



Symposium: the Future of Democracy

A symposium for PhD researchers and RMa students from Dutch universities; with **Jürgen Habermas**, recipient of the 2013 Erasmus Prize, **Siep Stuurman** (University of Utrecht) and **Beate Roessler** (University of Amsterdam).

Organized by the Praemium Erasmianum Foundation, the Huizinga Research Institute and Graduate School for Cultural History, and the Duitsland Instituut (DIA).

Date: Tuesday 5 November 2013

Venue: Tinbergenzaal, Koninklijke Nederlandse Akademie van Wetenschappen, Kloveniersburgwal 29, 1011 JV Amsterdam

Moderators: Prof. dr Maria Grever, prof. dr Ed Jonker, (and a moderator for a third session, to be announced).

Introduction

For more than 50 years, German philosopher Jürgen Habermas has been one of the leading thinkers in the fields of sociology, philosophy and politics. Central in his thinking is deliberative democracy and commitment of the citizens. He believes in the debate, in *ratio* as the source of politics and in the equality of man. On the one hand he is critical about the way political elites are dealing with the European crisis, on the other hand he is optimistic about the future of a democratic Europe. This symposium is organized on the occasion of the Erasmus Prize 2013 that will be awarded to Jürgen Habermas on Wednesday 6 November.

This symposium offers a select group of RMa and PhD students an opportunity to enter into discussion with Jürgen Habermas and the other speakers on a range of philosophical, historical, sociological and political topics. The idea is that questions to the speakers should be inspired by on-going RMa or PhD work of the students.

Organization

The symposium consists of three master classes, each organized around a different theme.

Participants in this symposium consist of two categories: a small group of selected RMa and PhD students divided over the three interactive master classes, and a larger group of readers who are interested in the works of Habermas and the topics of the symposium who form the audience. The selected students of the small group prepare questions among themselves, arising from their work, in relation to the work of Habermas and the other speakers, and forward these to the speakers.

Selection of participants

RMa and PhD students will be approached through the secretariats of the Dutch research schools (onderzoekscholen), via their thesis supervisors or directly. RMa and PhD students from all Dutch universities who wish to take an active part in the symposium are invited to apply, stating their motivation and providing a one-page description of their research topic to:



Huizinga Research Institute and Graduate School for Cultural History,
c/o Drs Paul J. Koopman,
Spuistraat 210, 1012 VT Amsterdam,
Huizinga-fgw@uva.nl, tel. 020-5258043.

deadline 15 June 2013; selection end June.

All applicants will be informed about the selection by the end of June 2012. The RMa and PhD students who have been selected will be asked (i) to read parts of Habermas' work, (ii) to take part in one of the three masterclasses, and (iii) jointly formulate the questions they wish to address to Habermas and the other speakers.

The three master classes are organized round three major themes:

- 1) Deliberative democracy and political crisis
- 2) Enlightenment and the limits of equality
- 3) Democracy and civil society