KULTURSYMPOSIUM WEIMAR 2016
THE SHARING GAME
1–3 JUNE 2016

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PRESS RELEASE

GOETHE-INSTITUT PRESENTS THE PROGRAMME OF THE KULTURSYMPOSIUM WEIMAR

This summer, the Goethe-Institut is bringing international experts on matters of “The Sharing Game” to Germany for a new series of events, the KULTURSYMPOSIUM WEIMAR. From 1 to 3 June 2016, participants from the fields of economy, culture and politics will deal with global social issues and examine sharing and exchange as the universal and timeless foundations of human cultural practices. The programme was presented at a press conference in Berlin.

In Weimar, 300 participants from the arts, industry, sciences and politics will discuss ideas and stimuli on sharing and exchange within a creative atmosphere. Traditional formats such as lectures and panel discussions will be supplemented by Fishbowls, exchange performances, and other artistic interventions. Today at a press conference in Berlin, Johannes Ebert, secretary-general of the Goethe-Institut, and Andreas Ströhl, director of the Kultursymposium, offered insights into the programme of 75 events at 15 venues that will take place in Weimar for three days in June 2016. Points of view from various cultures had been developed in advance at events held by many branches of the Goethe-Institut abroad.

The secretary-general of the Goethe-Institut, Johannes Ebert, explained, “In a world in which the boundaries between inside and outside are blurring, mutual discussion of goals and values is gaining in importance. In Weimar, we are bringing the best minds together from the worldwide network of the Goethe-Institut. In a creative atmosphere, we want to make the artistic and discursive debate on current issues of the future visible.” Representatives of the sponsors, Merck, Siemens and Volkswagen, also spoke about their interest in the subject matter of the Kultursymposium, the core assumption of which was defined by director Andreas Ströhl, who said, “Economic activity is part of culture and must be understood as a cultural phenomenon.”

Keynotes & Lectures

The Czech economist Tomáš Sedláček and the American bestseller author and social theorist Jeremy Rifkin will speak at the opening of the Kultursymposium. The German historian Ute Frevert will examine the role of trust in sharing and exchange and the sociologist Eva Illouz from Israel will speak on the paradigms of sharing. Against the background of immigration and growing inequality, the Italian globalization critic Antonio Negri will ask, “What are we willing to share?”

Fishbowls & World Cafés

In addition to lectures and panels, participants will be able to continue addressing the topics in participatory models. “Sharing, Market and Regulation” as well as political and legal responses to new business models are the topics that will be spoken about by Michael Hüther (Cologne), Evgeny Morozov (Stanford) and Ulrich Schwalbe (Hohenheim), and then further discussed in the cooperative workshop method of a World Café. Another World Café will follow the panel discussion about “Shared Heritage” with Neil MacGregor, Hermann Parzinger and Klaus-Dieter Lehmann. In “Buy Your Way to Happiness” Hartmut Rosa (Jena), Joachim...
Klöckner (Berlin) and Atsushi Miura (Tokyo) will speak on the paradoxes of the late modern consumer culture, followed by a Fishbowl conversation opening a debate on the subject.

**Artistic interventions**
The Swiss performance artist Martin Schick will take the principles of the sharing economy to the absurd extreme with “Halfbreadtechnique – Post Capitalism for Beginners.” In “Positions,” the Croatian choreographer Ivana Müller develops economics in a variety of ways – movement, identity, emotion, capital, which can be negotiated and swapped on the “black market.” The Korean game designer Nolgong and the dramaturge Benjamin von Blomberg (Munich) have designed a devilish game that will have its German premiere in Weimar: In “Being Faust – Enter Mephisto” gamers can trade values and ideals on their smartphones. The Kula Ring is a ritual exchange of gifts traditionally practiced in the Bismarck Archipelago of the Western Pacific. Artists such as Newell Harry (Australia) and Donna Ong (Singapore), whose works will be shown in an exhibition at the Weimar gallery Eigenheim, will explore the peaceful and balancing swaps of the Kula Ring.

**The Kultursymposium Weimar**
The KULTURSYMPOSIUM WEIMAR takes up social trends and sheds light on them in cultural, economic and political contexts. It emphasizes the significance of culture as a societal link and bearer of shared values. The encounters by the 300 participants in Weimar serve towards an exchange of perspectives between European and other cultures while offering artistic and academic access to the subject matter. The Goethe-Institut thereby underscores the great importance of the cultural city of Weimar. An advisory board has been set up for the Kultursymposium with Aleida Assmann, Christina von Braun, Neil MacGregor, Petros Markaris and Robert Wilson.

