

# **The Political Economy of Wealth Inequality in Historical Perspective**

Workshop of the Arbeitskreis für moderne Sozialgeschichte

- *draft program* -

Location: Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies, Cologne

Date: Thursday, May 28 – Friday, May 29, 2026

Conveners: Jens Beckert & Alexander Nützenadel

## **Thursday, May 28, 2026**

2:00 – 2:15 pm Welcome and Introduction

### **Panel I: Institutions, Elites, and Wealth Inequality**

2:15 – 3:45 pm

Felix Kersting (HU Berlin)

Industrialization, Elites, and Wealth Inequality in Prussia ca. 1900

Eva Maria Gajek (Erkner)

Wealth, housing and political upheavals in Germany in the 20th century

3:45 – 4:15 pm Coffee Break

### **Panel II: Status, Gender, and Social Closure**

4:15 – 5:45 pm

Hannah Boeddeker (Hamburg)

Rank and inequality: the construction of noble hierarchies in the Almanach de Gotha

Aaron Reeves (London School of Economics)

Born to Rule: The Making and Remaking of the British Elite

### **Public Lecture**

6:15 – 7:45 pm

Céline Bessièrè (Paris)

Gendered Wealth Management among Super Rich Families in France and Belgium

**Conference dinner** (for speakers and members of the Arbeitskreis)

8:00 pm: Restaurant: *tbc*

**Friday, May 29, 2026**

**Panel III: Inequality after the Neoliberal Turn**

9:00 – 10:30 am

Felix Römer (HU Berlin)

Property for all? Inequality and the Politics of Wealth in the Federal Republic, 1950s-1990s

Friedrich Lenger (Gießen)

The dynamics of (global) social inequality since the 1970s. Some conceptual thoughts critically taking up and going beyond Piketty

10:30 – 11:00 am Coffee Break

**Panel IV: Taxation, Welfare and Wealth**

11:00 am – 12:30 pm

Carsten Burhop (Bonn)

Public pensions, private savings, returns, and asset allocation in the Kingdom of Saxony

Thibaud Giddey · Geoffroy Legentilhomme · Matthieu Leimgruber (Zurich)

The politics of tax privileges for wealthy foreigners in Switzerland, 1920–2020

12:30 – 1:30 pm Lunch Break

**Panel V: Segregation, Race, and Urban Inequality**

1:30 – 3:00 pm

Chi Hyun Kim (HU Berlin)

Regional Patterns in the Convergence of the U.S. Racial Wealth Gap, 1870–2020

Sebastian Kohl & Ria Wilken (FU Berlin)

The End of the Segregated Century? Long-run segregation of European and American cities

3:00 – 3:30 pm Final Discussion

**For members of the Arbeitskreis Moderne Sozialgeschichte only**

3:30 – 4:00 pm Coffee Break

4:00 – 5:30 pm Members' Meeting