we analyze arguments commonly mobilized by economic elites opposing a stronger and more progressive inheritance tax. Using an interdisciplinary approach that combines empirical analysis with epistemic and normative evaluation, we assess whether these narratives are factually valid or should instead be understood as political myths lacking an objective truth basis. Our findings show that the examined narratives are partly exaggerated and, in several respects, demonstrably false. They are grounded in an uncritically assumed ordoliberal or neoliberal economic paradigm and operate ideologically by amplifying fears of economic harm, employment loss, and threats to family-owned businesses. By exposing these narratives as myths, the article highlights how their political efficacy depends on being taken as natural or self-evident truths. In the context of rising wealth inequality and the consolidation of inheritance-based societies, our analysis provides a critical contribution to debates on tax justice and supports arguments for strengthening progressive inheritance taxation.

What Do People Talk About When They Talk About Wealth and Inequality

Project: WealthTalks: The (Re-)Production of Wealth Inequality in Everyday Conversations

While economists rely on clearly delimited definitions of wealth, we know far less about how laypeople conceive of wealth and which topics structure their conversations about wealth and inequality. We present two empirical spotlights from a larger comparative project on lay talk about wealth and inequality. First, drawing on 42 focus groups in Botswana, Brazil, Germany, South Africa, and the United States, we examine how participants define wealth. Across contexts, wealth emerges as multi-layered yet diffuse rather than as a precisely specified continuous variable. It is frequently conflated with income, infused with moral and non-material elements, and framed through a binary between relatable “ordinary” affluence and the incomprehensible super-rich. Second, we comparatively map topics in inequality debates in the largest political Subreddits in Germany and the United States. Using keyword-based retrieval and LLM classification, we show that inequality is often discussed latently. Structural topic modeling reveals clear cross-national differences: U.S. debates are strongly elite-centered and partisan, framing inequality as a problem of democracy and political power, whereas German

discussions are broader and more focused on fairness, living conditions, and welfare-state design.

Panel #5 Seeing Wealth: Perceptions, Fairness, and Speculative Features

Wealth Concentration and Social Cohesion

Project: Wealth and Social Cohesion from a Relational Perspective

This project investigates whether the increasing gap between a wealthy elite and the general population undermines social cohesion. Whereas recent scholarship and public debate focus on processes through which the super wealthy impact society, this project seeks to trace the broader social consequences arising from the reactions and views of those below the top. As they lose ground towards the wealthy, the general population may start questioning their belief in equal opportunity, trust in government, or civic engagement more broadly. That is, high and increasing relative wealth inequality may pose a direct challenge to social cohesion. In the presentation we present two approaches that this project will pursue: First, a macro-level perspective that reports initial cross-national comparative evidence to describe the link between relative wealth inequality and multiple measures of social cohesion. Second, our micro-level perspective draws on focus group discussions, among other methods, to examine how people perceive conflicts over wealth and ownership. It starts from the premise that perceptions influence everyday actions through which social cohesion is continuously produced.

Wealth and Perception of Fairness

Project: Wealth Inequality: Attitudes, Opportunities, and Behavior

Economic models of household financial behavior assume that financial markets provide fair investment opportunities, yet whether households actually perceive the system as providing fair equal opportunities and whether differences in beliefs affect financial behavior has received little direct evidence. We provide direct evidence using novel U.S. household microdata that combine detailed balance sheets with direct measures of perceived financial-system fairness. We document three facts. Perceptions of fairness are highly heterogeneous across households; wealthier households systematically view the system as more fair; and households with higher perceived fairness participate more in financial markets and allocate larger shares of wealth to equities. To rationalize these patterns, we develop a learning model with heterogeneous idiosyncratic returns in which realized outcomes shape beliefs and beliefs shape risk-taking. This feedback generates an amplification mechanism: endogenous perceptions of fairness increase participation and asset demand among the wealthy, widening wealth inequality.

Digital Twins and Speculative Futures of Wealth

Project: Smartness as Wealth

How does smartness reformulate wealth? The centrality of artificial intelligence and big data to national economies is today largely unquestioned, particularly in their presumed capacity to generate new forms of wealth. But how are smart technologies reshaping the entangled relationships between wealth, governance, and urbanism? This presentation takes up the example of digital twins—computational models used to manage urban infrastructure and environment—to examine how ubiquitous computing and AI are transforming capital accumulation and remaking the imaginaries of global cities. Drawing on our case study of Hamburg, and relating this to broader developments in planetary urbanism, we highlight key dimensions of how digital twins transform relations of wealth, for example in reconfiguring public-private partnerships, establishing speculative relations of assetization, or reasserting historical modes of extraction. In this, the very operation of digital twins is largely tentative and speculative, existing between imaginaries, prototypes and illustrative instantiations, and is negotiated between big tech companies promoting their visions of techno-capitalist futures and alternative visions driven by public interests. In this way, the global city remains a playground and testbed of futures of wealth and technology.