The KULTURSYMPOSIUM WEIMAR is open to anyone interested. Ticket sales have already begun. You can get tickets and more details about the programme at [www.goethe.de/kultursymposium](http://www.goethe.de/kultursymposium)

*The KULTURSYMPOSIUM WEIMAR is a biannual series of events by the Goethe-Institut during which global social issues will be discussed by experts, intellectuals and artists from the network of the Goethe-Institut worldwide. The first KULTURSYMPOSIUM WEIMAR, entitled “The Sharing Game,” is made possible with kind support from Merck, Siemens and Volkswagen. Media partners are 3Sat, brand eins, Deutschlandfunk and Le Monde diplomatique.*
CURATORIAL STATEMENT

Why do humans exchange or share? They can’t help it. And they don’t want to either: being human is manifested in sharing and exchanging. Not merely to trade goods for reciprocal benefits, but foremost to establish, maintain and intensify relationships with others. What becomes apparent in emergencies or among refugees applies to us all: exchanging and sharing are existential necessities and anthropological constants, communicative and social gestures intended to give life meaning. The manner in which it is done, in turn, is culturally and often religiously coded and highly varied. In the respective specific act of exchanging and sharing we recognize the essence of different cultural paradigms. The search for dialogical meaning is concealed behind the pursuit of profit and the material motives of sharing and exchange. Economic theories must therefore take the symbolic character of exchange processes into account. Economic acts are part of culture. They must be understood as a cultural phenomenon. This is a core thesis of the Kultursymposium that Tomáš Sedláček will present in his keynote opening address.

The KULTURSYMPOSIUM WEIMAR 2016 will investigate what social and cultural ideas and developments are behind various manifestations of exchanging and sharing. Does the increase in sharing and exchange testify to social rethinking or is it a passing fad? What economic and social consequences come about when access to products, services and ideas is more important than their ownership? What forms of exchange and sharing have developed in other cultures? What do sharing and exchange mean for the relations between cultures and countries, for international cultural dialogue?

Sharing and exchange are economic and anthropological phenomena, phénomène social total (Marcel Mauss), which run through every aspect of life in society. While exchanging is usually interpreted as a neutral phenomenon, the notion of sharing has always been associated with utopias and today in particular with tangible aspirations for sustainable forms of economics, a fairer distribution of goods and new international networks. The Sharing Economy is accompanied not only by positive expectations, but also by fears of the ruination of entire industries, of the dissolution of social standards or an increasing commercialization of our lives.

Practices of sharing and exchange are presently all the rage. Theoretical reflexions of these phenomena also fascinate not just stakeholders, but large parts of the public in many cultures. Apparently, practices of sharing play just as great a role in impoverished, pre-modern countries as in prosperous, late modern societies in which possession of things is no longer a primarily desirable
criterion of distinction. Collaboration, participation, cohesion and trust are values that are presently experiencing an unforeseen upsurge and possibly are at the forefront before and after a modern age aligned to growth, progress and consumption.

In parallel **programme strands** the Kultursymposium will explore various aspects of sharing and exchange. The central questions addressed will include: With what different meanings do we speak of “sharing” things? What cultural values are associated with the practice of sharing and exchange? What new networks are generated by collaborative forms of economics? What role does trust play in the Sharing Economy? Are food and car sharing, couch surfing, swap parties and such cultural, social or economic phenomena – or are they all of these things at once?

**EXCHANGE AND SHARING: CULTURAL MEANINGS, ANTHROPOLOGY, HISTORY OF IDEAS**

One of the thematic strands will grapple with cultural meanings of sharing and exchange, with its anthropology and the historical development of ideas. The narrowest meaning of “sharing” is that of division, as illustrated, for example, by the etymological relationship between the words “share” and “shear.” Even the notion of giving, frequently associated with sharing, is already an extended meaning that goes even further in the case of “shared spaces” or even “shared values.” There is nevertheless a reason why we frequently make use of the image of division. But a thing that is divided is no longer whole. Exchanging seems less complex; giving one thing in return for another. When we look more closely, however, the matter is far more complex for the stakeholders usually have cultural, ideological, religious or emotional motives, and magical, irrational thought has always dominated economic actions, for example the belief that the swapped item still contains part of the soul of its previous owner. At the least, ties are created between the exchangers.

