

Foundations on Exploratory Tour

Space for Thought: Economy & Democracy

Friday, 15 September 2017, Berlin

Venue

Stiftung Neue Verantwortung
Beisheim Center, Berliner Freiheit 2, 10785 Berlin

Purpose

Foundations are forever scouts, trying to recognize the big questions of the time and to find the right opportunities for intervention through effective funding.

The Schöpflin Stiftung, for one, is in the process of giving its *Fair & Sustainable Economy* Programme a new orientation. Coming from support for opposition to the trade and investment deals TTIP & CETA, the need to curb corporate power is in its view as well as the need to strengthen & develop democracy. It is on a learning journey and would like to share some of it with trusted fellow foundations.

We invite to an exchange on foundations' thinking about the pertinent topics of the future and about the priority setting in their philanthropy. We offer an exchange with some interesting thinkers that we and some other foundations have identified.

Style of Event

We will play with the **metaphor of pollination** to guide us through. A range of topics present themselves as flowers, not all of equal beauty, but all waiting to be fertilized and bring forth some seeds. Pollinators come in many forms – insects and mammals, solitary and social. We'll limit ourselves to the honey bees and the bumble bees. The honey bees are special in that they produce honey, beeswax, and royal jelly – they write books, articles, give speeches, perhaps establish whole communities of thought & practice. The bumble bees build smaller nests and less elaborate combs, but also distribute pollen and collect nectar - they wise up and design funding programmes. Each have their place in the ecosystem.

Invited Thinkers – the Honey Bees

- [Philipp Blom](#) (Historian and Author, e.g. of „Was auf dem Spiel steht“, 2017), *confirmed*
- [Christian Felber](#) (Economic Reformer, Author of e.g. „Ethischer Welthandel. Alternativen zu TTIP, CETA & WTO“, 2017), *confirmed*
- [Victoria Kupsch](#), Co-Founder of the European Democracy Lab, which advocates a pan-European republic instead of the current European Union, *to be confirmed*
- [Fiona Dove](#), Executive Director of Transnational Institute (TNI) since 1995, *confirmed*

Confirmed Participants – the Bumble Bees

1. Adessium Foundation (NL), Roger van der Weerd
2. Bewegungsstiftung (DE), Mathias Fiedler
3. Charles-Léopold-Mayer Foundation (CH/FR), Claudia Neubauer
4. Guerilla Foundation (DE), Romy Krämer
5. KR Foundation (DK), Brian Valbjørn Sørensen
6. Olin Foundation (DE), Karin Kiehn
7. Schöpflin Stiftung (DE), Hans Schöpflin, Tim Göbel, Sabine Frank, Frank Speier

Moderator

- Petra Pinzler, Die Zeit, to be confirmed

Draft Programme (as of 2 August 2017)

Thursday, 14 September

Arrivals

19.30 Option: Joint Dinner

Friday, 15 September

09.00 Welcome & Settling In

09.30 Welcome address (Schöpflin Stiftung)
Introduction to the Day (Moderator)

09.45 Introductions: Names, Occupations & Vocations, Latest Inspiring Read (5' max per person)

10.45 **Self-Pollination by the Honey Bees:** Invited thinkers talk about their first topic ("flower") of choice:

- **Curbing corporate power:** What are the most effective means? What are the most suitable contexts or fora?
- **Trade:** Does this domain best exemplify the ills of the global economic system? Does it (continue to) provide the best opportunities for creating public awareness and mobilizing opposition?
- **The new economy:** Do many small initiatives make a big whole? Is something converging that will serve as the systemic alternative?
- **Democracy:** Does change hinge on more direct citizen participation

as well as on new forms of political deliberation and consensus building?

- **Europe:** What can save it? Which way might it tip the scale in the search for a better global order?

11.45 **Pollination by the Bumble Bees:** Foundation Representatives pick up on the thoughts presented – discussion.

12.30 Lunch

13.30 **Cross-Pollination by the Honey Bees:** Invited thinkers talk about a second topic of their choice and relate to each other

14.30 **Swarming Out:** Walk in Tiergarten – participants exchange in groups of 2-3 and identify core thoughts and coordinates:

- Global / European / National / Local
- System Reform / System Change
- Policy Change / Institutional (constitutional) change
- **Culture** (schools of thought / realm of ideas / narratives) / **Governance** (lobbying / campaigning / “subversive integration” – beating the system with its own means) / **Practice** (grassroots / movements / entrepreneurship)

15.30 **Collecting the Pollen & Anticipating the Seeds:** Participants report back and draw conclusions

16.30 End of Event