Keynote #2

What Kind of Society Breeds $r > g$?

Since the 1970s, wealth inequality in advanced capitalist societies has intensified as returns on capital increasingly exceed economic growth ($r > g$). Research on wealth inequality has typically focused on the super-rich; however, what is needed is an understanding of the shifting role of wealth in society more broadly, including middle-class asset ownership as well as the consequences of assetlessness. I examine the societal effects of rising wealth concentration and the growing importance of private assets. Rather than interpreting these developments through metaphors such as neo-feudalism or plutocracy, it conceptualizes them as the emergence of an asset society. In such societies, access to assets structures security, life chances, and political power. The lecture analyzes key economic, legal, social, political, and normative features of asset societies and argues that the increasing importance of private assets entails a qualitative reorganization of capitalist modernity requiring new perspectives for research on wealth.

Participants

Title	Name	Surname	Institution	Project in funding line
Dr.	Lorenz	Adlung	NaWiK National Institute for Science Communication	—
Dr.	Despina	Alexiadou	University of Strathclyde	Politicians, Policies, and the Reproduction of Wealth
Prof. Dr.	Christian	Arndt	Hochschule für Wirtschaft und Umwelt Nürtingen-Geislingen	—
Dr.	Louise	Ashley	Queen Mary University of London	INFILTRATES
Prof. Dr.	Jens	Beckert	Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies	—
	Aria	Behjat	Bahá'í-Gemeinde Deutschland K.d.ö.R.	—
	Thorsten	Benner	Global Public Policy Institute	Powering Wealth
Prof. Dr.	Armin	Beverungen	Leuphana Universität Lüneburg	Smartness as Wealth
Prof. Dr.	Maria	Brockhaus	University of Helsinki	—
Prof. Dr.	Christian	Bueschges	Universität Bern	Turning Land into Capital
Prof. Dr.	Nicole	Burzan	Technische Universität Dortmund	Wealth as a Social Relationship
Prof. Dr.	Flavio	Carvalhaes	Federal University of	WealthTalks

			Rio de Janeiro	
Dr.	Kwok Yan	Chiu	Universität Mannheim	Wealth Inequality
Prof. Dr.	Julia	de Groote	Bergische Universität Wuppertal	Capital's Shadow
	Mahsa	Fallah	VW Foundation	—
	Lisa	Fütterer	Psychologische Hochschule Berlin	—
	Josué	Garcia	Universität Bielefeld	Turning Land into Capital
PD Dr.	Andrés	Gerique Zipfel	Universität Salzburg	Philanthropism and Ecotourism in the Global South
	Stephen	Glauser	Russell Sage Foundation	—
Dr.	Aidan	Gnoth	Philipps-Universität Marburg	—
Prof. Dr.	Stefan	Gosepath	Freie Universität Berlin	The Deserving Rich
Prof. Dr.	Orit	Halpern	Technische Universität Dresden	Smartness as Wealth
Dr.	Randi	Heinrichs	Leuphana Universität Lüneburg	Smartness as Wealth
Prof. Dr.	Ilse	Helbrecht	Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin	—
Dr.	Corinna	Hölzl	Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin	Wealth and Space
Prof. Dr.	Michael	Janoschka	Karlsruher Institut für Technologie	Wealth and Space
Prof. Dr.	Silke	Jansen	Friedrich-Alexander-	Philanthropism and

			Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg	Ecotourism in the Global South
Prof. Dr.	Olaf	Kaltmeier	Universität Bielefeld	Turning Land into Capital
Dr.	Eckard	Kämper	Deutsche Forschungs- gemeinschaft	—
Dr.	Sarah	Kerr	Joseph Rowntree Foundation	—
Dr.	Nora	Kottmann	Volkswagen Foundation	—
	Jan Ole	Krieg	Bergische Universität Wuppertal	The Capital's Shadow
Dr.	Alice	Krozer	El Colegio de México	Powering Wealth
Dr.	Ibrahim	Kuran	Philipps-Universität Marburg	Politicians, Policies, and the Reproduction of Wealth
Dr.	Raphael	Kweyu	Kenyatta University	Land Acquisitions and Rising Land Inequality in Rural East Africa
Prof. Dr.	Philipp	Lepenies	Freie Universität Berlin	The Deserving Rich
	Clara	Löffler	Munich International Stone Center for Inequality Research	Wealth and Social Cohesion from a Relational Perspective
Prof. Dr.	Maria Fernanda	Lopez	Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales Ecuador	Turning Land into Capital