**THE EXCHANGE: BASIC FIGURE OF COMMUNICATION, SOCIETY AND RELIGION**

A second thematic strand deals with these ties: exchanging as a basic figure of communication, society and religion. Since Aristoteles, or at least since the 18th century, exchange has been a universal figure on which almost everything is based: the economy, law, magic, religions, society, chemistry and physics, metabolism and traffic. Exchanging is the component of society; it is a total social phenomenon. All forms of human co-existence are based on exchanges. Until recently, all communication and media theories were also based on the principle of exchange. Even in non-human communities, among primates, for instance, we observe exchange practices. What, therefore, does exchanging mean
for culture and society? Does the marketplace create social welfare as such or does it require a cultural, ethical foundation in order to be able to function?

UTOPIA: THE SHARING ECONOMY
This question leads us to the third thematic strand, which deals with sharing as a utopia, for instance the Sharing Economy and the Commons. The idea of global public goods, common goods, commonly used property is hugely popular at the moment: Creative commons platforms from Latin America, collective savings communities in West Africa and New York or banks in Belgium and Scandinavia trading in common time, not money. While complaints are heard in the discourse in Germany about the undermining of legal standards and the monopolistic tendencies of the Sharing Economy, cooperative alternatives have become established in New Zealand and on the eastern seaboard of the United States. What social values and what motivations are behind the often-postulated sharing trend? What role do technological and media transformation play? To what extent can sharing mean gaining freedom?

THE DOCTRINE OF SHARING AND EXCHANGE
When sharing, we ask in another thematic strand on sharing and exchange, is a doctrine, acquired, hence not an anthropological constant, but an ontogenetic aspect of civilisation, how much (culturally specific) pressure is applied to attain the educational goal? Is this the origin of discontent within a culture? Because we would rather have, or are coerced to give? Because the noble demand to share all with our neighbours or even with strangers can never be truly honoured? Why has sharing – quite unlike exchanging – always had positive and never neutral associations? Is this really the case everywhere in the world or only within our cultural sphere and does this perhaps have something to do with the influence of Christianity or Islam on our culture, which demands that we be willing to share? In other words, is it less pronounced in other cultures? And what happens when sharing or closeness to others is forced on us? What attitude towards sharing do people have in post-socialist states in which they were forced to share ownership as well as their privacy with others for decades?

SHARING AND EXCHANGE IN NETWORKS OF CULTURAL EXCHANGE
Finally, our last thematic strand will examine the question of how we share and exchange in networks of cultural exchange. What is cultural exchange, what exactly are we exchanging? Does this exchange create trust or does it not rather make trust its prerequisite in order to take place? What can this exchange result in? Against the background of displacement, migration and rising economic disparities, we must more urgently ask, “What we are willing to share?” How does the principle of unrequited exchange, sharing with strangers, hospitality, fit into an age of accelerated migration? Are there cross-cultural goods that are
commonly shared? Values, cultural assets, a cultural world heritage, a shared heritage? And when forced digitalization exhibits the tendency to circumvent and supersede intermediaries (bank branches, bookshops, post offices, travel agencies and the recording industry), what effect does this have on mediator institutions, national cultural institutes such as the British Council or the Goethe-Institut?

Dr Andreas Ströhl, director KULTURSYMPOSIUM WEIMAR
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EXAMPLES FROM THE PROGRAMME

Key Lecture: Global Commons
Bauhaus-Universität Audimax, 1 June 2016, 7:30 pm
The opening lecture will be held by the American economist and bestselling author Jeremy Rifkin. Capitalism, according to Rifkin, is destroying itself in a global competition with ever-increasing production and steadily falling prices until there is no more profit left. However, the economy of sharing and swapping and participation in global commons could change everything.

Performance: Halfbreadtechnique – Post Capitalism for Beginners
E-Werk, 2 June 2016, 2:00 pm
The Swiss actor and performance artist Martin Schick joins a dancer from a European country in economic crisis for an interactive performance. Halfbreadtechnique – Post Capitalism for Beginners is a choreography of services in which complex economic relationships find a simplified form and simultaneously form the material for a highly truthful farce. He gives half of his own possessions to the needy and shares everything: the stage, the audience, the arts grant and the props.

Empirical study: The Evolution of Altruism
E-Werk, 2 June 2016, 4:00 pm
Sharing and the ability to distance oneself from one's own interests and inclinations are seen as genuinely human characteristics. But how does cooperative behaviour evolve and how does it spread? The New York philosopher Philip Kitcher explores the conceptual foundations of altruism. The primatologist Christophe Boesch and the behavioural biologist Sabine Tebbich provide insights into empirical studies with apes.