Prof. Dr.	Michael	Lukas	Universidad de Chile	Wealth and Space
Dr.	Tobias	Meier	NaWik National Institute for Science Communication	—
	Anika	Muder	Thünen Institute for Rural Economics	Land Acquisitions and Rising Land Inequality in Rural East Africa
Dr.	Resty	Naiga	Makerere University	Land Acquisitions and Rising Land Inequality in Rural East Africa
Prof. Dr.	Christian	Neuhäuser	Technische Universität Dortmund	The Deserving Rich
Dr.	Benjamin	Neumann	Technische Universität Dortmund	Wealth as a Social Relationship
Prof. Dr.	Kerstin	Nolte	Thünen Institute for Rural Economics	Land Acquisitions and Rising Land Inequality in Rural East Africa
	Laura	Opolka	Technische Universität Dortmund	The Deserving Rich
	Theresa	Pausch	Freie Universität Berlin	WealthTalks
Prof. Dr.	Miquel	Pellicer	Philipps-Universität Marburg	Politicians, Policies, and the Reproduction of Wealth
Prof. Dr.	Fabian	Pfeffer	Munich International Stone Center for Inequality Research	Wealth and Social Cohesion from a Relational Perspective
	Isabella	Pfusterer	Freie Universität	The Deserving Rich

			Berlin	
	Lukas	Rädle	Philipps-Universität Marburg	Politicians, Policies and the Reproduction of Wealth
Dr.	Susanne	Reinhardt	Freie Universität Berlin	WealthTalks
Dr.	Germano	Ribeiro	Federal University of Rio de Janeiro	WealthTalks
	Erika	Rosado Valencia	Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg	Philanthropism and Ecotourism in the Global South
	Lidia	Rosenfeld	Bahá'í-Gemeinde Deutschland K.d.ö.R.	—
Dr.	Jay	Rowell	Centre Marc Bloch	INFILTRATES
	Caroline	Rübe	Global Public Policy Institute	Powering Wealth
Dr.	Guadalupe	Sátiro	University of Brasilia	Wealth and Space
Prof. Dr.	Sergio	Sauer	University of Brasilia	Wealth and Space
Dr.	David	Schieferdecker	Freie Universität Berlin	WealthTalks
PD Dr.	Christian	Schneicke	Otto-von-Guericke-Universität Magdeburg	INFILTRATES
Prof. Dr.	Isabell	Stamm	Technische Universität Berlin	Medium-Scale Farmers in Rural Africa
Dr.	Melina	Teubner	Universität Bern	Turning Land into Capital
Dr.	Nhat An	Trinh	Wissenschaftszentrum	Wealth and Social

			m Berlin	Cohesion from a Relational Perspective
Dr.	Giulia	Venturini	University of Strathclyde	Politicians, Policies, and the Reproduction of Wealth
Prof. Dr.	Berthold	Vogel	Soziologisches Forschungsinstitut Göttingen	Wealth as a Social Relationship
Prof. Dr.	Eva	Wegner	Philipps-Universität Marburg	Politicians, Policies, and the Reproduction of Wealth
Dr.	Marliese	Weißmann	Soziologisches Forschungsinstitut Göttingen	Wealth as a Social Relationship
Dr.	Adelheid	Wessler	Volkswagen Foundation	—

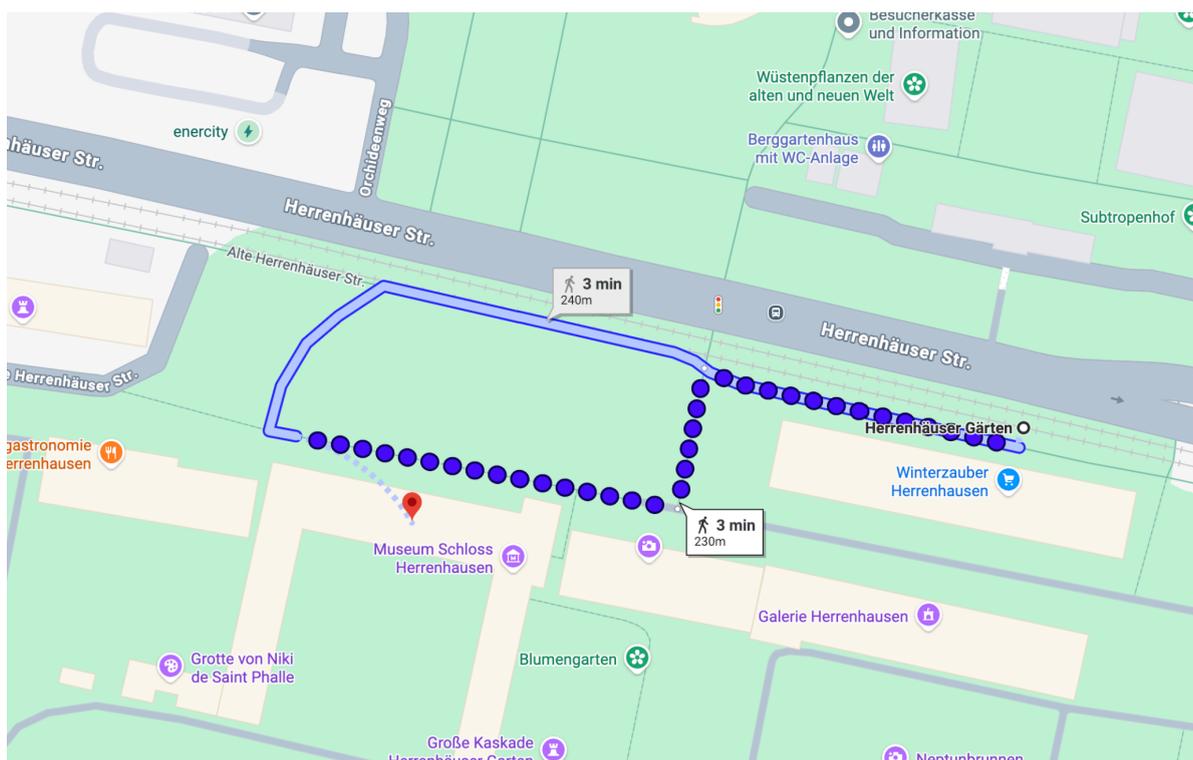
Event location

The symposium will be held at Schloss Herrenhausen in Hanover. The castle is a reconstructed baroque palace within the Herrenhausen Gardens, originally built in the 17th century as a summer residence of the House of Hanover and today used as an academic conference venue by the Volkswagen Foundation.

📍 Schloss Herrenhausen | Kongresszentrum

Herrenhäuser Straße 5
 30419 Hannover
<https://schloss-herrenhausen.de/>
 +49 (0) 511 7637440
info@schloss-herrenhausen.de

Please use lines 4 or 5 of the tram-subway-hybrid or bus 136 to the stop “Herrenhäuser Gärten”. The location is directly opposite the tram station. The closest station to the hotels is “Kröpcke”.



Dinner Recommendations

If you arrive the day before the symposium and are looking for dinner recommendations or a place to meet with colleagues and other participants, we can recommend the following restaurants:

Name	Cuisine	Price	Address	Phone	Website
Weinstube Leonardo	Italian	€€€	Sophienstraße 6, 30159 Hannover	+49 511 321033	http://www.weinstube-leonardo.de/
Bavarium	German/ Bavarian	€€	Windmühlenstraße 6, 30159 Hannover	+49 511 323600	http://www.bavarium.de/
L'Osteria	Pizza	€€	Lavesstraße 1-2, 30159 Hannover	+49 511 84877138	http://losteria.de/hannover-lavesstrasse/
MARY's Restaurant (Luisenhof)	International/ Hotel	€€€	Luisenstraße 1-3, 30159 Hannover	+49 511 3044816	http://marys-hannover.de/
HeimW	International	€€	Theaterstraße 6, 30159 Hannover	+49 511 2352303	http://www.heimw.de/
Al Dar	Syrian	€€€	Königstraße 3, 30175 Hannover	+49 511 8984994	http://aldar.de/hannover/
Paulaner am Thielenplatz	German/ Bavarian	€€	Thielenplatz 5, 30159 Hannover	+49 511 3681285	http://www.paulaner-am-thielenplatz.de/
Meyers Lebenslust	German	€€	Osterstraße 64, 30159 Hannover	+49 511 8982250	http://www.meiers-lebenslust.de/
Ständige Vertretung	German	€€	Friedrichswall 10, 30159 Hannover	+49 511 2138690	http://www.staev.de/de/
Block House	Steaks	€€	Ständehausstraße 4, 30159 Hannover	+49 511 321239	https://www.block-house.de/speisekarte/
Brauhaus Hannover	German	€€	Schmiedestraße 13, 30159 Hannover	+49 511 365950	https://www.brauhaus.net/
Jim Block Hannover	Burger	€	Georgstraße 35, 30159 Hannover	+49 511 12357591	http://www.jim-block.de/home.html

Sharing your research beyond the symposium

Participants of the symposium are warmly invited to publish a short, accessible summary of their presentation on ungleichheit.info.

Martyna Linartas and her team welcome contributions of approximately 0.5–1 page, written in clear and engaging language that translates your scientific findings for a broader audience. Posts may ideally be submitted in both German and English. You are also encouraged to include:

(1) A short highlight quote (either taken directly from the text or summarizing a key insight).

(2) Link(s) to related papers, project websites, or further information

Please send your contribution to: info@ungleichheit.info Subject line: "Blogbeitrag – VW Symposium – NAME". (There is no strict deadline; however, we appreciate submissions within six weeks after the symposium.)

Organizing team

Volkswagen Foundation

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