World Café: Sharing, Market and Regulation
Bauhaus-Universität Oberlichtsaal, 2 June 2016, 4:00 pm
In the public debate over the so-called sharing economy, although many are already talking about the end of the gold rush, the growth and sales rates of industry giants remain impressive. At present, political and legal responses are being called for. Do the new business models demand new regulations or liberalization? What should we think of an unconditional basic income? After presentations by Michael Huether, Evgeny Morozov and Ulrich Schwalbe, the topic will be discussed further using the cooperative workshop method of the World Café.
Discussion: What are we willing to share?
E-Werk, 2 June 2016, 7:30 pm
Against the background of migration and growing economic inequality, Antonio Negri asks, “What are we willing to share?” The Italian political scientist gained global recognition with his book Empire. He will talk with Jean-Pierre Bekolo, one of Cameroon’s most famous film-makers whose work is strongly influenced by political and gender issues.

Talk: Commonism
Goethe-Nationalmuseum Festsaal, 3 June 2016, 4:00 pm
In Western societies of the 21st century, property and possessions seem to mean less than they did only a few years ago. But how does it look in formerly socialist countries? Are there parallels between the common property of socialism and today’s sharing economy? Any form of sharing is also a form of community according to the social scientist Ivars Ijabs, who will talk with Carsten Schneider (MdB) about sharing under socialism.

Lecture: Trust in the Ethical Economy of Sharing and Exchange
Goethe-Nationalmuseum Festsaal, 3 June 2016, 9:30 am
The historian Ute Frevert examines the role of trust in sharing and exchanging. In the historical ebb and flow of emotions, trust is currently experiencing an astonishing boom. Today, trust, once a private attitude, has transformed into an element of social action. The term’s use is so inflationary today that its contours are often blurred. Where is the boundary between economic rationale and human empathy?

Game: Being Faust–Enter Mephisto
Kasseturm, 1 June 2016, 7:00 und 10:00 pm, 2 June 2016, 5:00 und 8:00 pm
The Korean game designer Nolgong has developed a devilish game in collaboration with the dramaturge Benjamin von Blomberg. Equipped with a smartphone, the player, a young Faust in the digital age, encounters the enticing virtual world of MEPHISTO, in which values and ideals are swapped. Being Faust–Enter Mephisto will celebrate its German premiere at the Kultursymposium in Weimar.

Exhibition: The Kula Ring
2 June to 10 July 2016, open Tuesday to Saturday, 2:00 to 7:00 pm,
2 and 3 June starting at 12:00 noon
Kula or Kula ring is a ritual exchange of gifts that is traditionally practiced in the Bismarck Archipelago of the Western Pacific. A necklace is passed clockwise from island to island, while a bracelet moves in the opposite direction. The
anthropologist Marcel Mauss writes that the Kula ring “incorporates all of the possible legal principles that we too are familiar with but keep separate.” The peaceful and harmonizing swap of the Kula ring is being taken up by Renata de Bonis (Brazil), Newell Harry (Australia), Thomas Rentmeister (Germany), Jenifer Teo, Woon Tien Wei (Singapore Philatelic Museum) and others in the artworks, which will be shown in an exhibition curated by Alfons Hug at the Eigenheim gallery.

You can find the complete programme and the programme app at www.goethe.de/kultursymposium
KSWE16 MOBILE APP

The app for the KULTURSYMPOSIUM WEIMAR 2016 offers a useful overview of the entire programme. Symposium participants can additionally put together their own personal programme by selecting Favourites.

The web app works offline and can be saved on the home screen as an app icon.

Note: The app is not available in private mode in your browser. Private mode must be switched off in your browser’s user settings.
SPIELSTÄTTEN IN WEIMAR

1  E-Werk
Am Kirschberg 4

2  Tipis
Am Kirschberg 4

3  Lichthaus Kino
Am Kirschberg 4

4  Galerie Eigenheim
Gärtnerhaus im Weimarhallenpark

5  Neue Weimarhalle
Unesco-Platz 1

6  Kunsthalle Harry Graf Kessler
Goetheplatz 9B

7  Kasseturm
Goetheplatz 10

8  Reithaus
Park an der Ilm

9  Goethe-Nationalmuseum
Frauenplan 1

10  Bauhaus-Universität Audimax
Steubenstraße 6-8

11  Notenbank
Steubenstraße 15

12  Bauhaus-Universität Oberlichtsaal
Geschwister-Scholl-Straße 8

13  Parkhöhle
Park an der Ilm

14  Villa Dürckheim
Cranachstraße 47
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PERSPECTIVES FROM ABROAD: CENTRAL EASTERN EUROPE

Prior to the KULTURSYMPOSIUM WEIMAR, the Goethe-Instituts in Abidjan, Bratislava, Buenos Aires, Jakarta, Cairo, New York, Porto Alegre, Thessaloniki, São Paulo, Sofia, St. Petersburg and Wellington discussed sharing and exchange from the perspectives of their respective cultures. Diverse cultural traditions, local initiatives, artistic adaptations and scientific approaches thus enrich the Kultursymposium with new ideas and voices, as the examples from Central and Eastern Europe show.

COMMONISM: DINNER CONVERSATION ON DIFFERENT CONCEPTS OF SHARING
Review: Round Table in Pilsen, 27 November 2015
The Goethe-Institut Bratislava invited five international experts from academia and the arts to Pilsen to illuminate the phenomenon of sharing and exchange from the perspective of the formerly socialist countries of Central and Eastern Europe. At a dinner, they discussed current varieties of the sharing economy and scrutinized contemporary concepts of sharing: Are they cultural trends or new forms of capitalism? The bottom line is that the new euphoria of sharing and the trend that ownership and property mean far less to young people in the West today than a few years ago cannot be observed in post-socialist societies.

GIVE EVERYTHING! EXPERIMENTS WITH SPACES AND SWAPPING
Preview: Regional project Central and Eastern Europe 2016/2017
The Goethe-Instituts in Central and Eastern Europe want to develop new cooperation models with local institutions through sharing and exchange and experimentally think ahead on their own work. For example, in Riga the institute was made available to the local scene as a project, gallery or event space. The Goethe-Institut in Prague offers a co-working space for cultural professionals in the capital city. Bratislava in turn expanded the institute library with a Library of Things and thus the opportunity not only to borrow books, but useful everyday objects. They offer objects that are used only sporadically and that are usually quite expensive to purchase. This reflects the changing use of property and is an inspiration to try new things. It makes the Goethe-Institut Bratislava a place of practical knowledge exchange and neighbourly encounters. As a cooperation partner, the Zentral- und Landesbibliothek Berlin took up the idea and expanded its own stocks with a Library of Things on 12 April 2016.

More information:
www.goethe.de/kultursymposium and www.goethe.de/slowakei/ainfach
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BASIC INFORMATION

KULTURSYMPOSIUM WEIMAR
The KULTURSYMPOSIUM WEIMAR is a biannual series of events by the Goethe-Institut during which global social issues will be discussed by experts, intellectuals and artists from the network of the Goethe-Instituts worldwide. The first KULTURSYMPOSIUM WEIMAR is entitled "The Sharing Game" and is made possible with kind support from Merck, Siemens and Volkswagen. The media partners are 3sat, brand eins and Le Monde diplomatique.

Dates
1 – 3 June 2016 (Wednesday to Friday)

Participants
300 participants from 45 countries

Events
75 events, 15 venues (E-Werk Kesselsaal, E-Werk Maschinenhalle, Lichthaus Kino, Tipis im Festivalzentrum, Neue Weimarhalle, Galerie Eigenheim, Kasseturm, Kunsthalle Graf Kessler, Reithaus, Goethe-Nationalmuseum, Notenbank, Bauhaus-Universität Audimax, Bauhaus-Universität Oberlichtsaal, Parkhöhle, Villa Dürrheim)

KULTURSYMPOSIUM WEIMAR project team
Dr Andreas Ströhl (director), Dr Nikolai Blaumer, Elisabeth Tobisch, Eva Lämmerhirt, Marie Golenia

Festival centre
E-Werk and Lichthaus Kino, Am Kirschberg 4, 99423 Weimar
The festival centre is open daily from 9:00 am until 23:00 pm.

Press support at the festival centre
Annette Schäfer (PR-Netzwerk, mobile: +49 (0)179 4545719), Christine Gückel-Daxer (PR-Netzwerk, mobile: +49 (0)157 53578472), Dr Jörg Schumacher (Goethe-Institut, mobile: +49 (0)151 26375331)

Press accreditation
You can be accredited for participation in the Kultursymposium until 20 May 2016. Please send accreditation requests to PR-Netzwerk: presse@pr-netzwerk.net.
Only a limited number of free press accreditations are available. If you are accepted, you will receive a registration code. We are happy to assist you in finding hotel rooms and accommodations.

**Visitor registration:**

Registration at [www.goethe.de/kultursymposium/dabeisein](http://www.goethe.de/kultursymposium/dabeisein) is required for participation. The fee is 150 EUR for three days (reduced price: 50 EUR). Some individual events are free.

**More information**

[www.goethe.de/kultursymposium](http://www.goethe.de/kultursymposium)